

## NEWS

### The 19th Brazilian Congress of Hygiene and the First S. Paulo State Congress of Public Health applaud "Phase III of Prevention of Hanseniasis"

This motion directed to the Brazilian Ministry of Health was approved at the October 14, 1977 plenary session of the Congresses.

#### MOTION

The 19th Brazilian Congress of Hygiene and the First S. Paulo State Congress of Public Health, having profoundly studied the problems of the disease caused by Hansen's bacillus, and

#### CONSIDERING:

- that in Brazil there are numerous cultural barriers related to "leprosy" which fundamentally impede the application of the preventive measures referring to the disease caused by Hansen's bacillus ;
- that the cultural barriers related to "leprosy" produce grave psycho-social disturbances, usually

more serious, in extension and intensity, than the somatic manifestations of the disease;

- that there is no possibility of removing such barriers through the usual techniques of health education and enlightenment of the public, due to the antiquity and profoundness of the prejudice and misinformation related to "leprosy", constantly being aggravated by all mass communication media;
- that one of the pillars on which prejudice and misinformation stand is the term "leprosy" and derivatives, defaming and counter-educational by their own intrinsic nature as "labels of primary force" ;

#### RESOLVE:

- 1 — To address a Motion of Congratulations to the Brazilian Minister of Health for issuing, on

May 14, 1976, the "Norms on the policy of Hanseniasis Control" based on the recommendations of the "National Conference to Assess the Policies of Control of Hanseniasis" (Brasilia, March, 1976), complemented by the "Instructions to Control Hanseniasis", issued in February 3, 1977, by the

Director of the National Division of Sanitary Dermatology;

- 2 — To manifest to the Minister of Health the interest of both Congresses in the most rapid implantation of the "Norms" and "Instructions" of the sanitary policy which is already internationally known as the "Phase III of Prevention of Hanseniasis".

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### **Brazilian State of Santa Catarina forbids the word "lepra" and derivatives**

By a Decree of April 11, 1977, the Governor, Dr. Antonio Carlos Konder Reis, and the Secretary of Health, Dr. Helio dos Santos Ortiz, abolished the stigmatizing term "lepra" and its derivatives from the official language of the Executive Power of Santa Catarina. The modern and scientific

terminology "Hanseniase" was substituted.

The Chair of Dermatology of the Faculty of Medicine of Florianopolis and the Santa Catarina section of the Brazilian Society of Dermatology vigorously contributed to bring about the change.

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### **S. Paulo adopts the term "Hanseniasis" at state level**

The Public Health Service of the Brazilian state of S. Paulo was the first to adopt the modern word "Hanseniase", experimentally in 1967, and, in view of the good results observed, officially in 1970. By a

Decree signed by the Governor and the Secretary of Health, Drs. Paulo Egydio Martins and Walter Pereira Leser, the new terminology was extended to all areas of the Executive Power of the state, in July 15, 1977.

## XI International Leprosy Congress

Mexico City, November 13-18, 1978

Registrations, hotel reservations, social events, tours, and in general all administrative matters concerning this Congress will be handled by this local National Committee. Address to :

XI International Congress of Leprosy

Asociación Mexicana de Acción  
Contra la Lepra A.C.

Dr. Vertiz 464

Mexico 7 D.F. Mexico

For information about the scientific program, presentation of free papers and so on, write to :

Dr. Stanley G. Browne, Secretary  
General

International Leprosy Association  
57.a Wimpole Street  
London, WIM 7DF — England

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## II Brazilian Congress of Hansenology

The II Brazilian Congress of Hansenology programmed and organized by the Brazilian Association of Hansenology, will be held in Rio de Janeiro, from June 29 to July 2, 1978.

More information will be given by Professor Rene Garrido Neves, President of the Association and of the

Congress (Rua São Cristovam, 870 — 20.000 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), directly and through the hansenological periodicals of the Institute of Health, Public Health Service of the State of S. Paulo, Brazil.

(*vide* following item about the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries).

## College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries

At the end of November 1977, the College already had 142 Founders from 21 countries. Brazil, India, Argentina and the Philippines lead the list.

Other Founders are from Bolivia, France, U.S. America, Burma, Venezuela, Spain, Gabon, Mexico, Nicaragua, Portugal, Salvador, Senegal, Uganda, Indonesia, Lybia, England and Paraguay.

The official installation of the College will occur together with the II Brazilian Congress of Hansenology,

Rio de Janeiro, June 29 to July 2, 1978. Its First Congress will be held in 1980, in Brazil, together with the III Brazilian Congress of Hansenology.

All those who send the coupon below or a copy to Dr. R.D. Azulay (Avenida Atlantica, 3130, 7.º 701 — CEP 20.000 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) or Dr. A. Rotberg (CP 8027 — CEP 1.000 Sao Paulo, Brazil) up until the date of the First Congress in 1980, will be considered Founders of the College.

The principal aim of the College will be ultimate integration of Hanseniasis into the mainstream of modern medicine, study and elimination of all cultural barriers which are creating psychosocial problems and hindering preventive efforts, and research in all scientific fields of the disease. The

College is open to professionals in the fields of Medicine, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Anthropology, History, Social Sciences, Nursing, Health Education, Communication and others who would wish to cooperate.

Members from non-endemic countries will be welcome.

- 1) We agree with the foundation of the College of Hansenology of Endemic Countries.
- 2) We do/do not plan to attend its 1st Congress in Brazil, 1980.

Print, please :

Name : .....

Position : .....

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