

PROCEEDING OF THE ROUND-TABLE ON EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CONTROL IN BRAZIL

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Since the decade of the 70's, the malaria situation in Brazil has increased, concomitantly with the progressive concentration of cases in the Amazon region, so that, by the end of 1985, 99% of registered cases in the country were derived from that region.

It's placed in relief in importance order the social factors as migrant accumulation in areas with high malaria transmission and emphasized the inharmonious occupation of the Amazon region, favouring the aggravation of this endemic in extensive areas in which the cares, devoted to prevention and attention to the health of settlers, gold miners and rural workers, are very little.

Epidemiological investigations carried out in whole country, in 1985, have demonstrated the strong influence of zones with high transmission not only in local and regional epidemiology, but also in the situation of the endemic in distant states due to the shifts of cases. From 14.000 investigated cases out of the Amazon region, (about 94% of registered cases), 13.000 were classified as "imported" from that region. They correspond to migrants returning specially from south of Pará, Rondônia and north of Mato Grosso states. A despite of epidemiological vigilance, new active foci of malaria have being registered in several states (in 1985 were registered 26 foci in six states).

Social researches suggest that, despite malaria presence in the Amazon region may discourage interregional imigration, its principal effect would reach on imigration and re-imigration interboundary. The energy that make migrants to move from a region is so strong that notice of a disease known just by name and that actually provoke few deaths are not sufficient enough to stop the migration fluxes that shift toward the border. At the utmost they increase migration selectivity, promoting the departure of needers and some adventurers.

Malaria seems not exercise influence over gold mine production, while in the settler case it may bring damage to the harvest of the all year in attacking in critical moments such felling of trees, clearance of ground by fire or in the harvest time. These observations on malaria between two migrant types in the Amazon region border suggest that this disease could be a great enemy in the small agricultural production, not affecting the prospectors in the same degree.

It happen because that familiar organization present itself vulnerable while the worker who get sick inside the mines is easily substituted.

The round-table participants discuss on operational difficulties for the execution of the program against malaria in critical areas (ines in south of Pará, colonization zones in initial occupation...) but also that the problems could be reduced essentially if there was flexibility in the administration and destination of larger resources for malaria program and that responsables for projects put in practice prevention measures.

Even considered that malaria can not be eliminated as a health problem in occupation phase of Amazon region, it is possible to reduce in maximum his mortality and its hazards. All depends on political decision and supply of needed resources regularly.