

"STAYING HEALTHY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN" (continued)

C. At the post, the question of taking pills for malaria prevention may arise. The only post city in Latin America and the Caribbean where it is recommended that you take such pills is Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Outside the major cities, however, the disease still exists. There is also a type of malaria that can be resistant to the anti-malaria drugs that used to be recommended. Such resistance occurs especially in Northern Brazil and adjacent areas of surrounding countries. Thus, at the time of writing this article, recommendations as to what preventative medication you should take when going there are in a stage of change. Before going, be sure to enquire, from the Health and Welfare Medical Office or from local health authorities, as to just what medication you should take.

It should be emphasized that even if there is known to be some resistance

to the medication, it is still better to take it, than to take nothing. By doing so, should you contract the disease, it will generally be less severe.

Before leaving the subject, I should mention that I am not aware of any Canadian posted to one of the Caribbean or Latin American posts who has contracted malaria within the past several years, but would welcome being informed, through this magazine, if you are aware of anyone who did. On the other hand, I do know of cases of other expatriates, living in rural areas such as Northern Brazil, who were taking anti-malarial medication and did contract severe malaria.

D. Finally, when your posting to the Caribbean or Latin America has ended, once you're back in Ottawa, it is mandatory to have a post-posting

medical examination. You also have to have an exam in order to get your next posting confirmation. In either case, ensure that you have your stools examined for parasites along with the tests usually suggested for those living in developed countries. The chances are very strong, however, that you have not contracted any type of tropical disease, especially if you have followed basic health rules that make sense in any country □

Aaron D. Bernstein,
M.D., C.M., F.R.C.P.(c),
Zone Director for the Caribbean
Latin America zone,
located in Port of Spain, Trinidad

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□ CITIZENSHIP FOR NON-CANADIAN SPOUSES □

The proclamation on February 15, 1988 of Bill C-254, An Act to amend the Citizenship Act (period of residence), means that a non-Canadian spouse residing with a federal or provincial public servant or a member of the Canadian armed forces who, at the time, was a Canadian citizen, and was employed outside of Canada otherwise than as a locally engaged person, may now count such time toward the residence requirement for Canadian citizenship. Specifically, each day spent abroad will count as a day in Canada in the period following the date of the citizenship applicant's lawful admission to Canada as a landed immigrant.

Periods following a lawful marriage but preceding lawful admission may be

counted on the basis of one-half day for every day abroad. The requirement remains, however, that the applicant has accumulated three years which can be counted towards residence in Canada in the four years immediately preceding the date of application.

This amendment to the Citizenship Act is retroactive in that residence abroad prior to the proclamation date may be counted for the purpose of applications submitted after the proclamation date. It is not retroactive, however, with regard to citizenship applications submitted prior to the date of proclamation; such applications will be considered on the basis of the unamended Citizenship Act.

Applicants seeking to benefit from the amendment will be required to complete a supplementary "Overseas Residence" statement form, and to attach to this form proof of marriage, proof of spouse's citizenship, and proof of spouse's employment.

More detailed information on the above will be included in a circular document being prepared by Personnel Policy and Planning Division (ADA) □

C.D. FOGERTY
Director
Personnel Policy and
Planning Division