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1972 and 1973, the situation became serious. However, with the concerted effort now being made by the World Health Organization in collaboration with the health authorities in these countries, the disease seems to be under control and it is hoped that within the foreseeable future the disease will be completely eradicated.

- (3) *The medical-research program.* The WHO's efforts in the area of medical research are enriching knowledge of a host of problems that still impede progress in controlling major communicable diseases and in preventing nutritional disorders, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, mental illnesses and many others. To promote scientific co-operation internationally, the WHO has set up a network of 191 regional and international research centres in over 34 countries round the world to provide services to medical research.
- (4) *The environmental-health program.* To improve the quality of the environment, the WHO has established international reference systems for the study of data on community water-supplies, waste-disposal, air and water pollution and radiation protection. In addition, the six most widespread air pollutants have been selected for intensive international study by the WHO to enable it to establish criteria and guides for air quality. An international network for monitoring and studying levels of sulphur dioxide and dust particles in the air has been set up as the basis for an early warning system. The WHO also works in close collaboration with the United Nations Environmental Program.
- (5) *The family-health program.* This program has been greatly enlarged in recent years, and countries are now being assisted, on request, in developing suitable systems of health care in relation to population levels.

Canadian participation Canadian delegations have participated in all the annual Health Assemblies. In 1972, Dr. B.D.B. Layton of Canada served as president of the twenty-fifth World Health Assembly. In 1952, 1956, 1962 and again in 1968, the World Health Assembly elected Canada as one of the eight states to designate members to the Executive Board. The Canadian nominees were elected to the chairmanship of the Board in 1959 (Dr. P.E. Moore) and 1964 (Dr. B.D.B. Layton).

Canada was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Pan-American Health Organization in 1971 for a three-year term. Dr. R.A. Chapman served as president of the Directing Council of the PAHO in 1973.

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