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WMO ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DESERT LOCUST CONTROL (Note Prepared by the World Meteorological Organization)

1. The background to the Desert Locust problem is described in document E/CN.14/322, prepared by FAO. The purpose of the present document is to invite attention to some of the recent activities of WMO in relation to the application of meteorology to the control of the Desert Locust; these activities are all conducted in the closest collaboration with FAO.
2. Meteorology enters into almost every phase of the life-cycle of the Desert Locust. Moisture, generally from recent rainfall, is necessary for the successful breeding of the Desert Locust. Meteorological factors play an important role in the formation and dispersion of swarms. The migration of swarms is largely determined by the wind. The mobility of a locust depends on the air temperature. The success of aerial spraying operations against the Desert Locust is dependent on meteorological conditions, such as the stability of the air. In view of these and other influences, meteorologists can, and do make a significant contribution to the control of the Desert Locust.
3. In resolution 89 (V) adopted at the fifth session of ECA, governments were urged to request WMO to organize a training seminar on the application of meteorology to Desert Locust control. Several requests were received, and the seminar was held under the joint auspices of WMO and FAO at Tehran from 25th November to 11th December, 1964. Participants came from more than 20 countries, about half of them being from Africa; many of the participants contributed reports on relevant studies in their own countries.

4. The above seminar was intended primarily for meteorologists. WMO is now collaborating with FAO in the preparations for a parallel seminar for the benefit of biologists; this will be held in Asmara in September 1965. ECA may wish to urge governments to ensure a full participation in this second seminar, which is being largely financed from the UNSF Desert Locust Project under FAO execution.
 5. The attention of ECA is also invited to WMO Technical Note No 54 entitled "Meteorology and the Migration of Desert Locusts". This authoritative account of the subject by Dr. R.C. Rainey of the Anti-Locust Research Centre, London, is partially based on material provided by the WMO Technical Assistance Mission which was located at Nairobi from 1955 to 1960.
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