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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

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SUPPLEMENT NO. 7

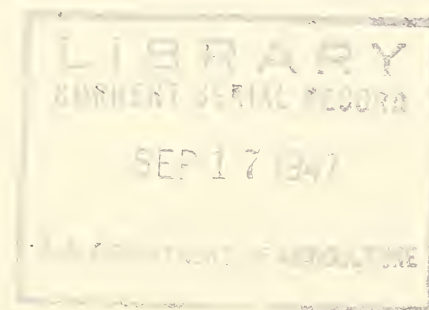
to

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

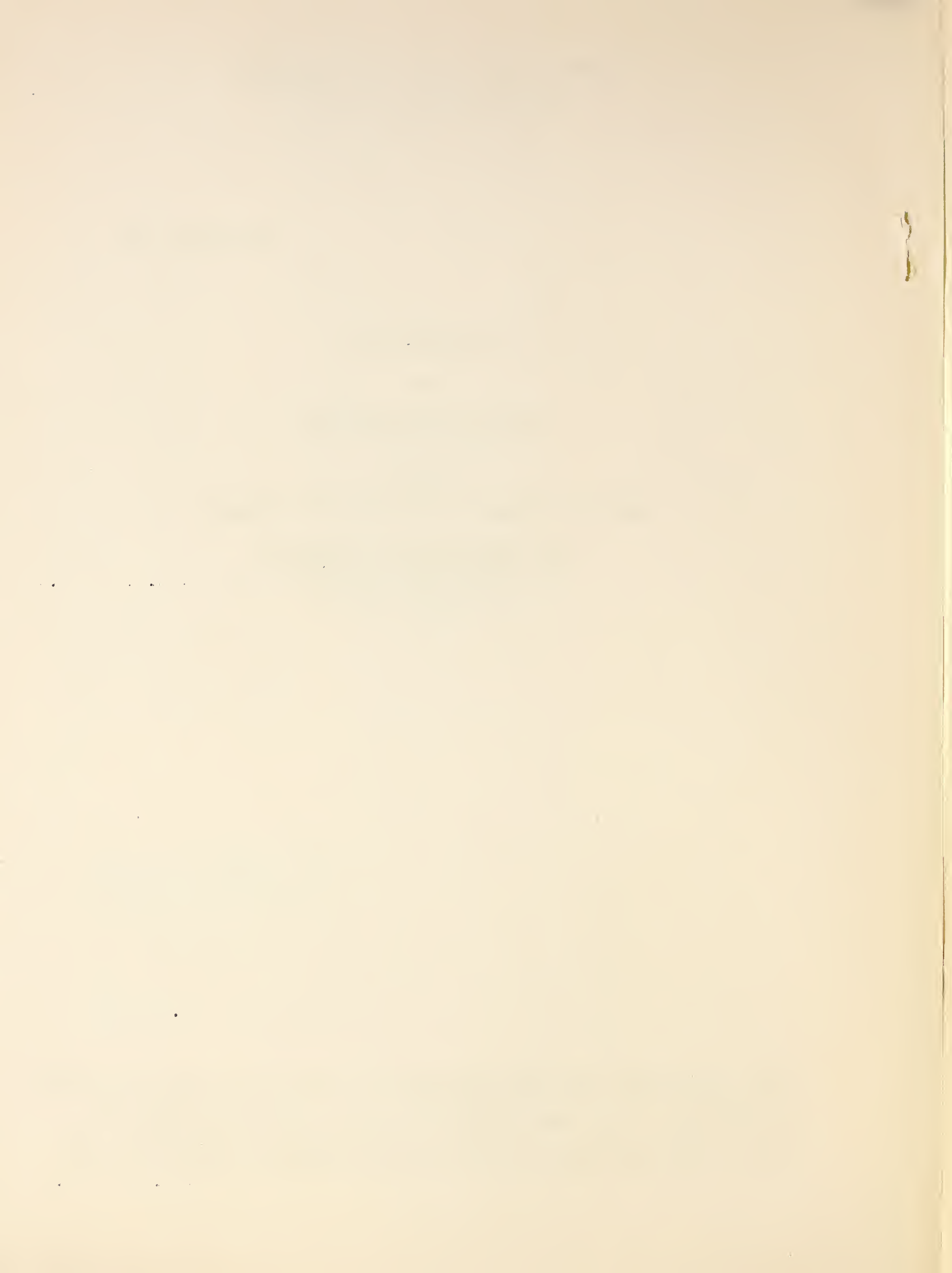
in the

MEXICAN OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

With Supplementary Information
on United States Cooperation
in Control Measures



NOTE: This report has been prepared on the basis of the best information obtainable at the time of compilation but is subject to revision and amplification as new facts become available. Additional supplemental reports will be issued as significant developments in eradication work occur. The first report in this series was prepared January 28, 1947.



Highlights of Developments in the Eradication Campaign

The following are highlights in the campaign to rid Mexico of foot-and-mouth disease, since August 4 when the last report in this series, Supplement No. 6, was issued:

Development of a pocket-quarantine and eradication policy for outlying centers of infection and extensions from the main zone.

Arrival of additional technical personnel and machinery to speed eradication work.

Increase in cleaning and disinfection activities.

Further increase in total number of animals slaughtered.

Three commission proposals, now before the Mexican Government.

Impetus to educational efforts, through poster contest.

Northern Protective Zone Now Free of Infection

In line with the encircling strategy of the campaign, the veterinary forces of Mexico and the United States have created protective zones north and south of the main area of infection. In the past, scattered and small centers of infection have been found in those areas. On August 16, however, the joint commission was able to report that all these outlying centers of infection had been eliminated as far as is known. At the time that this announcement was made, the commission stressed the fact that it has veterinary inspectors in all parts of the northern area alert to detect any new outbreaks. The eradication forces thus appear to have stopped the disease in the north--one of the first major turning points in the campaign.

In areas where active eradication work is in progress, the field staff of the commission is seeking to advance the campaign and at the same time spare thousands of now healthy cloven-footed animals by a series of "pocket" operations. Several of the States contain (1) outlying infected areas or extensions of the main infected zone, and (2) other areas of considerable size still apparently free of the disease. The pocket operations have the double purpose of (1) keeping infection from escaping from pockets where it now exists, and (2) eliminating these infective centers as soon as possible. Accordingly eradication forces, including detachments of the Mexican Army, have been stationed around the outskirts of each pocket and are working in toward the center to destroy the virus. Substantial progress in this strategy is being made. In the accompanying map (last page of this report), the arrows show the direction of attack.

Additional Personnel and Machinery Arrive

At their last meeting, late in July, members of the Mexican-United States Commission agreed that additional personnel and machinery were necessary for the acceleration of eradication work. The United States members promised full aid in efforts to double and triple the staff of veterinarians and sanitary technicians from the United States. Progress toward the fulfillment of this pledge

is already apparent. On July 17, there were 183 veterinarians, paymasters, appraisers, and sanitary technicians employed in field work in Mexico; by August 25, this total had risen to 264--a gain of 81. The distribution of the current United States personnel is as follows: Veterinarians, 78; sanitary technicians, 45; appraisers, 38; paymasters, 53; office staff, 52.

The Mexican section of the commission reports that its staff of technicians engaged in foot-and-mouth eradication work is currently composed of 230 persons. This makes a combined commission staff of 494.

At the time of the last commission meeting, the United States had sent about 700 items of heavy equipment to Mexico to aid the eradication forces. In the interest of campaign acceleration, it was decided to more than double this amount. As a result, orders have been placed for about 900 additional items, including the following: 400 jeeps, 200 light trucks, 10 tractor units for semi-trailers, 5 semi-trailers for heavy equipment, 200 tank trailers each of 250-gallon capacity, 26 bulldozers, 28 scrapers, 2 Army mobile repair shops, 2 L.C.M. boats (landing craft), and 8 open boats with outboard motors. The marine equipment will be used to transport men and materials up rivers to infection areas, thus avoiding time-consuming transportation over mountain and jungle terrain. Much of this equipment has already been received, serviced, and assigned to field use.

Increased Cleaning and Disinfection Activities

To date, over 600 premises, some of them extensive, have been cleaned and disinfected, and the arrival of additional technicians promises a material increase in operations of this kind. Disinfection does not begin until after all infected or exposed animals have been slaughtered. In addition to complementing the work of the slaughter and burial forces, the sanitary technicians are responsible for directing measures that are taken to prevent the spread of the disease beyond its present confines. The establishment of quarantine lines, the furnishing of instructions to the Mexican troops who will maintain these lines, and the construction and maintenance of disinfection stations for all modes of transportation fall under the jurisdiction of this branch of the commission.

Railroad-car disinfection stations are maintained at Mexico City and San Luis Potosi, railroad centers of the Republic. From the beginning of these services to August 16, a total of 971 cars were thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at these terminal points before being released for further transport duty. Motor-car and truck disinfection measures have long been in effect.

Cattle-Slaughter Total Now Exceeds 184,000; Heavy Rains Pose Problem for Field Crews

With a slaughter of 12,632 infected or exposed cattle during the week ended August 16, the total number of cattle reported slaughtered from the beginning of the campaign to that date is 184,819. Reports from several districts have been delayed or uncompiled as a result of severe cyclones and rainstorms that swept Mexico, disrupting communication and, in some cases, seriously hampering the work of field crews.

District supervisors in all northern areas reported, when they were able to do so, that the adverse weather conditions had affected their operations to some degree. Burial pits prepared for anticipated slaughter were partially filled with rain water, which had to be removed or new pits constructed. To some extent, the operation of the mechanical equipment for transportation and burial was also impeded.

cattle

The average indemnity for the week of August 9-16 was \$58 (U.S. currency) per head, which is higher than previously reported figures averaging about \$49. Pointing out that the standards on which indemnity payments for all classes of cattle are based have been carefully established and do not vary, the commission explained that average indemnity figures are, of course, subject to fluctuation as eradication crews encounter animals of greater or less value.

For example, one week's operations may deal with only common range stock. The average indemnity will then decline. Next week, slaughter crews may find many purebred animals, including dairy stock, among those exposed or infected and, therefore, scheduled for slaughter. In this case, the average indemnity will show an increase. Monthly figures, more informative because they cover a greater period of time, were not available at the time this supplement was prepared.

Mexican Government Studies Three Commission Proposals

Discussed at the last meeting of the joint commission and now being studied are three proposals that are closely related to the progress of the campaign.

The first of these is a suggested decree by the Mexican Government which will make possible the condemnation of infected or exposed cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. Clear-cut authority is now lacking, and in some areas the eradication operations have been delayed because of the unwillingness of a minority of the ranchers to accept appraised values set on their animals by joint commission appraisers. Under the terms of the proposed decree, in cases where appraisals are protested, animals designated for slaughter would be destroyed at once, with the indemnity to the owner to be established later.

A second proposal calls for a pooling of funds from the United States and Mexican Governments in a common commission system of campaign finance. At present the United States is paying all cattle indemnities and Mexico all small-animal indemnities. It has been proposed that both Governments contribute directly to the commission and that all future expenses be met from this source. This would mean that small-animal indemnities would be made available at the same time that cattle indemnities are paid and that the slaughter of both groups of animals would take place at the same time, thus improving and speeding up eradication.

A third possible development is a research meeting on foot-and-mouth disease with scientists from Mexico, the United States, and England in attendance. This suggestion was advanced by Mexican members of the commission, who feel the necessity of convincing all segments of Mexican public opinion that all possible measures for dealing with the disease have been explored.

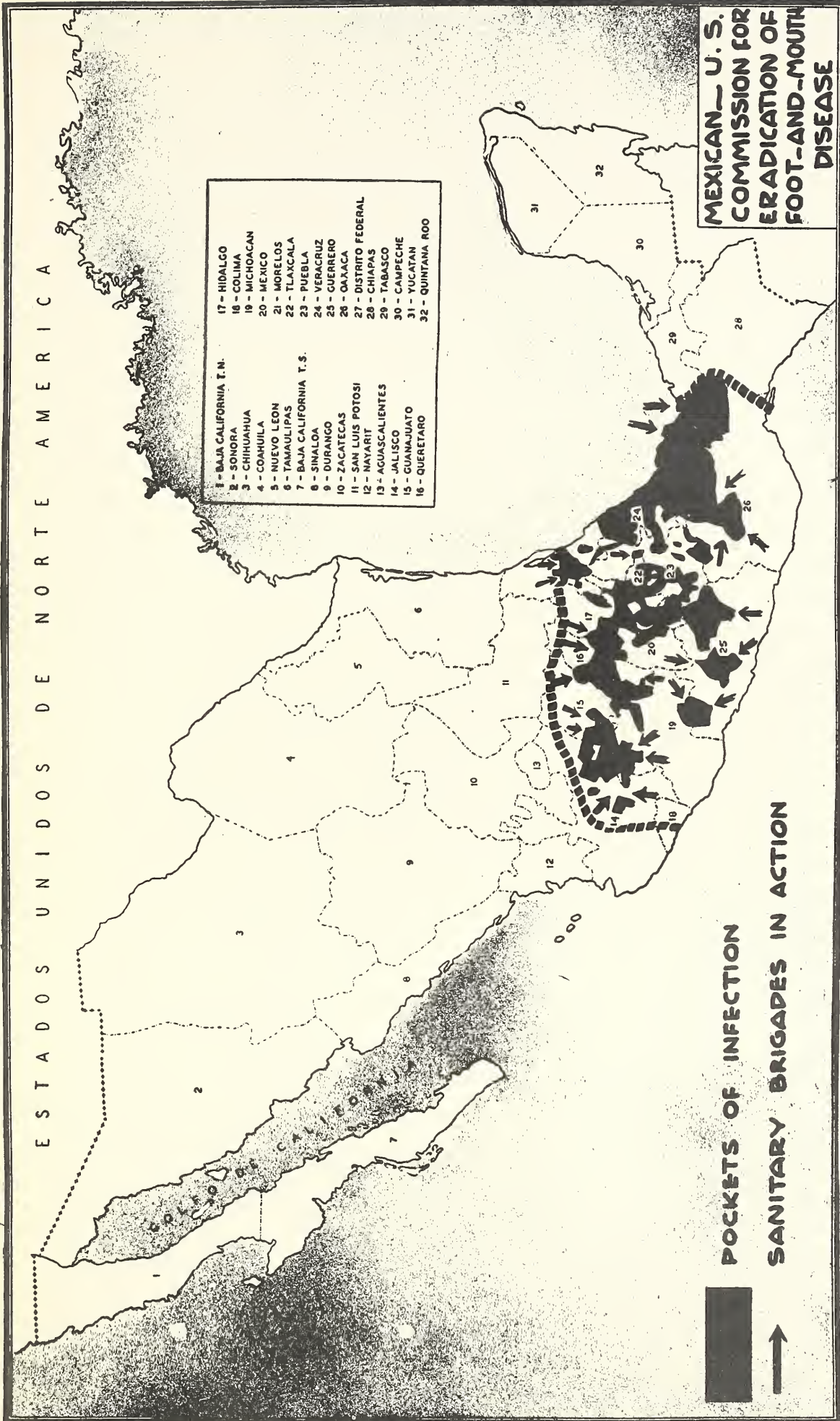
National Poster Contest

For the joint purpose of stimulating national interest in foot-and-mouth disease eradication among the people of Mexico and of obtaining educational material, a national poster contest has been announced with substantial prizes for the three best posters. Thousands of school children and adults are expected to enter the contest, which will be held under the joint sponsorship of the Mexican Ministry of Education and the joint Mexican-United States Commission.

Supplementary Information

Since the issuance of Supplement No. 6 on August 4, the Department has issued, for public distribution, the following material relating to foot-and-mouth disease:

- Foot-and-Mouth Disease Commission Plans Extermination of Infected Wild Animals. Press release, August 21, 1947
- Finest Dairy Herd in Mexico Slaughtered in Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign. Press release, August 26, 1947
- USDA Buys Mexican Canned Meat for Resale for Refugee Feeding. Press release, August 27, 1947



MAIN AREAS OF OPERATION IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The areas infected with foot-and-mouth disease virus are shown between the northern and southern lines. Within this area, veterinary forces of the Mexican-United States Commission, aided by Mexican Army troops, have confined the epizootic to a number of pockets. These are now being attacked from several sides in a double effort to eliminate the virus where it exists and protect adjacent free areas. Arrows indicate the direction of the attacks being launched on these pockets of infection by the joint forces.

