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ORGANIZATION

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PART A.

DESCRIPTION

The organizational basis of the Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan of Jamaica is the Cabinet Decision No. 52/76 dated 24th July, 1978 which was based on the cabinet submission of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA 115/90) concerning the outbreak of African Swine Fever in the Caribbean. The Cabinet Decision provided, among others, the creation of a National African Swine Fever Committee headed by the Ministry of Agriculture, with membership from the other Government agencies.

Another Cabinet submission (MA 115/52) on the same subject, Cabinet Decision No.37/38 dated 11th September, 1978, was promulgated to broaden the scope of the Committee in order to be able to deal with other animal diseases of which Jamaica is at present free, and which could be introduced in a similar manner as African Swine Fever. It was proposed and approved that the name of the Committee be changed to the National Emergency Animal Disease Committee (NEADCOM) (Section I, C).

The NEADCOM is an inter-ministerial, inter-sectorial and inter-institutional group, with representatives from various government ministries, quasi government institutions and the private sector. The elected representation ensures that the Committee has at its disposal the necessary wherewithal to achieve its objectives, while at the same time, the interest groups are aptly represented.

The composition of the NEADCOM and its specific representatives are described in Section I, C. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the agencies of the NEADCOM are listed in Appendix IV.

The task of the NEADCOM is to promulgate policies and coordinate inputs of the

different Government ministries and other agencies in the prevention, control and eradication of any foreign animal disease.

The organizational structure of the NEADCOM consists basically of the Committee, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, and the Emergency Animal Disease Task Force (EADTAF) with the Director of Veterinary Services as the Task Force Coordinator (TFCo).

The agencies represented on the Committee have been identified on the basis of their functions which relate in one way or the other, directly or indirectly, towards the prevention of entry (accidental or deliberate) of foreign animal diseases into Jamaica and their control, eradication and containment in case of introduction.

The role of the Committee is to coordinate the activities and ensure that the functions of each agency are adequately implemented at the line level. For instance, the Director of Veterinary Services ensures that animal quarantine measures and animal disease prevention measures are effectively carried out. The Deputy Collector General (Customs) sees to it that the Customs Personnel at the Airport are appropriately informed of the policy decisions of the Committee concerning the surveillance of arriving passengers and the final confiscation of all meat and meat products coming in without previous permit. The General Manager of the Airport Authority ensures the proper disposal of international garbage.

During normal times, the Committee meets regularly to review and refine the implementation of procedures, and to update the members of any development.

The Task Force (EADTAF) implements the Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan (EADPrep). The Plan is briefly described in a sequence of events and a flow chart for simple comprehension (see III.,A.2). It consists of several components:

Regional Field Component	(RFC)
Military Component	(MC)
Police Component	(PC)
Field Component	(FC)
Laboratory Component	(LC)

The effectiveness of a plan relies only upon the ability to put the plan into action. In some instances, elaborate plans in beautifully bound manuals are available, describing in utmost detail the methods of how to cope with an emergency or disaster. But when the disaster strikes, or an emergency occurs, even the manual could nowhere be found.

Individuals usually react to emergency or disaster situations by instinct. They sometimes are unable to think. They react in the way they have been trained before; by previous experience. For instance, one will know where the exits are in a building so that in case of fire one does not have to look for them. Towards this end, exits are properly marked and regular fire drills are conducted.

As part of the EADPrep, regular field exercises should be conducted (at least twice a year) to enhance the reactive capacity of the plan. The plan itself is complex and involves the participation of many personnel in various offices. There is need for strong coordination and for each person to know his/her role in the plan.

One would be surprised to find out that during these exercises, when supposedly an emergency situation has been declared, that such simple supplies like boots and overalls cannot even be located, communication breaks down, and so on.

It is only through regular exercises that the plan could be put in constant readiness and alert, like a well-oiled machine, in coping with the constant threat of entry of a foreign animal disease into Jamaica.

CABINET DECISIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

NO. 32/78

CABINET DECISION DATED 24.7.78

MA 115/80

Outbreak of
African Swine
Fever in the
Caribbean

15. The Cabinet had for consideration a Note dated 20th July, 1978, from the Minister of Agriculture in which he reported that a very serious disease in pigs, African Swine Fever, had been confirmed in the Caribbean.

The Note advised that the disease was discovered in Brazil in May of this year and had been confirmed this month (July 1978) in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

There were fears that it may have reached Dominica, Antigua and Barbados. The disease had appeared suddenly in Cuba during mid 1971 and more than 12,000 pigs died from the disease and over 400,000 in the Province of Havana had to be slaughtered.

It was further stated that if the disease was introduced into Jamaica the effect could be disastrous, because there is no cure or vaccine against African Swine Fever and pigs which recovered from the disease became carriers. The only method of control or eradication of the disease was to slaughter the entire pig population exposed to it.

It was likely that smuggled goods or improper garbage disposal at Airports and Seaports could result in the introduction of the disease. The Customs and Port Authorities were alerted, and special interest should be taken of travellers aircraft and vessels from any of the countries mentioned as well as Spain, Portugal and Africa.

The Director General of the FAO had asked for the collaboration of the Pan-American Health Organization in effecting its control. An officer from the Ministry's Veterinary Laboratory had attended a seminar in Lima, Peru, on measures adopted to maintain a disease free status. It was suggested at the seminar that National African Swine Fever Committees should be established and each Committee headed by the Minister of Agriculture, and membership / ^{should include} representative of other Government Agencies. Diagnostic procedures would be taught by the United States Department of Agriculture's Plum Island Research Laboratory, New York, from 1st - 3rd August, 1978. The FAO Directorate had intimated that should there be an outbreak of the disease in Jamaica, Plum Island would assist with the initial diagnosis after which we would be on our own.

The Cabinet was requested to approve in principle the proposal that the Minister of Agriculture should head the National African Swine Fever Committee and also to support the proposal that a Virologist and a Pathologist attend the diagnostic course at Plum Island Research Laboratory in New York at a cost of \$720 each.

The Cabinet accordingly approved the proposals in connection with the National African Swine Fever Committee and the attendance at the diagnostic course in New York.

CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET DECISION DATED 11.9.78

25. The Cabinet had before it a Note dated 1st September, 1978, containing a proposal for a change in scope and nomenclature of the National African Swine Fever Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture.

It was pointed out in the Note that the Committee had become functional, and had suggested that its scope should be broadened to enable it to deal with other animal diseases of which Jamaica is at present free, and which could be introduced in a manner similar to that of African Swine Fever.

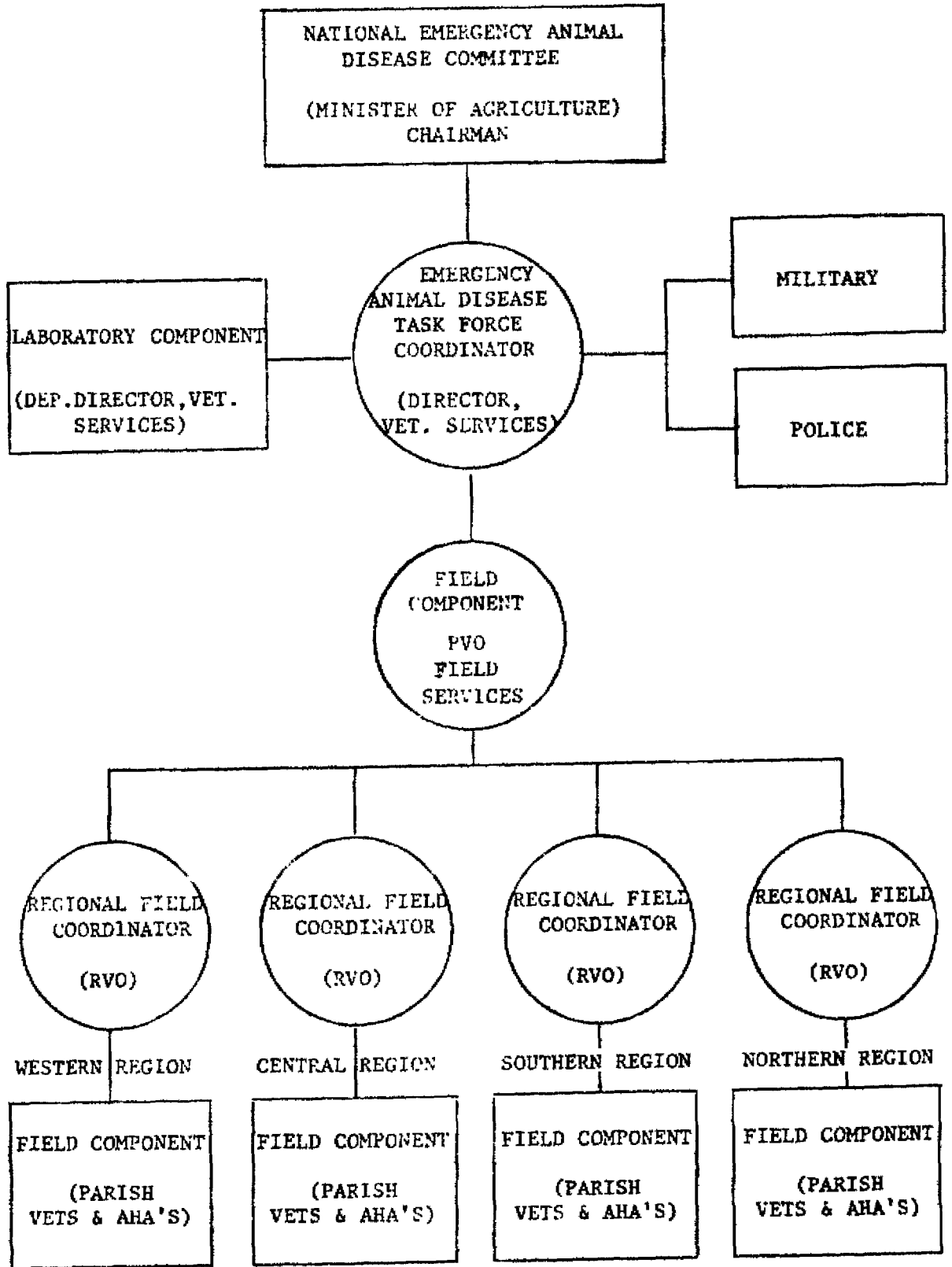
It was proposed therefore that the name of the Committee be changed to the National Emergency Animal Diseases Committee.

The Cabinet approved the proposal.

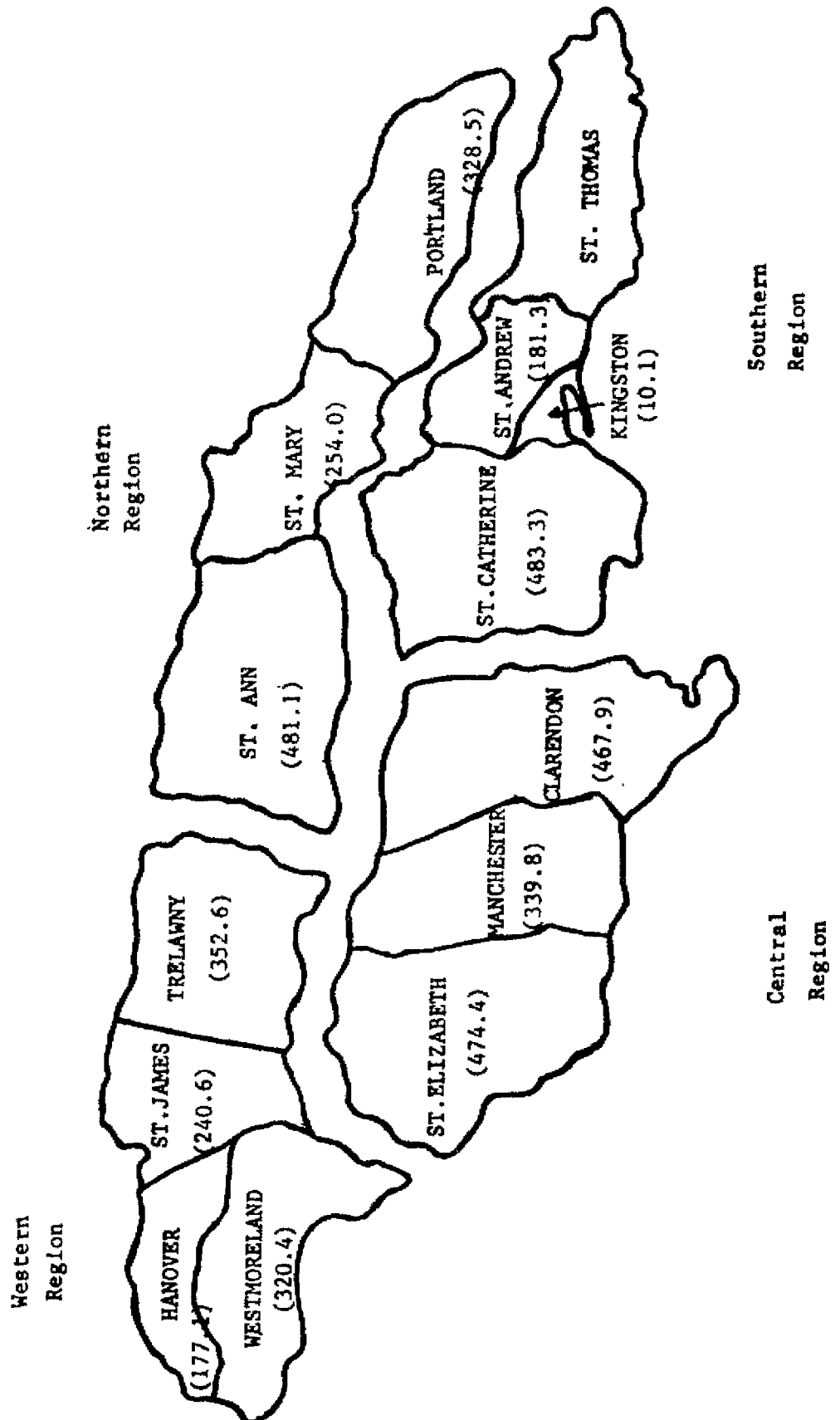
PART C. COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE COMMITTEE

AGENCY	AREA, DEP. OR DIVISION	POST OR REPRESENTATIVE
Ministry of Agriculture	Administration	1. Minister
	Veterinary Division	2. Permanent Secretary Director
	Agricultural Engineering	Director
Ministry of Health	Veterinary Public Health Unit	Director
Ministry of Public Utility and Transport	Airport Authority	General Manager
	Port Authority	General Manager
Ministry of Finance and Planning	Collector General's Department	Deputy Collector General (Customs)
Ministry of Justice	Attorney General's Department	Crown Counsel
Ministry of National Security	Jamaica Defence Force	Operations Officer
	Police Commission	Operations Officer
	Planning and Research	Director
Ministry of Communication and Works	Construction and Maintenance	Director
Office of the Prime Minister	Agency for Public Information	Information Officer
Ministry of Local Govt. and Community Develop.	Kingston/St. Andrew Corp.	1. Administrator
	Assn. Local Govt. Auth. (ALGA)	2. Chief Pub.H. Insptr. Representative
Agricultural Development Corporation	Livestock Division	Manager
Jamaica Livestock Assn.	Breed Societies	Secretary

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - NATIONAL EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE



PART E. MAP OF JAMAICA BY REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



() SQUARE MILES