

THE PRESENT TSETSE - TRYPANOSOMIASIS SITUATION : A SUMMARY.

The objective of the anti-tsetse operations currently being carried out in Rhodesia is the complete control of the tsetse populations with a view to holding these at bay along certain well defined fronts in order to protect the marginal cattle areas, both European and African. Complete eradication of fly within the country is not visualised excepting that should those Government departments who are responsible for developing the unoccupied land lying to the north of the Zambesi Front decide that eradication is desirable and in fact necessary then this would become the objective. In the case of the other fronts, however, namely the Zambesi Front-East, the Eastern Front and the South East Front the infestations are extensions of larger fly belts lying beyond our borders and therefore the problem could never be finalised without international cooperation.

A. ZAMBESI FRONT-WEST.

1. SEBUNGWE (Binga - Lupane - Wankie)

The operations which were applied to arrest the break through of fly in the west across the Gwai river and towards the Wankie National Park seem to be having the desired effect but, it is, as yet, too early to be absolutely certain on this matter. Elsewhere on this sector of the front the position is stabilizing.

2. GOKWE/SANYATI - GATOOMA (Gokwe - Gatooma - Lomagundi (South) ).

The position is very grave along this sector of the front despite active control measures. The position has generally been aggravated by the premature introduction of cattle into marginal areas. Control measures are being intensified in order to combat the rapidly deteriorating situation.

B. ZAMBESI FRONT-CENTRAL.

1. URUNGWE (Urungwe - Kariba)

There has been an improvement in the west but the northeastern section of the Urungwe Tribal Trust Land, the Vuti Block and the northern Karoi farms continue to give cause for concern. It is planned to carry out an extensive spraying operation over these areas this coming dry season in order to try to regain control on this sector of the front. To the east of the northern Karoi farms the position is static.

2. SIPOLILO (Lomagundi (North) - Sipolilo - Darwin)

There was a marked upsurge in cattle trypanosomiasis in the Sipolilo area during 1967 but once again the position was aggravated by the introduction of cattle into marginal areas. A spraying operation was carried out last dry season in an attempt to effect control but it is still too early to say whether this measure was successful or not. The situation elsewhere on this sector of the front is satisfactory.

C. ZAMBESI FRONT-EAST.

MTOKO - INYANGA (Mrewa - Mtoko - Inyanga - Makoni)

The westward and south westward spread of trypanosomiasis appears to have been curtailed by the very extensive spraying operation carried out in 1966. It will be recalled that particular anxiety was felt for the Mayo farming area in the Makoni District. It is also satisfactory to note that

Further spraying operations are now being planned with a view to reducing the disease to a minimum in the Chikwizo Tribal Trust Land in the Mtoko District and in the Tribal Trust Land areas of the Inyanga District.

D. EASTERN FRONT.

UMTALI.

The position is satisfactory.

E. SOUTH EAST FRONT.

1. CHIPINGA - SABI EAST (Melsetter - Chipinga).

The position is satisfactory. It is noteworthy that the Chipinga Border Clearing has now been abandoned after continuous attention for 34 years in favour of a defence system based on the limited application of persistent insecticides, as and when the need arises.

2. SABI - LUNDI (Bikita - Chiredzi - Nuanetsi).

It is gratifying to note that the tsetse advances within the Sabi - Lundi area have been controlled, in particular the advance which was seen as a threat to the Kruger National Park. A further joint spraying operation is to be carried out in conjunction with the Division of Veterinary Field Services of the Government of the Republic of South Africa during the coming dry season.