

Article 6

A. POLICY FOR TSETSE & TRYPANOSOMIASIS CONTROL
AND RECLAMATION.

The views of the Committee are sought on the following proposed statement of policy.

- (1) Geographically the Southern Rhodesian tsetse problems falls into two parts :
 - (a) The Tsetse front formed by the Portuguese East African Fly-belts along the Eastern border.
 - (b) The Zambesi Valley fly belt stretching from the neighbourhood of the Hunyani River to the Wankie area. Including its extensions into Northern Rhodesia, this forms, at present, an isolated fly belt.
 - (2) While immediate attention must be given to the problem of consolidating the new system of defences by game eradication between fences and to the improvement and extension of barrier clearings to cover the whole frontage in zones 1 (a) and (b) above, such a programme does not offer the prospects of an end to Rhodesian tsetse problems.
 - (3) It is therefore proposed that the main objects of the Department shall be:-
 - (a) the creation along the Eastern border of a defence system dependent upon forms of land usage which would ultimately become the responsibility of departments concerned with the development of natural resources. The system devised would be also appropriately related to the developmental projects of the Portuguese authorities.
 - (b) With the collaboration of the Northern Rhodesian Government to eliminate the British Zambesi fly-belt.
 - (4) The speed with which we move towards these objectives will depend in the first place upon the recruitment of a fully trained technical staff. Assuming that this does not take too long we should aim at completing preliminary investigations within the next two years. The data collected would form the foundations of a long term plan having the objectives outlined above. It does not seem unreasonable to look forward to the total eradication of glossina from within Southern Rhodesian borders.
 - (5) No limitations should be placed upon methods used, though throughout the investigations projected in (4) above, the aim would be to find the means of applying techniques other than game destruction.
 - (6) It is realised that the objectives stated in 3 (b) above is not fully in line with generally accepted policy elsewhere. There is no requirement that land reclaimed shall afterwards be fully and properly used. It is arguable that such a policy, developed mainly in relation to the much larger tsetse belts further north, need not necessarily apply to the special conditions of Rhodesia.
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