5. Title : Support Activities

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Cultures for Cryptococcus neoformans were performed on CSF from 40 patients diagnosed as malaria with involvement of the nervous system. All cultures were negative.

Fifty eight diagnostic cultures have been received from the U.S. Embassy Medical Unit or as referrals from SMRL physicians. Fungi recovered include : Candida albicans (10), Microsporum gypseum (1), Phialophora pedrosoi (1) and Trichophyton rubrum (1). Two cases of Tinea Versicolor were also diagnosed by microscopic examination.

Two specimens were received from Viet Nam during this period. One sputum specimen yielded Candida albicans and the other specimen produced no growth. An increase in specimens from Viet Nam is anticipated not only from the U.S. Medical Research Unit (WRAIR) but also from Major Mo at the Pasteur Institute in Saigon.

Histoplasmin skin tests were applied to 15 persons in the Department of Bacteriology and Mycology to serve as a matter of record in the event of subsequent infections.

GENERAL SUMMARY:

1. Thirteen hunderd and seventy lifetime residents in two areas of Thailand (Korat-Central plateau and Chiengmai-North) were skin tested with histoplasmin. The number of reactors approximated 5% in both areas indicating a low endemicity for Histoplasma capsulatum.

2. No fungi capable of producing systemic disease have as yet been isolated from soil samples nor have any of the redents or bats studied been found to be naturally infected. Microsporum gypseum was isolated from soil using a hair-batting technique.

3. Results of dermatophytes cultured from patients at Women's Hospital and Chulalongkorn University Hospital, Bangkok, are inadequate for evaluation at this time.

4. Plans for the next year include: (1) Application of histoplasmin skin tests in Udorn province (North), Ubol province (Northeast), Songkhla province (South) and possibly a province in the Southeast of Thailand. (2) Continuation of ecologic studies of the pathogenic fungi in Thailand by soil sampling and continuing to utilize tissues from rodents and bats made available through the courtesy of other investigators. Emphasis will be placed on determining the ecologic habitat of Cryptococcus neoformans. (3) Obtaining additional sources of clinical materials from cases of dermatophytoses in Thais, including a survey of approximately 2000 freshman students at Chulalongkorn University. Attempts will be made to correlate culture results with the presence of absence of evidence of clinical infection.