

SITE: CANARY ISLANDS

APRIL 1961

MEDICAL QUERIES ON SITES

General

1. What health problems have contractor and M and O personnel had?

Diarrheas? *yes, frequently.*

Respiratory diseases? *URI's, & sinusitis & flu appear on diagnosis list.*

Skin diseases? *~~7/10~~ 1 man had belt line & dotted distribution of rash in hot weather. Diagnosis unknown.*

Jaundice? *1 man had*

Malaria? (State if malaria prophylaxis is required) *NONE. No.*

Others? *1 child had rheumatic fever.
1 typhoid
1 meningitis.
1 clostridiosis.*

2. What disorders have newly arrived personnel had in their first two weeks in the area?

*Diarrhea - commonly called "Canary Fever"
Several personnel complained of "asthma like" wheezing in first 2-3 wks. Less troublesome if living on mountain, & one man still does because of this.*

- ✓ 3. Are there any local foods, drinks, or areas which should be avoided for health reasons?

Care should be observed in all restaurants. Wines & beer are excellent. The usual troublesome items - salads, dressings etc should be avoided.

- ✓ 4. Are there any "drug store" items (medicines, insect repellents, etc.) which should be brought from home by visitors or new arrivals?
Insect bombs would be helpful for the flies. Only special medication might be brought, but all items are available locally in pharmacies. (Many are Spanish manufacture).

5. What are ranges of temperature and humidity in hot and cool months?

Mean temp. 70° F

Mean maximum 94°-96° F

Mean minimum 40°-52° F

Low humidity - Only 6-8 inches annual rainfall. (Nov. - Nov. usually)

The Site

6. How is drinking water supplied to the site? *Ditched to a reservoir near site & then piped in. Chlorinated on the site.*

Piped from city? *No*

Brought in containers? *Yes, present drinking water (Fikona) brought bottled from city. It is mineral water.*

Is the water known to be chlorinated? *Yes, but they don't drink it. I had local public health people sample it during trip & I do not know results.*

7. Are there any complaints about the drinking water at the site?

Minimal - new arrivals usually -

What? *Mineral water taste.*

8. How is food procured for duty hour meals at the site?

Small local restaurant across street from site provides canned meat, spaghetti, fish & fruit. They heat can & serve. Local food also available, bread, small items etc. Sanitation very questionable - dishes washed in irrigation ditch etc. Much improved, cons, screen windows etc, due to efforts of site personnel. Cost now for coffee & sandwiches & crackers available in site bldg - see report.

9. Are there any complaints about the food mentioned in question 8?

If local it is greasy though. Ostron's will cook eggs in butter which is imported from Denmark. Same problem. Lack of this facility for all meals in case of necessity to stay on site would pose a great problem.

10. What are the waste disposal facilities at the site?

Flush toilet? *yes, but only 1, & another is sorely needed.*

Privy?

Other? */*

11. Are hand washing facilities available at the site?

yes. Tap water, locally chlorinated, is used & soap. Several cloth hand towels are hung near basin and are changed twice a week. Paper towels would be much better & have been suggested strongly to site manager.

12. Are insects a problem at the site?

Houseflies? Also abundant in flies - also the restaurant area with the screens. Perhaps due to tomato patches nearby.

Mosquitoes? No

Biting flies? No

Others? none significant.

13. Are ventilation and lighting at the site satisfactory? yes, but the air conditioning is extremely noisy.

14. What is needed to improve health or working conditions at the site?

adequate eating facilities.
another toilet.

The Local Community

- ✓ 15. What is the general level of cleanliness of the nearby community?

Fair to poor.

- ✓ 16. Is there a community water system which is known to supply safe, treated water? *Yes. I discussed this at length with the local P.H. Ins., Dr. Beale. The source is underground galleries & wells. Water contaminated so filtered & chlorinated, automatically. They require no coliform 100 cc water. Reg. sampling is done & apparently well. Difficulty seems to be in local distribution system. Some tanks at last house filled 2x wk. Tanks frequently dirty. Recently 1 site man found two dead pigeons & maggots in his.*
- ✓ 17. Is there a community sewer system? *Yes, but still frequent open urination on street.*

- ✓ 18. Are insects a problem in the community?

Houseflies? *Yes but not as bad as at the site.*

Mosquitoes?

No

No.

Others?

19. What housing arrangements are made by site personnel? State if satisfactory from viewpoint of health and comfort.

Most of the homes are quite adequate even by our standards. Some live in apartments and these also are adequate. There are frequent landlord problems.

20. Where do site personnel get their meals in town? Name restaurants recommended as safe and reliable.

The Hotel dining rooms are good with the Costa Catalina being best. Restaurants acceptable are:

Maximes
Costa Bella
Chiper
Villa Chen
Vera Nav.

21. Name food establishments which should be avoided.

Knew none by name.

- ✓ 22. Is venereal disease known to be a problem in the area?

Yes. This is a port city & since prostitution was made illegal 3 yrs ago the VD rate has steadily climbed. GC is common & they worry about lives but seldom see it.

No amoebic dysentery seen on island.

No brucellosis. Milk is all good & pasteurized if bottled.

Medical Service

23. Is satisfactory medical service available to site personnel?

Consider from viewpoints of disease as well as emergency care of injuries.

yes. The British Hospital (Hospital Ingles) is quite adequate with facilities + staff, + the Clinica Santa Catalina also.

24. Name any physicians especially recommended and state if language is a problem.

Hospital Ingles: Roberto + Tomas Ponce, cousins, trained in Madrid, but speak English well + had post-grad training in London. Roberto is a gastroenterologist and Tomas a neurologist. These cousins are the official Org. mercury physicians by contract. They also have all shipping companies, hotels, etc. The hosp. has 25 beds, all the medical + surgical (all next page)

25. Are drug stores or prescription pharmacies readily available?

yes + supplies are good.

26. Have any site personnel required hospitalization? Give causes if known. Names are not required.

yes - 1 - meningitis
1 - typhoid - ? gall bladder difficulty
1 - ? appendicitis
1 - typhoid.

Carberry

27. Name hospitals known to give satisfactory care.

see 24.

28. Have any site personnel been returned to the U.S. for medical reasons? Names are not required, but give causes if known, and means of return to U.S. (commercial air, MATS Air Evac, private vehicle, etc.)

yes. Returned via commercial air.

- 1 with some cardiovascular problem, diagnosis unknown.
- 1 with hepatitis or gall bladder problem.
- 1 with back trouble from fall.

NOTE: If additional space is needed, please attach an addendum referencing the question number.

24-cont.

specialties represented on the staff, and the nurses are all British sisters. The latter makes the hosp. particularly valuable. It is owned by a group of shipping companies and managed on a yearly contract by the Red Cross.

Clinica Santa Catalina: 100 beds - modern & clean with hospital, nurse, nurses. Drs. Germaine Trejias Sr & Jr. are ob-gyn & surg. specialists & run the clinic. Mr. Duilland (British) internist (trop. med) also practices here & is perturbed because he couldn't get the Hospital Index & necessary contract.

Clinica Cajal 70 beds. Dr. Fernando Arribas. No English spoken. Fair.

Clinica San Roque: 40 beds Dr. David Ramirez
Dr. Ponce (urologist).

President medical society. Dr. Juan Bosch.

Fair.

Cap Barry M.D.