International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses

Report of the 33rd General Assembly, Paris, 27 June 1986

The International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses (IUVDT) is an organisation that was founded in 1923 with the object of achieving international co-operation in the control of sexually transmitted diseases. The Union consists of individual members, member organisations, and supporting members who wish to promote the study of problems related to venereal and sexually transmitted diseases, including those of a strictly technical nature. The Union has always been concerned with the social aspects of the control of sexually transmitted diseases, such as contact tracing, case finding, prostitution, sexual behaviour, control legislation, the special problems of seamen, health education, and similar matters. On the technical side, doctors and scientists play an important part in the affairs of the Union.

The principle aims of the Union are: (1) to co-ordinate and assist in the dissemination of information and facts about the sexually transmitted diseases (STD), (2) to accumulate and distribute information about the control and prevention of STD, (3) to stimulate research into the scientific, medical, and sociological aspects of STD, (4) to compile information on trends of incidence of STD throughout the world, (5) to organise meetings and conferences and to participate with other national and international organisations in meetings to study problems related to the understanding and control of STD, (6) to provide information and material for health education about STD, and (7) to maintain a list of all members of the IUVDT with their addresses and telephone numbers.

The Union has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and collaborates in its activities with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations International Childrens Educational Fund, the Social Commission, and the United Nations Secretariat. The effectiveness of collaboration between the Union and the WHO has been strengthened by new criteria established by the WHO in respect of non-governmental organisations.

The officers of the Union consist of a

President, a Vice-President, a Secretary General, an Assistant Secretary General, and a Treasurer. There is an elected Executive Committee with representatives from all the branches of the Union. The Executive Committee meets at least once a year and organises a general assembly and an international conference on STD in a major medical centre every second year. There are five branches of the Union, one each in Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, and South East Asia and the western Pacific. Each branch has a regional Director. Regional conferences are organised by the branches, which also give help and advice to governments and other health authorities on a wide variety of subjects. International research and collaborative studies are a feature of the work of the Union.

Two Executive Committee meetings and the 33rd General Assembly of the IUVDT took place on 27 June 1986 during the Second World Congress on STD at Paris on 25–28 June 1986. The WHO and the IUVDT were principle patrons of the Congress, at which over 300 papers were read on all aspects of sexually transmitted diseases.

The 33rd General Assembly was presided over by the retiring President of the IUVDT, Professor A Luger (Vienna). The following resolutions were passed unanimously: (1) the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and its complications have increased alarmingly throughout the world. All governments are asked to act to prevent the increase of AIDS and to take all measures to control its serious consequences. (2) In addition, the increase of other STDs, in particular chlamydial and papilloma wart virus infections, are noted with concern. The IUVDT asks that governments provide and improve facilities not only to investigate but also to treat STDs. (3) The resurgence of yaws and other endemic treponematoses in certain parts of the world has grave consequences for public health, especially in children. The IUVDT requests governments to take all measures to eradicate and treat these diseases. It requests that health agencies

elsewhere in the world concerned with the eradication of yaws and the endemic treponematoses give all necessary aid.

The new President of the Union is:

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The Secretary General is:

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The Regional Director for Africa is:

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The Regional Director for North America is:

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The Regional Director for Latin America is:

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The Regional Director for South East Asia and the western Pacific is:

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VD Control Division,
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The position of Regional Director for Europe is vacant at present, but will be filled shortly.

The Treasurer is:

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M A Waugh
Secretary General