

REPORT OF THE

**Held in Baghdad, Iraq
1-4 February 1969**

**FIRST SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION FOR
CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE NEAR EAST**



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Meeting Report No.
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REPORT OF THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE NEAR EAST

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Baghdad, Iraq
1 - 4 February 1969

Plant Production and Protection Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, 1969

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INTRODUCTION

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations convened a Special FAO Meeting of the Proposed Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East in Beirut from 15 to 18 March 1965 to consider the Draft Agreement for the establishment of a Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East within the framework of FAO, under Art. XIV of the FAO Constitution. The Special Meeting approved the text of the Draft Agreement which was then referred by the Director-General to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) of the Organization. The Forty-fourth Session of the FAO Council, held in July 1965, having considered the recommendations of the Special Meeting and taking into account the views of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) on the Draft Agreement, approved the text of this Agreement and authorized its submission to the member nations for acceptance. The Governments of Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Republic had deposited the instrument of acceptance of this Agreement with the Director-General.

In accordance with Art. XIX of the Agreement the Director-General, at the kind invitation of the Government of Iraq, convened the First Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East in Baghdad, from 1 to 4 February 1969. The Governments of Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Republic were invited to the Session as delegates, whereas Bahrain, Iraq, the People's Republic of Southern Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the Yemen Arab Republic, the League of Arab States and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DICO-EA) were invited to attend as observers.

The Session was opened by H.E. Dr. Abdul Hussein Wadday Al-Attayah, Minister of Agriculture, who welcomed all participants. The Minister congratulated the Governments concerned on the successful establishment of this Commission and expressed the hope that this spirit of cooperation would go a long way in keeping the Desert Locust under control. He emphasized that the Near East region was a strategically important area in the vast belt of the Desert Locust distribution and, in particular, the Arabian Peninsula as a whole had continued to be a crucial area for locust breeding and swarm formation. He further stated that the Near East Commission was an organizational mechanism for Desert Locust control and was a vital link in the chain of similar mechanisms established in other parts of Asia and Africa.

The operations undertaken in this region did not only benefit the Near East countries but indirectly also benefited practically all other countries subject to Desert Locust plagues. He expressed the hope that the establishment of this Commission would be a step forward towards the existing cooperation within the Near East countries in this field and further enhanced the chances of keeping the plague under control.

In reply, Mr. M.F. Chandraratna, FAO Senior Agricultural Adviser in Iraq, read the message of Dr. A.R. Sidky, Assistant Director-General for Near Eastern Affairs, and on his behalf and that of the Director-General of FAO emphasized the importance of the establishment of the Commission and expressed thanks for the hospitality and the facilities offered to FAO by the Government of Iraq as host Government of this very important Session of the Commission. He informed the Commission that the Director-General regarded the establishment of this Commission to be of vital importance.

Officers of the Session

Chairman: Mr. Haider Al-Haidari, Iraq

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Gharib Khamis Gharib, Kuwait.

The Commission unanimously elected the following officers for 1969/70:

Chairman of the Commission: Sudan

Vice-Chairman of the Commission: Syrian Arab Republic

Delegates of Jordan, Kuwait and United Arab Republic, the FAO Consultant and the Secretariat along with the Chairman of the Session formed the Drafting Committee. Mr. Gurdas Singh, Dr. K. Lubani and Mr. M.F. Leheta of the FAO Secretariat served as Technical Secretaries.

Acknowledgements

At the closing of the Session the delegates expressed their cordial appreciation to the Government of Iraq for their kind hospitality and for the facilities provided. They also thanked the Chairman for the most efficient and tactful manner in which he had conducted the proceedings. All the participants also wanted to place on record their warmest appreciation to the contribution made by Mr. Mohammed Hussein towards the international cooperation in the control of the Desert Locust in the Near East and to his most valuable advice as a Consultant at the present Session.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SESSION

The following delegates from Member Countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, observers and members of the FAO staff participated in the Session and contributed to the discussions summarized in this report.

Delegates from FAO Member Countries

Jordan

Ahmed Khasawneh
Director
Plant Protection and Locust Control
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman

Kuwait State

Gharib Khamis Gharib
Chief, Plant Protection
Ministry of Public Works
Agricultural Department
Kuwait

Lebanon

A. Jalloul
Director
Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Beirut

Qatar

Michel Farah
Director of Agriculture
Doha

Alternates

Sultan Kawari
Officer-in-Charge of Extension Works
Department of Agriculture
Doha

Fuad Thabet
Officer-in-Charge of Plant Protection
Department of Agriculture
Doha

Sudan

Ibrahim Taha Ayoub
Second Secretary
Sudan Embassy
Baghdad

Syrian Arab Republic

Mouaffac Koudsi
Counsellor
Syrian Embassy
Baghdad

United Arab Republic

Mostafa El-Nahas
Director General
Locust Affairs Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Dokki, Cairo

Alternate

Mohammed Hassan Hosni
Director, Locust Ecological Section
Locust Research Station
Ministry of Agriculture
Dokki, Cairo

Observers

Bahrain

S. Al-Alawi
Head, Plant Protection Section
Department of Agriculture
Bahrain

Iraq

Haider Al-Haidari
Director General
Plant Protection
Ministry of Agriculture
Baghdad

Anis Naoum
Head, Entomological and Plant Pathology Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Abou Ghraib

Maulood Kamel Abid
Assistant Agriculture Specialist
Plant Protection Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Baghdad

Abdul Abbas Hantosh Al-Jabiry
Agricultural Specialist
Plant Protection Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Baghdad

Iraq (cont'd)

A'la Al-din Dawood
Assistant Agricultural Specialist
Plant Protection Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Baghdad

People's Republic of Southern Yemen

Mohammed Baamer
Deputy Director of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Aden

Saudi Arabia

Salem Hadramy
Director
Research Station
Ministry of Agriculture
Jeddah

Ibrahim Moukeem
Director
Plant Pest and Locust
Extension Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Riyadh

Turkey

Divanlioglu Ildeniz
Counsellor
Turkish Embassy
Baghdad

United Kingdom

Cliff Ashall
Assistant Director
Anti-Locust Research Centre
College House, Wrights Lane
London, W.8

Yemen Arab Republic

Nasser Moafa
Counsellor
Ministry of Agriculture
Sana'a

FAO Staff

Gurdas Singh
Desert Locust Specialist
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Khalil Lubani
Inter-Regional Locust Officer
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P.O. Box 3216
Beirut, Lebanon

M.F. Leheta
FAO Regional Locust Officer
International Locust Control Centre
P.O. Box 327
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Hussein
FAO Consultant
c/o FAO Regional Office for the Near East
Cairo, U.A.R.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Session
Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Election of the Drafting Committee
5. The Desert Locust situation during 1968/69 as it affects the Near East countries with special reference to Saudi Arabia, Southern Yemen, Yemen, and forecast
6. Programme of work and budget for the Commission and revision of the scale of contributions
7. The current Anti-Locust Campaign in the Arabian Peninsula and other countries of the Near East and plans for the future
8. Establishment of the Executive Committee and election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman
9. Anti-locust survey and control potentials available in various countries
10. The seat of the Commission
11. Other business
12. Date and place of next Session
13. Adoption of the Report.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The Desert Locust Situation from October 1968 to January 1969 and Forecast

Near East Countries

1. During October and November 1968 low density populations of isolated locusts were present in Saudi Arabia along the Red Sea coast from Gizan to Rabigh. In November 1968 a small loose mature swarm was located near Jeddah, which probably resulted from aggregation of locusts present in the Lith-Rabigh area. Subsequently, the swarm laid eggs and hatching started late in December resulting in scattered hopper bands in hilly areas lying 15 to 20 km. east and north-east of Jeddah. During the same period scattered locust populations were also observed in some parts of the interior of Saudi Arabia, particularly in Qassiem and Hail. According to the latest unconfirmed reports, three swarms were reported to have been observed in eastern Asir during the last week of January 1969. At the same time some scattered hoppers were also reported from Yanbo area, which did not warrant control operations.
2. Winter breeding took place in Sudan along the Red Sea coastal areas. Four mature swarms of medium density were reported from the Sudan in areas of Ashat 18.37N - 3715E, Aitorba 17.55N - 38.20E and Suakin 19.01N - 37.20E between 2 and 7 December 1968. A further scattered mature swarm was reported copulating in the Suakin area on 6 December 1968. Most of these swarms were reported to have been controlled by national teams of the Sudan. During December 1968 several medium sized hopper bands were reported in the vicinity of Tokar and Karora where intensive control measures were carried out by hand dusting and spraying. Small scattered hopper bands of I to IV instars were reported in some localities during the first half of January 1969. No swarms were reported in this area or in any other part of Sudan during January 1969.
3. In the United Arab Republic breeding, which resulted from immature and maturing swarms invading the south-east of the country during October and November 1968, was controlled. The country was reported free from any infestation from 9 January 1969.
4. In Southern Yemen a small concentration of adults of mixed maturity was reported in the area along the eastern coast early in December 1968. A noticeable increase in locust populations was also observed in the same areas. In the Yemen Arab Republic no significant desert locust activity was reported. Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and the Eastern States of the Arabian Peninsula continued to be free of any locust infestations.

Eastern Africa

5. Winter breeding took place in Ethiopia along the Red Sea coastal areas especially in the south-eastern areas, where the infestation was reported to be extensive and where hopper bands reached the adult stage late in December 1968 and early January 1969. Further north towards the Sudan borders hopper bands of I to IV instars persisted during the first half of January 1969. Late in December 1968 escapes from this breeding were reported. Four swarms covering 12 sq. miles were reported late in December 1968, and not less than 24 swarm reports were received during the first two weeks of January 1969; swarms were reported to be pink and were moving mostly in southerly and westerly directions during early January 1969. In the Somali Republic 66 swarm reports were received during September and October 1968. Later, breeding took place during November 1968 in northern areas and was reported to have been controlled by 12 December 1968. However, nine pink swarms were reported during the first fortnight of January 1969.

Other Countries

6. No significant Desert Locust infestation was reported from Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan from October 1968 onwards. In West Africa swarms were present in Algeria, Morocco and Spanish Sahara. Control operations on an adequate scale, particularly in Algeria and Morocco, were reported to be in progress.

Forecast

7. Due to abnormal rains reported from almost all countries of the Near East and of Eastern Africa, ecological conditions would continue to be favourable in the winter and spring breeding areas of the Desert Locust. It was expected that local breeding would continue along both sides of the Red Sea and most probably would extend to the interior of Saudi Arabia. It was also feared that some of the swarms present in East Africa would or had already moved to the north and north-east invading Yemen, Southern Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The possibility of invasion of other countries in the north of the Arabian Peninsula by such swarms could not be ruled out at this stage.

The Current Anti-Locust Campaign in the Arabian Peninsula and Other Countries of the Near East and Plans for the Future

8. The Session noted with interest the arrangements for Desert Locust control in different countries of the Arabian Peninsula and considered the reports submitted by the FAO Secretariat.

Saudi Arabia

9. In accordance with the recommendation of the Twelfth Session of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee, held in Rome in October 1968 (Report, para. 103), appropriate steps were taken by the Government of Saudi Arabia to strengthen survey and control operations in the country. This included the establishment of a section for plant protection and Desert Locust control within the Ministry of Agriculture. For administrative convenience and to facilitate efficient operations, the whole breeding area in the country was divided into two sectors. In addition, a number of units were established in each of the 60 agricultural offices in the country.

10. The Commission noted with appreciation that some of the countries of the region were providing continued assistance to supplement the national efforts of the Saudi Arabian teams in survey and control operations. The Commission noted that negotiations were in progress between the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America for use of American aircraft against locusts in Saudi Arabia. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the steps taken by FAO to make available 8 Locust Officers to supplement national efforts in the field of survey and control operations. Such Officers were supplied with necessary survey and control equipment by the Government of Saudi Arabia.

11. Control operations were carried out from late December 1968 in the Jeddah/Mecca area where hatching had started at that time. Four control units using baits and another two units with exhaust sprayers were still (January 1969) engaged in operations. Approximately 150 hopper bands, mostly small, were controlled until 25 January 1969. It was expected that control operations would continue for some time. The Desert Locust situation in other areas of Saudi Arabia did not warrant any control operations until January 1969. All Saudi Arabian field agricultural offices were keeping their areas under continuous observation.

Sudan

12. Sudanese national ground teams carried out control operations against egg-fields and hoppers in the Tokar area during mid-December 1968. Four mature swarms of medium density were reported from Sudan in the areas of Ashot 18.37N - 37.15E, Aitorba 17.55N - 38.20E and Suakin 19.01N - 37.20E between 2 and 7 December 1968. A further scattered mature swarm was reported copulating in the Suakin area on 6 December 1968. Most of these swarms were reported to have been controlled by the national teams of Sudan. During December several medium sized hopper bands were reported in the vicinity of Tokar and Karora where intensive control measures were carried out by hand dusting and spraying.

Southern Yemen and Yemen

13. The national teams of the countries, supplemented by assistance from FAO, carried out survey and control operations during the period under report. The delegates drew attention to the importance of the countries from the locust breeding point of view and considered it necessary to strengthen the present arrangements there. The Commission appreciated the offer made by the Government of Kuwait to provide material assistance both to Southern Yemen and Yemen. The Commission emphasized that special attention should be paid to these countries in the future programme of work of the Commission.

United Arab Republic

14. Fifty-one swarms, of which 39 were mature, were reported in the south-eastern areas of the United Arab Republic late in October and early December 1968. Control operations were carried out by ground and aerial means against these swarms and the resulting hopper bands, hatching of which started late in November 1968 and continued until early January 1969. Hopper bands numbering 8,518 mostly in their early stages were controlled and the country was reported free from 9 January 1969.

Other Countries

15. In the Near East no other country was infested during the period under review. The Governments concerned had, however, made necessary preparations to cope with any situation which might arise in future.

Survey and Control Potentials in the Member Countries of the Near East

16. The information on the resources for survey and control available in the member countries and their organizational set-up is given in Appendix I.

Future Plans for the Arabian Peninsula

17. The Commission considered the proposals put forward by FAO and heard with interest the report of the representative of Saudi Arabia and other countries on the arrangements made by their respective Governments. The delegates were of the opinion that:

- (a) The position of the Near East region and its liability to the Desert Locust infestations in different parts of the region were closely dependent on each other, and the degree of infestation in alternate seasonal areas of the region were closely related to the success of control in the other parts of the region. Proper coordination and effective control in the Arabian Peninsula should do much to reduce the plague within the Near East countries, and might have far reaching consequences on the course of the plagues in other parts of the Desert Locust area.

- (b) Special attention should be given to the importance of survey and control operations in Saudi Arabia, Southern Yemen and Yemen which were considered the most important areas from the Desert Locust control point of view. It was noted with satisfaction that the national organizations in these countries had considerably improved and, in particular, the Government of Saudi Arabia was in a position to make a major contribution towards survey and control operations in the country, whereas the Governments of Southern Yemen and Yemen still needed substantial outside assistance to carry out operations effectively.
- (c) The efficiency of operations in Saudi Arabia could be greatly improved if the member countries of the region made available, as and when required by the national organization, technical personnel during the appropriate seasons to assist in anti-locust operations. For this purpose, the Government of Saudi Arabia would establish a reserve of vehicles, insecticides and other control equipment to be supplied to such visiting officers. This would reduce the commitments of the Governments who in the past provided transport, insecticides and other material assistance in addition to the assignment of technical personnel.
- (d) In view of the vastness of the Saudi Arabian desert, it was considered necessary to introduce the use of aircraft for supplementing the existing ground operations. It was hoped that the Government would, in future, keep this recommendation in view while planning anti-locust operations in the country. At the same time, in an emergency, the Commission should assist in aerial control within the programme of its work and in consultation with the Government of Saudi Arabia.
- (e) With regard to joint action for survey and control measures, the Commission, in its programme of work, would pay special attention to the strategically important countries of the Arabian Peninsula.
- (f) Prompt and regular survey during appropriate seasons within all Member Nations of the Commission was considered of vital importance and all Governments concerned should maintain the maximum degree of sustained vigilance in their respective areas.

Programme of Work and Budget

Programme of Work

18. In accordance with Article IV of the Agreement establishing the Commission, the programme of work outlined below was unanimously approved subject to annual contributions being actually received from all countries invited to participate. To the extent that the revenue from contributions fell short of the amounts indicated in Appendix II, it would be necessary to modify the programme of work. In such circumstances it was agreed to leave such modifications to the discretion of the Director-General of FAO.

Control and Surveys

19. While each Member Government would continue to be responsible for survey and control operations within its own territory, the Commission would organize joint action in any country faced with a situation beyond the capacity of its national services. Such operations would be undertaken in consultation with and by agreement of the national anti-locust organization concerned. Such joint action might also include pooling of aircraft (one aircraft with crew from each country having spraying

aircraft) or even charter of aircraft as might be required. During such joint operations the cost of travel and subsistence of teams and aircraft crew operating outside their own countries could be met from the Trust Fund; likewise the cost of ground survey and control operations, which were considered by the Commission or by its Executive Committee necessary within a member country, but which could not be financed from the national budget without some external assistance.

20. The following provisions were included in the Trust Fund budget for the above purpose:

	<u>US\$</u>
Casual labour.....	3,000
Travel and subsistence of teams and crew ...	14,000
POL and vehicle maintenance	6,000
Supplies and equipment.....	5,000
Contractual services, contingencies, etc. ..	3,000
Reports.....	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	33,000

Reserves of Insecticides and Equipment

21. It was agreed to maintain reserves of insecticides and equipment at the following places:

Jeddah	-	Saudi Arabia
Port Sudan	-	Sudan
Hodeidah	-	Yemen Arab Republic
Doha	-	Qatar

22. Delegates of the four Member Governments concerned confirmed that their respective Governments were prepared to provide free storage for the insecticides and any control equipment at the above locations and were also prepared to permit duty free import and export of such goods. Such reserves of insecticides and equipment would be the property of the Commission to be used as and when it might be decided by the Executive Committee, subject to the right of the Director-General of FAO to make supplies and equipment available to any Member Government in an emergency under an arrangement whereby the Government would replace the equipment or insecticides used within an agreed period.

23. The following provision was included in the Trust Fund budget for the above purpose:

	<u>US\$</u>
Purchase of insecticides.....	32,000
Transportation, etc.	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	34,000

Information and Reporting

24. It was agreed that in addition to the regular transmission of information about all desert locust incidents to the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS), London, and to the FAO, Rome, member countries would likewise transmit such information to the FAO Regional Locust Secretariat, presently in Jeddah, for consolidation and circulation to all member countries and other interested countries and organizations. Any significant change in the Desert Locust situation would be communicated by cable to Jeddah as well as to the DLIS, London, and to FAO, Rome. The Regional Locust Secretariat would issue monthly information bulletins on the locust situation within the region and communicate any important developments telegraphically to the neighbouring countries. The above provisions would involve no specific expenditure from the Trust Fund.

Research

25. The Commission assigned to the Executive Committee responsibility for coordination of the research programmes of the three field research stations in the region, at Dokki, U.A.R., at Khartoum, Sudan, and at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Such regional coordination might include:

- (a) selection of qualified research workers for advanced training;
- (b) replacing or supplementing existing research equipment;
- (c) exchange visits between the scientists of the different research stations in the region;
- (d) employment of high level consultants to assist in the coordination of the research programmes.

26. The following provision was included in the Trust Fund budget for the above purpose:

	<u>US\$</u>
Advisory visits of consultants - fares, etc.	2,000
Research equipment	3,000
Editing, translating, printing and publication of reports	3,000
High level fellowships and training	<u>15,000</u>
TOTAL	23,000

Regional Locust Secretariat

27. Noting that under Article XII of the Agreement FAO would provide one Regional Locust Officer and one Bilingual Clerk under the UNDP/TA Desert Locust Project, it was agreed that the Regional Locust Secretariat would serve as the central storage depot of the region and the main base for surveys, reconnaissance and research. The cost of maintaining this important base including transport, storage and other personnel, rent and upkeep of the compound, vehicle maintenance, repairs, fuel, lubricants, etc. would be the responsibility of the Commission.

28. The following provision was included in the Trust Fund budget for the above purpose:

	<u>US\$</u>
Drivers, wardens, store clerks and casual labour..	13,000
Rent of compound, maintenance, utilities, etc. ...	5,000
Vehicle maintenance, repairs, fuel and lubricants	<u>7,000</u>
TOTAL	25,000

Regional Coordination and Sessions of the Commission

29. In accordance with Article XII of the Agreement the expenses incurred by delegates of member countries of the Commission and their advisers when attending sessions of the Commission would be borne by the respective governments. However, expenses of members of the Executive Committee when attending sessions of that Committee should be borne by the Commission, likewise expenses of individuals invited to attend sessions or to participate in the work of the Commission or that of the Executive Committee in their personal capacity. It was, therefore, decided to make provision for travel of members and of the FAO Secretariat to one annual session of the Executive Committee and also to make provision for interpretation, reporting and other incidental expenses of sessions of the Commission and of the Executive Committee and for travel of the FAO Regional Locust Officer within the region for coordination purposes.

30. The following provision was included in the Trust Fund budget for the above purpose:

	<u>US\$</u>
Travel of delegates to sessions of the Executive Committee	2,000
Travel of the FAO Secretariat to sessions of the Commission and Executive Committee	3,000
Travel of the Regional Locust Officer within the region	2,000
Interpreters, reports and incidentals.....	<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL	10,000

Annual Budget

31. An annual budget totalling US\$ 139,540, as detailed in Appendix II, was approved on the assumption that by 1.1.70 all countries listed in Appendix III would have:

- (a) joined the Commission
- (b) pledged annual contributions to Trust Fund 409
- (c) paid the first annual contribution due on or before 1.7.69.

To the extent that, if any countries had not done so, it would be necessary to reduce the expenditure allocations so as to bring the total budget within the limits of available cash reserves.

32. Recognizing that priorities could vary according to changes in the locust situation between the time of drafting the programme and budget and its eventual implementation, the Commission agreed that the draft programme and budget should be regarded as establishing broad guidelines within which the Director-General of FAO would be free to make variations in the amounts allocated among the various expenditure headings, always provided that:

- (a) the total expenditure should not exceed the available resources at the time of incurring the expenditure, and
- (b) no expenditure would be incurred on any activity not specifically referred to in the approved programme of work.

Subject to such limitations, it was proposed that the Director-General be free to vary budgetary allocations as circumstances demanded. All such variations should be reported and justified when submitting the annual accounts to the Commission.

Annual Scale of Contributions

33. For the purpose of the above budget the Commission unanimously agreed to request the Director-General of FAO to establish a Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as Trust Fund 409) to which the Member Governments of the Commission would pay annually the scale of contributions as set out in Appendix III and adopted by the Commission. Contributions would be payable on or before 1 July of each year. The Trust Fund 409 would be administered by the Director-General of the Organization in conformity with the financial regulations of the Organization.

34. For the administrative convenience of the governments concerned it was recommended that contributions for Trust Fund 409 should be called at the same time each year and by a single note verbale from FAO as those for the International Desert Locust Trust Fund 161.

35. It was also agreed that the Commission might also accept contributions and donations from other sources.

36. The representative of Southern Yemen explained the present financial position of his Government and requested the Commission to accept, for the present, a nominal annual contribution of US\$ 240 instead of US\$ 4,360. While agreeing to the above request the Commission hoped that the Government of Southern Yemen would be able to pay its full contribution at the earliest opportunity. It was pointed out that a contribution of approximately US\$ 4,600 promised by the League of Arab States would make up for the difference and there would be no downward adjustment of the present approved budget of the Commission. The delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic stated that he had the authority to commit, on behalf of his Government, the contribution agreed upon at the Beirut meeting and the acceptance of the present scale of contributions, as given in Appendix III, would be subject to the approval of his Government.

Executive Committee

37. In accordance with Article VIII of the Agreement, the Commission unanimously elected the following members of the Commission as members of the Executive Committee with the United Arab Republic as Chairman and Jordan as Vice-Chairman until the next regular session of the Commission:

Jordan
Lebanon
Qatar
Sudan
United Arab Republic.

In addition to the functions of the Executive Committee as provided for in Article IX the Committee would also be responsible for coordination of field research on locusts within the members of the Commission and the representative of each member of the Executive Committee should, therefore, be a locust expert.

Seat of the Commission

38. In view of the strategic importance of Saudi Arabia, where effective control and proper coordination of efforts could do much to reduce the plague for the benefit of all the member countries of the Near East, the Commission was of the unanimous opinion that Jeddah would be the most appropriate place for the seat of the Commission.

Participation in the Commission

39. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Governments of Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Republic had already deposited with the Director-General of FAO the instrument of acceptance and had become members of the Commission from the date of such deposit. With regards to the rest of the Governments, namely: Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Southern Yemen and Yemen (the Government decided to join; due to certain legal implications the date of joining has not yet been finalized), the delegates urged them to expedite formalities for joining the Commission at the earliest. In view of the special importance which the Commission attached to Saudi Arabia in the field of desert locust control, the Chairman of the Session sent a special cable to the Minister of Agriculture in this behalf.

40. The Commission welcomed the continued interest of the Government of Turkey in locust activities at national and international levels and, in particular, those in the Near East. The delegates hoped that Turkey, which constituted an integral part of the region, would soon become a full member of the Commission.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

41. The Commission took note with appreciation of the invitations extended by the delegates of Jordan and Lebanon for holding the next Session at Amman and Beirut, respectively. The Commission, however, recommended that its next Session should be convened by the Director-General of FAO at a place and date to be determined by him.

APPENDIX I

Anti-Locust Survey and Control Potentials Available
in the Countries of the Near East Commission

Bahrain

Desert Locust activities are included in the Plant Protection Services of the Agriculture Department.

1. Personnel

Technical Staff	1
Supervisors	3
Labourers	16

2. Equipment

Eight motor sprayers with other hand dusters and sprayers are available for locust control.

One Land Rover and two half lorries are maintained by the Plant Protection Service.

3. Annual Budget

BD 9,000

Iraq

The Desert Locust Control Sub-Section of the Pest Control Section, Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the Desert Locust control.

1. Personnel

There are 80 plant protection officers who could be assigned for control operations with the required number of labourers.

2. Equipment

Motor sprayers	150
Exhaust sprayers	10
Vehicles, various types	60
Aircraft equipped for spraying and dusting	8

3. Insecticides

Bran, tons	100
BHC 2.6% gamma, tons	200
Diieldrin, tons	10

4. Annual Budget

ID 100,000.

Jordan

The Plant Protection and Locust Control Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the survey and control of the Desert Locust.

1. Personnel

Technical staff	25
Technical assistants	30
Others	20

Other personnel could be called upon from other departments of the Ministry of Agriculture when required.

2. Equipment

High volume sprayers	40
Motor dusters	25
Knapsack sprayers	300
Land Rovers	10
Lorries	4
Toyota vehicles	2

3. Insecticides

Bran, tons	400
BHC 2.6% gamma, tons	60
Dieldrin, tons	6

4. Annual Budget

JD 21,000.

Kuwait

Operations for the survey and control of the Desert Locust are carried out through the activities of the Plant Protection Service of the Agriculture Department.

1. Personnel

Technical staff	33
Others	10

2. Equipment

Motor dusters	25
Motor sprayers	35
Light vehicles	33
Heavy vehicles	40

3. Insecticides

BHC, tons	112
Aldrin, galls.	700
Dieldrin, galls.	2,500

4. Annual Budget

DK 4,500 which could be raised in periods of invasions.

Lebanon

The survey and control of the Desert Locust is the responsibility of the Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

1. Personnel

Technical staff	14
Technical assistants	37

2. Equipment

Motor dusters	13
Motor sprayers	15

with additional number of hand dusters and sprayers. As for vehicles, they are provided by the Government as and when required. There are also 3 helicopters which could be made available in Lebanon.

3. Insecticides

BHC 2.6% gamma, tons	40
Malathion, tons	1.5

Qatar

The Plant Protection Department of the Agriculture Division is responsible for the survey and control of the Desert Locust.

Three control units could be established using the available 3 Pick-up vehicles, each working under one supervisor. No vehicles fit for desert work are available.

Insecticides

BHC 1.3%, tons	7.8
BHC 2,6%, tons	0.5
Dieldrin 20 E.C., galls.	400
Bran, tons	25

Saudi Arabia

A. Local Control Services

Desert Locust control activities are the responsibility of the Department of Extension and Agricultural Services which is in charge of the field Agricultural Offices in the country.

A Plant Protection and Desert Locust Control Section was recently established under this Department to be responsible for the general overall coordination and guidance of the activities of the field agricultural offices. The section is also responsible for the procurement and distribution of control material and equipment.

Main control activities are carried out by the field Agricultural Offices. There are 60 Agricultural Offices in the country. In each Office there are some plant protection officers and assistants who are responsible for reconnaissance and control of the Desert Locust during periods of threat and infestations. Additional survey and control units could be established according to locust conditions from the headquarters in the Ministry and from the Locust Research Station in Jeddah.

To facilitate the work for Desert Locust reconnaissance and control the country was divided into two sectors:

- The Western Sector comprising areas of South Tihama, North Tihama, Taif and Asir and north-western areas.
- Central and Eastern Sector comprising the areas of Qassiem, Riyadh, Dawasir, eastern and northern areas.

Arrangements have been made so that field Agricultural Offices would establish the necessary reconnaissance and control units.

1. Personnel

Technical staff	16 (plant protection)
Technical assistants	56 (plant protection)
Locust officers and supervisors	28

Adequate numbers of labourers, drivers and mechanics are available.

Other technical personnel could be secured when necessary, either from the Ministry or from field offices.

2. Equipment

Motor dusters	35 (another 50 are under order)
Exhaust sprayers	25 (another 25 are under order)

The following vehicles are maintained by the field offices, and at least 50% could be spared for locust work:

Land Rovers	173
Pick-ups	170
Lorries	146

Other vehicles could be hired if necessary. Arrangements are being made to introduce aerial operations this year (1968/69).

3. Insecticides

Bran, tons	2,468
BHC 20%, tons	845
BHC 10%, tons	400
Dieldrin, gall.	4,635

Other insecticides such as Malathion are also available. Arrangements have been made to purchase the required stocks of control material required for aerial spraying.

4. Annual Budget

SAR. 3,000,000 not including salaries and allowances of staff.

B. Research

The Jeddah Locust Research Station is part of the Research and Agricultural Development Department.

Personnel

Research worker	1
Assistants	4
Supervisors	4
Labourers	6

The Station also maintains 36 vehicles which participate in control operations in emergency cases.

United Arab Republic

The Locust Research and Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for all anti-locust activities. The Division consists of two departments:

A. The Locust Control Department

The Department has its headquarters in Cairo and main bases in Ismailia, Suez, Marsa Matrouh, Qena, Aswan, New Valley. It also maintains field bases in some strategic desert localities such as Marsa Alam, Hamata, Abraq, Qesa, Safaga, Ghardaa, Fawakhir and 85 km. east of Aswan. More of such small field bases are to be established.

1. Permanent Personnel

Technical staff	55
Administrative staff	45
Drivers, mechanics and labourers	180

Other personnel could be called upon from various departments in the Ministry of Agriculture when required.

2. Equipment

Motor dusters	13
Exhaust nozzle sprayers	13
Land Rovers	17
Jeeps	13
Fargo P.W. and lorries	65
Aircraft: 2 small one engine aircraft were chartered late in 1968, type PZL 101 GAWRON equipped with boom nozzle sprayers.	

3. Insecticides

Different types of insecticides were available and used during 1968, the following of which are available after the winter campaign:

Bran, tons	42
BHC powder 20%, tons	57
Dieldrin, kg.	150
Lindane powder, tons	10
Lindane emuls. 20%, kg.	364

B. The Locust Research Department

The Dokki Research Station is staffed with the following:

1. Personnel

University graduates (research workers)	11
Assistant technicians	4
Laboratory assistants	2
Labourers	12

Transport and other facilities are shared with the resources available with the Control Department.

C. Annual Budget

E£ 150,000 which would be raised during invasion periods.

Southern Yemen

Survey and control of the Desert Locust is the responsibility of the Locust Section of the Agriculture Department.

1. Personnel

Technical staff	3
Others	5

2. Equipment

Motor dusters	3
Hand dusters	38
Exhaust sprayers	12
Land Rovers	6
Lorries	2

3. Insecticides

Bait, tons	200
BHC 10%, tons	45
Dieldrin, gall.	400
Malathion, gall.	500

4. Annual Budget

D 3,000.

Yemen Arab Republic

The Locust Control Section of the Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the survey and control of the Desert Locust. The work is conducted with the cooperation of the FAO Locust Office in Yemen.

1. Personnel

Technical trained staff	32
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2. Equipment

Motor dusters	2
Motor sprayers	4

in addition to 2 motor dusters and 12 exhaust sprayers maintained by the FAO Office in Hodeidah.

The vehicles used for reconnaissance operations are those maintained by the FAO Office. They are 9 Land Rovers (3 Land Rovers were sent from Kuwait) and 6 Dodge P.W. (4 are in good condition).

During periods of infestation, the Government makes available an adequate number of vehicles for operations.

3. Insecticides

Bait, tons	40
BHC 10%, tons	40
Aldrin, tons	8
Dieldrin, gall.	620
Malathion, gall.	500

4. Annual Budget

YR 54,000.

APPENDIX I (cont'd)

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR SURVEY
AND CONTROL IN THE NEAR EAST COUNTRIES

Country	Organization	Personnel		Equipment		Vehicles		Insecticides			No. of Aircraft	Annual Budget				
		Tech.	Assist. Others	Motor Dusters	Motor Exh. Spr.	Light Med.	Lorr. tons	Bait	BKG Diel.	Others						
Bahrain	Plant Protection	1	3	16	-	8	-	1	2	-	-	x	-	BD	9,000	
Iraq	Pest Control	80	(Plant Proteo.)	-	150	10	60	available	100	200	10	x	8	ID	100,000	
Jordan	Plant Protection	25	30	20	25	40	5	10	2	4	400	60	1200	JD	21,000	
Kuwait	Plant Protection	33	-	10	25	35	-	33	-	40	-	112	2500	DK	4,500	
Lebanon	Plant Protection	14	37	-	13	15	-	available	-	40	-	x	3	-	-	
Qatar	Plant Protection	1	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	25	8	400	-	D	10,000	
Saudi Arabia	Locust Control	16	28	56	35	-	25	available	2468	1245	4635	x	-	SR	3,000,000	
Sudan	?															
Syria	?															
Turkey	?															
U.A.R.	Anti-locust Div.	55	-	225	13	-	13	30	-	65	42	57	150kg	10 tons	£E	150,000
													Lindane			
													364 kg			
													Lindane	E.C.		
Southern Yemen	Locust Control	3	-	5	3	-	12	6	-	2	200	45	450	500 gll.	D	3,000
													Malathion			
Yemen	Locust Control	32	-	-	2	4	12	9	6	plus	40	40	620	500 gll.	YR	54,000
													Malathion			
													8 tons			
													Aldrin			

x - Other insecticides are available

N.B. Most of the countries have a number of hand dusters which have not been shown here.

APPENDIX II

Trust Fund 409

Agreed Annual Budget

(expressed in US dollars)

<u>Expenditure Headings</u>	<u>FAO "Object of expenditure" codes</u>						<u>Total</u>
	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>VI</u>	
Survey, reconnaissance and control	3,000	-	5,000	14,000	11,000	-	33,000
Reserves	-	32,000	-	-	2,000	-	34,000
Research	-	-	3,000	2,000	3,000	15,000	23,000
Regional Secretariat	13,000	-	-	-	12,000	-	25,000
Regional Coordination	-	-	-	7,000	3,000	-	10,000
	<u>16,000</u>	<u>32,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>23,000</u>	<u>31,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>
	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	
Project Servicing costs	5% on \$40,000 = 2,000						
	14% on \$85,000 = 11,900						13,900
							<u>138,900</u>
Unallocated							640
							<u>640</u>
	TOTAL						\$139,540

APPENDIX III

Trust Fund 409

Agreed Contributions Payable Annually Commencing 1 July 1969

(expressed in US dollars)

	<u>Trust Fund 409</u>		<u>Trust Fund 161</u>	<u>Total payable</u>
	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payable simultaneously</u>	
Bahrain	3.44	4,784	720 *	5,504
Iraq	11.84	16,464	2,480	18,944
Jordan	8.26	11,486	1,730	13,216
Kuwait	9.20	12,796	420	13,216
Lebanon	6.45	8,970	1,350	10,320
Qatar	3.96	5,506	830	6,336
Saudi Arabia	11.62	16,154	1,830	17,984
Southern Yemen	3.12	4,360 **	1,560 *	5,920
Sudan	10.74	14,934	2,250	17,184
Syria	9.60	13,350 ***	2,010	15,360
U.A.R.	18.72	26,032	3,920	29,952
Yemen	3.04	4,224	1,840 *	6,064
	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$ 139,060</u>	<u>\$ 20,940</u>	<u>\$ 160,000</u>
<u>Other contributions</u>				
League of Arab States		4,600 (£E 2000)		4,600
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 143,660</u>	<u>\$ 20,940</u>	<u>\$ 164,600</u>
		-----	-----	-----
<u>Less **</u>		4,120	-	4,120
		<u>\$ 139,540</u>	<u>\$ 20,940</u>	<u>\$ 160,480</u>
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* Not yet committed their contributions

** People's Republic of Southern Yemen - temporary reduction in contribution agreed to by 1st Session of the Commission

*** Subject to confirmation.

APPENDIX IV

List of Working Papers

- PL:DL:NE/1/1 - Programme of Work and Budget for 1970
 - PL:DL:NE/1/2 - The Desert Locust Situation during 1968/69 as it Affects the Near East Countries
 - PL:DL:NE/1/3 - The Current Anti-Locust Campaign in the Arabian Peninsula and Plans for the Future
 - PL:DL:NE/1/4 - Anti-Locust Survey and Control Potentials Available in Various Countries of the Region.
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