

Cuban Purchase of Russian Trucks Said Financed Through Pan American Health Funds

Mexico City (UPI)—A central European professional man with Havana connections says the delivery of Russian military trucks to Cuba is being financed by the Pan American Health Organization, an agency to which the United States is a prime contributor.

The informant, who would not permit the use of his name, said the truck deal has resulted in a \$144,000 increase in funds allotted to Cuba for malaria control although the disease is virtually unknown there.

He said Cuba is "getting these military vehicles from

the U.S.S.R. and in effect getting them paid for by others."

Other Latin American countries, where malaria is literally a life-and-death matter, have been unable to obtain any such increase in funds, the source said.

He said Russia set up the deal by insisting that it would contribute to the health organization only if it earmarked \$98,752—the cost of the Russian trucks—exclusively for Cuba.

The source charged also

that scholarships granted by the organization have been used to send young Cubans to iron-ore countries "for political indoctrination rather than medical education."

"The Pan American Health Organization increased the budget for malaria control in Cuba from \$25,749 in 1960 to \$170,286 in the last completed year," the source said.

"There has not been a single death due to malaria reported in Cuba in two years."

"This compares interestingly with Honduras, where 727 persons died of malaria in the last reported year (PAHO budget increase: less than \$12,000). In Nicaragua, even more persons died of it in the same period (PAHO budget increase: not quite \$36,000). In the Dominican Republic, it is the fourth among fatal diseases (PAHO budget increase: about \$3,500)."

Only Nicaragua among the three nations mentioned receives as much as half the Cuban budget. Nicaragua received \$87,339 in the last reported period, Honduras \$65,191 and the Dominican Republic \$64,337.

"Another Cuban boondoggle in the Pan American Health Organization was the award of 33 alleged scholar-

ships to persons recommended by the Havana government," the source said. "The historic purpose of such scholarships is to permit travel and study

in Latin America . . . In the Cuban allotment, however, students were sent into the iron-ore countries . . .

out-and-out swindles . . . fourteen 'scholarships' were of less than two weeks' duration."

He said Cuba, which receives the second-highest budget of the 20 Latin American states, overspent its allotment by a record 59 per cent.

'Senior Citizen' Plan Announced

Portland (UPI)—Blue Cross of Oregon has announced details of its new "Senior Citizen" program of hospital-medical-surgical protection for persons 65 years of age or older.

It said the plan would be offered without requirement of a health statement during December only. If husband and wife enroll together, it is necessary that only one of them be 65 years of age.

Frank F. Dickson, executive director, said two plans will be available.

One will provide 30 days of hospital care plus medical and surgical benefits. A second provides 70 days of hospital care as well as medical and

surgical benefits and also, after six months' enrollment, care in an accredited and approved nursing facility after discharge from the hospital, plus doctor calls in the nursing home and services of a registered visiting nurse in the home.

Both plans will provide benefits for pre-existing conditions after six months' enrollment, care for mental conditions and emergency accidents, including x-rays, and a surgical schedule up to \$300.

The 30-day plan will cost an individual \$9.80 per month and the 70-day plan will cost \$13.50.

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