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SCIENCE NEWS

A CHILD SURVIVAL SUMMIT SUCCEEDS

The global eradication of polio, the reduction of measles deaths by 95%, the virtual elimination of neonatal tetanus, a 70% drop in diarrhoea deaths and a 25% fall in the case-fatality rate from acute respiratory infection in children under the age of five, and a 50% reduction in maternal mortality rates — these were the 12-year goals proposed at a three-day child survival summit.

“EPI is saving the lives of more than a million children in the developing world every year from measles, neonatal tetanus and whooping cough, and saving close to 2,00,000 children from paralysis by polio. As recently as 10 years ago, fewer than 5% of the developing world’s children were immunized against measles or had a third dose of either polio or

DPT (diphtheria, pertussis or whooping cough, tetanus) vaccines. Today, more than half of the world’s infants in developing countries have been immunized”, Dr Henderson reported.

“Much more progress has been made than was considered possible in 1980 when the Diarrhoeal Diseases Control programme got under way”, said Dr Merson. “In 1986 approximately 750000 deaths from diarrhoea were avoided. This number can perhaps be doubled next year to 1.5 million and doubled again to 3 million by 1995”.

For further details please contact: The Charter Presidential Center Inc., 1, Copenhill, Atlanta, Georgia 30307, USA.

NEWS

DOUBLE-VISION SPACE RADARS

Scientists of Kharkov (the Ukraine) have created a double-vision radar for scanning the Earth. It was tested on artificial satellites.

The new radars produce photographs that clearly show the processes in the upper layers of the atmosphere and over land and seas of the Earth. The photographs show optical view of clouds and mist, with black spots of plains, mountains and water bodies in between. The new radar, looking through clouds and mist, produces a perfect picture of about 500 km of the Earth’s surface.

For the first time in world practice, two pictures are taken simultaneously and printed out on a single

sheet. Computers match the two pictures geographically.

The new equipment can predict river floods, find subterranean water in arid zones, monitor grain ripening on vast territories, locate fish schools and best pastures. Ships moving along the Northern Sea route will receive information on ice-free spots.

(*Soviet Features*, Science & Technology, Vol. XXVII, No. 33, April 8, 1988, p. 2; Published by the Information Department, USSR Embassy in India, P.B. 241, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001.)