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:CUBA-MENINGITIS
CUBANS CLAIM FIRST IN MASS USE OF MENINGSITIS VACCINE:
HAVANA, OCT 12, REUTER - CUBAN SCIENTISTS WHO WILL ATTEND A CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA THIS MONTH WILL SHOW PROOF THAT THEY WERE THE FIRST TO DEVELOP AND USE A VACCINE AGAINST THE DESEASE, MININGITIS MININGOCOCCUS TYPE B ON A MASS SCALE, THE CUBAN NEWS AGENCY AIN SAID WEDNESDAY.

CREDIT FOR BEING THE FIRST IS GENERALLY GIVEN TO THE WALTER REED INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

BEGINNING IN AUGUST 1987, THE INSTITUTE OVERSAW THE VACCINATION OF MORE THAN 60,000 PERSONS BETWEEN ONE AND TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE IN THE CITY OF IQUIQUE IN CHILE.

CONCEPCION HUERGO, THE HEAD OF THE GROUP WHICH DEVELOPED CUBAN VACCINE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT A LARGE SCALEE VACCINATION PROGRAM WAS BEGUN IN CUBA IN FEBRUARY 1987.

HUERGO SAID THAT MORE THAN 300,000 CUBANS HAVE BEEN VACCINATED TO DATE.

THE CUBAN DELEGATES TO THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEISERIAS PATHOGENES WHICH WILL MEET IN ATLANTA BETWEEN OCTOBER 16 AND 21 WILL PRESENT REPORTS ON THE ISLAND'S VACCINATION PROGRAM AND PROOF THAT CUBA WAS FIRST IN CARRYING OUT LARGEE SCALE VACCINATIONS, HUERGO SAID.

NEISERIAS PATHOGENES ARE MICRO-ORGANISMS THAT CAUSE SEVERAL KINDS OF MENINGITIS INCLUDING THE MININGOCOCCUS, TYPE B VARIETY.

SHE SAID THAT CUBAN SCIENTISTS BEGAN WORKING ON THE VACCINE IN 1982 AND CREDITED THE U.S SCIENTISTS, CARL FRASCH, WITH HAVING HELPED THEM.

A LABORATORY IS BEING BUILT OUTSIDE OF HAVANA FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ENOUGHT VACCINE TO COVER THE NEEDS OF THE ISLAND'S 10 MILLION INHABIYTANTS AND FOR EXPORT.

EARLIER THIS MONTHS IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT BRAZIL HAD BOUGHT 50,000 DOSES OF THE VACCINE FROM CUBA TO TREAT AN OUTBREAK OF THE DESEASE.
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