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## Update On Cholera Epidemic By Country

by Erika Harding

Category/Department: General

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ARGENTINA. Feb. 13: Health Minister Julio Cesar Araoz told reporters that "the cholera outbreak is not yet under control." The minister said another 18 cases of the disease had been confirmed, bringing the total to 181. The cholera death toll as of Feb. 13 was 11. Feb. 14: A Buenos Aires-Lima-Los Angeles flight arrived in the US with five passengers suffering from cholera. One passenger died. Argentine officials claimed the victims were infected by food brought on board in Peru. Peruvian authorities denied the claim. [Aerolineas Argentinas management decided to suspend stops in Lima until identification of the origin of cholera contamination affecting passengers on the flight path. By Feb. 22, 65 passengers had been diagnosed with cholera. In response to claims by Aerolineas Argentinas that Peru was the source of cholera contamination, on Feb. 23 the Peruvian government suspended the airline's permit to operate in Peru.] Feb. 16: Carlos Ferreyra Nunez, director of the Argentine Epidemiology Society, predicted that the Rio de la Plata "will become the largest cholera-infected river in the world." He also denounced "official negligence" in cholera prevention campaigns in Salta and Jujuy provinces. Feb. 17: The first cholera victim outside Salta and Jujuy provinces was reported in Bella Vista, a suburb of Buenos Aires. Feb. 18: Minister Araoz announced a cholera prevention program including US\$100 million in aid to 3 million impoverished citizens. Feb. 23: In statements to reporters, President Carlos Menem said the cholera outbreak "has been controlled," and "only isolated cases" were confirmed in the past few days. As of Monday, confirmed cholera cases in Argentina totaled 195. CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY. Feb. 12: The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) implemented a "full alert" aimed at preventing the spread of cholera, particularly in popular tourist destinations such as Barbados, the Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. Dr. Franklin White, director of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC), said three cases of cholera have been confirmed in the English-speaking Caribbean, all in Belize. White said the arrival of cholera is inevitable, but "the potential for transmission of the disease would be limited in most of the Caribbean countries because of a more favorable environmental health situation compared with Latin American nations." ECUADOR. Feb. 15: Deputy health minister Enrique Granizo said 6,066 cases of cholera were confirmed over the first six weeks of 1992, bringing the total number of victims to 52,000. In 1991, approximately 700 people died from the disease. PERU. Feb. 12: According to a report issued in Lima, the Andean nations have created a "joint emergency and health program" aimed at cholera prevention. Feb. 19: Health Minister Victor Paredes reported a total of 3,672 confirmed cases, including 134 deaths, since Jan. 1. The total number of cholera victims since the outbreak was identified came to 323,000, with 2,909 deaths. TRINIDAD & TOBAGO. Feb. 10: Health Ministry officials reported that testing of a water sample from a spring at Diego Martin (about five minutes west of Port-of-Spain) showed cholera contamination. URUGUAY. Feb. 16: According to the Public Health Ministry, the government has conducted a massive public education campaign about sanitation and the spread of cholera since the disease was first diagnosed in Uruguay last year. VENEZUELA. Feb. 14: Health Ministry spokespersons reported a total of 228 confirmed cases of cholera, including four deaths. Feb. 20: Health Ministry officials said the number of cholera victims had reached 300, and the death toll, six. [Sources: Chinese news service Xinhua, 02/12/92; Prensa Latina (Cuba), 02/19/92; Inter Press Service, 02/10/92, 02/19/92; Spanish news service EFE, 02/12/92,

02/14/92, 02/15/92, 02/19- 21/92; Agence France-Presse, 02/10/92, 02/13/92, 02/16-18/92, 02/20/92,  
02/22/92, 02/23/92]

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