

and provides a wide range of professional services including the short-term assignment of personnel for investigation of special and unusual health problems, the short-term loan of scientific equipment for evaluation purposes, and the performance of laboratory services. In addition, the Division provides administrative and technical consultation and short-term training, and sponsors a biennial training seminar for directors of State units. Through our communications channels, the State and local authorities are constantly kept abreast of new problems, new techniques, and other developments of interest in the field. Through a technical information service provided by the Division of Occupational Health, the State may receive answers to almost any problem that arises within its jurisdiction.

(f) Although there is no formal method of cooperation or coordination between this Division and foreign governments or international agencies, channels of communication have been established which permit an exchange of information with a number of foreign governments and international agencies. This Division has for many years been recognized by many foreign governments for the excellence of its work and for its leadership, especially in the field of the epidemiology of occupational diseases. The Division provides training, at some level, for an average of 25 foreign representatives each year.

More recently, the Division has engaged in a program of information exchange relative to chest diseases among coal miners with counterpart agencies in the United Kingdom, Holland, Belgium, and West Germany. The exchange of information on this subject has doubtless saved this Division as well as this Government many years of research efforts and permits the research data of these countries to be pooled. An informal conference was recently held by the representatives of the above Governments to compile research information which would permit the establishment of an international dust standard in the bituminous-coal-mining industry. The pooling of such data will doubtless result in a considerable saving of money to each of the participating countries. Cooperative working relationships have been established with the following international organizations: the Occupational Safety and Health Branch, and the Information Exchange Center, International Labor Organization (ILO), the Section on Occupational and Social Medicine, World Health Organization; and the Division of Work Problems, European Coal and Steel Community. Informal working relationships exist with professional organizations, research institutes, and quasi-governmental agencies of many of the Western European countries. Exchange missions in areas relating to occupational health have been developed with the U.S.S.R.

(g) There are few nonprofit organizations which relate to the occupational health field. However, the Division has for many years been in close association with nonprofit organizations which impinge on its activities, such as the National Tuberculosis Association, the American Cancer Society, and similar organizations. These relations are generally of short duration for the solution of specific problems.

(h) One of the basic programs of the Division is the epidemiologic study of occupational diseases at their place of origin. To accomplish this mission, it is dependent upon a close working relationship with business enterprises throughout the country, since they must volun-