

countries where antibiotics may be dispensed without a prescription and the individual receiving the drug need not be informed about its potential hazards. Perhaps the United States Public Health Service could develop an informational document for international travelers on the problems posed by the misuse of antimicrobial agents.

Third, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) should be given the resources needed to carry out the clinical, epidemiologic and laboratory studies necessary to determine the nature and extent of the health hazard posed by the emergence of drug resistant pathogenic organisms. The CDC should have the staff, facilities and equipment to monitor the emergence of resistant strains, to work with local health departments and others to study problems as they arise. The director of CDC should be asked to report annually on the problems of drug resistant pathogenic organisms, the hazards posed and what actions are appropriate to reduce or eliminate the hazards.

Fourth, the Department of State and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare should be fully apprised of Dr. Silverman's findings and requested to propose policies to deal with the problem to the World Health Organization, particularly the office for the Western Hemisphere Region, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Fifth, the FDA should be asked to review its authorities and report to Congress what measures, including new legislative authority, might be taken to restrict the use of critically important antibiotics, such as chloramphenicol, to those patients where its use is essential.