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In reply please refer to : CDS
Prière de rappeler la référence:

Mr C. Darch
Senior Documentalist
Southern African Research and
Documentation Centre
(SARDC)
Box 5690
Harare
Zimbabwe

7 March 1989

Dear Mr Darch,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 February. Unfortunately, I have not been able to locate the specific paragraph that you refer to in the WHO Director-General's report for 1983, (formally entitled "The Work of WHO 1982-83 - Biennial Report of the Director-General"). However, paragraph 13.187 (page 191) of this report does make reference to the National Institute of Virology, Sandringham, South Africa, and answers your question regarding the two laboratories which still retain stocks of variola virus. The paragraph is quoted as follows:

"13.187 By the end of 1983 only two laboratories retained stocks of variola virus, namely, the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA, and the Research Institute for Viral Preparations, Moscow. Both laboratories are WHO collaborating centres and are inspected periodically by a WHO team of experts to ensure that the stocks are stored under conditions which meet WHO's safety requirements. The National Institute of Virology, Sandringham, South Africa, had been retaining the variola virus in its containment laboratory, but the stock was destroyed in December 1983."

By late 1983, WHO supported (and continues to support) the storage of variola virus in only the two collaborating centres mentioned above.

Unfortunately, I cannot find any reference to the protestation of Sir Pascoal Mocumbi at the Thirty-sixth World Health Assembly, held in May 1983.

I hope the information provided will be of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me again should require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Roseberry', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.
Ms W. Roseberry
Programme Officer
Division of Communicable Diseases