CHILD IMMUNIZATION

Dr. William FOEGE, Executive Director of the Task Force for Child Survival and Development, which is sponsored by UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carter Center, discusses a wide range of issues, from the eradication of smallpox to child immunization. The last reported case of smallpox was in Somalia in 1977. The world is approaching consensus on the destruction of the last two reserves of smallpox virus, held by the United States and Russia. Dr. Foege believes that the next disease to be eliminated through vaccination, probably before the year 2000, will be polio. But more resources are needed, to carry out current immunization programmes, and to develop additional vaccines, thereby rendering more deadly diseases preventable, including HIV infection.