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1. [REDACTED] an article on "An International Centre for Chemical Microbiology in Rome" it is to appear in the near future in "Nature".

2. The fermentation plant referred to in the article has partially been constructed from the equipment of the old UNRRA plants allocated to Italy. So far as is known, none of the UNRRA plants allocated to Poland, Yugoslavia, Byelo-Russia, China or Italy are functioning. The Czechoslovakian plant is probably making some penicillin and it is known that Zeiss in Jena has constructed a plant. (b)(1)
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3. [REDACTED] none of the proposed International Centres for Chemical Microbiology are intended to be competitive to industrial plants, but rather will serve as training schools for experts and technicians so that suitable workers will be available for any enterprises introduced by commercial concerns. This aspect of the intentions of the World Health Organization plan is fully discussed in Technical Report Series No 26 entitled "Expert Committee on Antibiotics. Report on the 1st Session. Geneva, April 11 to 15, 1950".

4. The Expert Committee on Antibiotics includes:
 E B Chain, Rome - Chairman
 R V Christie, London
 Janot, Paris
 Theorell, Stockholm
 S E Waksman, New Brunswick
 Melanie Craipeau, Geneva - Secretary
 (Coordination of Research Section)

5. Despite the glowing description of the Istituto Superiore, the Microbiological unit is far from finished and may take some months yet before it is ready for students. Probably the newly created International Centre for Chemical Microbiology in Rome will be fully ready by September 1951, so it will be some years from now before students trained at this center will be ready to take their places as technical experts in the world's commercial antibiotic laboratories. As evidence of this, it is understood that when the Palma-Squibb streptomycin plant is ready for production in six to eight months from now, it is the intention of Squibb to send over a full staff of department heads to organize each division of the plant and to train the Italian department heads in the work of their individual divisions.

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An International Centre for Chemical Microbiology
In Rome

"It has been announced that the World Health Organization, with the consent of the Italian Government, has recognized the Istituto Superiore di Sanita in Rome as an International Research Center for Chemical Microbiology.

"The Istituto Superiore di Sanita is an active center of research, the largest in Italy and, mainly thanks to the initiative and outstanding organizing capability of its Director-General, Professor Domenico Marotta, his laboratories are among the most modern and best equipped in Europe. The research departments include physics, therapeutic chemistry, biochemistry, malariology and bacteriology. The Istituto Superiore di Sanita is also the main Food and Drug Control Centre of the Italian Government.

"Recently a complex of new buildings has been added to the main buildings of the Istituto Superiore di Sanita. These contain numerous research laboratories as well as a fermentation pilot plant with fermenters up to 18,000 liters capacity and all the processing equipment required for the isolation on an industrial scale of biologically interesting substances, such as antibiotics, enzymes, growth factors, etc. Ample workshop facilities are also provided.

"The newly created International Center for Chemical Microbiology will be housed in the new extension. The World Health Organization's main interest in the center lies in the unique experimental and training facilities it offers in fields of chemical microbiology which have practical importance, such as antibiotics and growth factors, particularly with regard to the microbiological engineering aspect. At present, such facilities are not available anywhere else in Europe.

"The international Center for Chemical Microbiology will be under the scientific direction of the biochemist Professor S B Chain, F R S, formerly of Oxford University, joint winner of the Nobel Prize for 1945 for the discovery of the chemotherapeutic effect of penicillin and recently elected first chairman of the newly formed Experts Committee on Antibiotics of the World Health Organization. Professor Chain has been in Rome for two years at the invitation of the Director-General of the Istituto Superiore di Sanita, to organize and direct a new research department of biochemistry at this Institute.

"The International Research Center for Chemical Microbiology is built up of a number of different research units, including one for biochemistry and organic chemistry, one for bacteriology and mycology, and one for physical chemistry and microbiological engineering.

"The Center has two chief aims. Firstly, it will provide facilities for research workers to become acquainted with the different methods of chemical microbiology, by working in one of the above-mentioned research units. Secondly, it will make accessible for scientific investigations substances of microbial origin, the isolation of which requires equipment of industrial dimensions not normally available in University laboratories.

"The International Centre for Chemical Microbiology is the first of its kind, but according to a recently released report of the Experts Committee on Antibiotics (Technical Report No 1910) it is the intention of the World Health Organization to stimulate the establishment of similar centers in other countries. All these centers will be connected with existing laboratories. Complete exchange of information of the research work carried out in the different research centers is envisaged and the results of the work will be published.

"The World Health Organization is financing a limited number of fellowships for persons with an adequate training in biochemistry, microbiology or chemical engineering to enable them to take part, for periods of not less than one year, in the research program of the International Centres and thus to acquire a specialized training in the various aspects of the field of chemical microbiology."

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