TELEMEDICINE

DR. MICHAEL GEORGE For fourteen years, Dr. George was the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Wales and a consultant to two W.H.O. programmes - AIDS and the programme on Chemical Safety. He was co-ordinator of the W.H.O.s European AIDs Programme and has been an advisor to many governments. Dr. George retired in June 1995 and formed his own Public Health Consultancy Company. The work undertaken for the Western Isles Health Board is part of that Company's programme.

SUMMARY This presentation outlines the reasons why the Western Isles Health Board has made a large financial commitment to Telemedicine. Over 2000 patients are sent to the mainland each year, at great expense, to receive medical services not provided locally. Using Telemedicine we plan to extend the range of services offered locally and to assist in more work being undertaken by local staff.

Our initial projects have been in dermatology, radiology and orthodontics but the system will be extended to cover ultra-sound, CT scanning, psychiatry, post-graduation education, administration, ophthalmology, nurse practitioner support, casualty, pathology and E.N.T. Each proposal will be discussed.

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