January 20, 1947

Medical Director John F. Mahoney
Staten Island V. D. Research Laboratory
U. S. Marine Hospital
Staten Island 4, New York

Dear Dr. Mahoney:

Today we are begining our program of prophylaxis for all contacts that take place at the penitentiary. In doing so we shall use placebo thus accustoming the inmates to the use of prophylaxis so there will be no difficulty in carrying on with our own compound at the proper time. As time has gone on, it has become apparent that we do not have adequate space in which to work at the penitentiary. We have been using the dispensary there for all of our activities and in so doing have been continously in the way of the physicians and of the inmate nurses carrying on the routine work. They have been more than cooperative so that we have had no difficulty whatsoever. The other day in a conference with the Coronel, Dr. Spoto suggested that we could provide the funds to build a small room for office next door to the quarters which are now being constructed for the use of the prostitutes visiting the prison, in that way we should have adequate space to do physical examinations and to do all of our prophylactic work. The cost of such a room will be about $600 and can be built rather rapidly as a part of their program of construction. If we are to work satisfactorily at the prison we all feel that we need this space and as soon as you have approved we shall give the word to go ahead.

We should like to know how soon Miss Walker will be able to come as we shall be able to start on the program of study of gonorrhea just as soon as she can begin her work. We are finding a large number of what appear to be false positive reactions in the prison and we are likewise finding a fair amount of primary, secondary and latent syphilis within the prison population. We are carrying on a treatment program within the prison using Penicillin for the early cases; for the later cases we are using either penicillin or arsenic. Thus far we have found a very ready acceptance of our group both on the part of the prison officials and on the part of the inmates which we think stems from the fact that we now have given them a program of care for venereal disease which they have lacked in the past. Thus we feel that our treatment program is worthwhile and fully justified.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Cutler
S.A. Surgeon, USPHS

Respectfully forwarded:

Joseph S. Spoto
Chief, Caribbean Sector