FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
STATEN ISLAND 4, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
VENEREAL DISEASE RESEARCH LABORATORY
U. S. MARINE HOSPITAL

FOR VICTORY
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

February 10, 1947

Sr. Asst. Surgeon J. C. Cutler
Pan American Sanitary Bureau
P. O. Box 383
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear John:

Many thanks for your very kind note of the 1st. It found me about ready to return to work, the only drawback being a rather high degree of laziness which has been forced upon me as a method of therapy. I believe that the whole business was an expression of lack of rebound and recuperative power which characterize the entirely unpleasant status known as growing old.

Arnold has undoubtedly reached you by this time and probably brought you up to date on all items of important information. I know that he will discuss with you the high rates of false positive tests which were reflected in your reports. It will surely be disquieting if anything approaching the rate of false positives in the Kahn test is encountered in the prison group from which the volunteers for the prophylaxis study will be drawn.

We are very glad now that Portnoy learned the details of the Neurath procedure before leaving Stapleton. Guatemala might be an ideal place in which to prove or disprove the relative merits of that procedure in a hurry. Personally, I do not feel the method has much merit, but a practical trial will be necessary to prove or disprove its ability to distinguish between true and false positive reactions in syphilis.

We hope to be in Guatemala some time around the 20th of March. This is a tentative date but it appears to be rather certain at the moment.

A copy of our letter of January 20th is enclosed, as you requested in your February 4th letter. Also being forwarded at this time is a letter from Washington concerning Spanish translation of the manual on gonorrhea diagnosis.

Sincerely,

J. F. Mahoney
Medical Director, USPHS

JFM:hmf
Encl. 2

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