



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

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



June 30, 1947

Sr. Asst. Surgeon John C. Cutler
Sanidad Publica
Sur 7, 15 Calle Oriente
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear John:

Your letter of June 22nd came in today. We were all more than sorry to hear of Doctor Spoto's departure but we feel sure that he will be happier in the States under existing circumstances. We hope that we will be able to function with Dr. McAnally. He seems to be a very nice person.

The question of income tax opens a matter in regard to which I am rather helpless. We have asked some friends in the Internal Revenue Department to give us the benefit of any good advice. Possibly they may have an "angle" through which some relief from the tax burden may be effected. We will be more than glad to make any administrative move toward that end which is legally possible.

In regard to the amount of gossip which the work in Guatemala has engendered, we are doing our utmost here to restrict our own conversations and those of others bearing upon the matter. We have also been aware of considerable conversation and discussion being carried out in rather high places, much of which has not helped the work greatly. We are forwarding all of your reports to Doctor Heller in a way which we hope will prevent their being read by unauthorized persons. I will write him again in the matter.

I hope that you will not hesitate to stop the experimental work in the event of there being an undue amount of interest in that phase of the study. It would be preferable to delay the work than to risk the development of an antagonistic atmosphere.

We are anxiously awaiting your report of the transmission experiments utilizing contact only. This is of vital importance if we are to carry out the studies outlined.

I have never met Doctor Soper. You will have to be guided by your own impressions as to freedom in discussing the work. He is the responsible official of the study and as such is entitled to complete confidence.

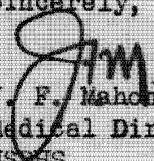
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The use of volunteer groups rather than the type which is being employed would be more than satisfactory. Our budget will stand for almost any fee for volunteers which you consider to be advisable. Doctor Arnold will take the necessary steps to keep you supplied with animals. I will also arrange for the cuniculi material to be sent to you.

We are arranging for a P-4 rating for Portnoy. We encountered the usual amount of delay in the matter but all appears to be in order at the moment.

Sincerely,


J. F. Mahoney
Medical Director
USPHS

JFM:tcw