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Pan American Sanitary Bureau
2001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington 8, D. C.

July 26, 1948

Dr. William J. McAnally
Chief, Caribbean Sector
Pan American Sanitary Bureau
Apartado 383
Guatemala, Guatemala

Attention: Dr. John C. Cutler

Dear Dr. McAnally:

I was very happy to receive the letter of July 19, written by Dr. Cutler and forwarded through you, regarding the continuation of the Venereal Disease Laboratory in Guatemala.

Dr. Soper and I are most anxious to continue the laboratory as a training center for serologists and technicians and for the standardization of other laboratories in Central America. Before leaving for Geneva Dr. Soper authorized me to find a suitable serologist to send to Guatemala to carry on this important program. Through Dr. Mahoney we have been able to employ Miss Genevieve Stout who from all reports is the ideal person to take charge of the training center. She was in charge of the Serological Department for the Navy at Bethesda where she did a great deal of teaching in this line before joining Dr. Mahoney's staff. She has continued teaching at Staten Island. She is well acquainted with the standard techniques and for some time has been working with the cardiolipin antigen.

Miss Stout came in to see me on Tuesday of last week and it was arranged that she would complete her leave and be ready to go to Guatemala about the 15th of August. I am happy that she will be there for some time with Doctors Cutler and Levitan since they will be able to counsel with her regarding the training program and she will be able to brush up a little on her Spanish. She took a course in Spanish during her college career.

In the budget which I have been working on, which will require the approval of Dr. Soper and later of the Directing Council, funds have been budgeted to continue the laboratory. There have been included a salary for the serologist, a salary for a Guatemalan doctor serologist, a Guatemalan bacteriologist, and other lesser staff members. I am happy to note in Dr. Cutler's letter that Dr. Galich is anxious to continue the laboratory and that he has agreed to assign the entire personnel of the present serological laboratory of Sanidad Pública to this laboratory and to pay their salaries. This is the type of cooperative spirit which insures the success of any joint undertaking.

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I wish that you and Dr. Cutler and Dr. Galich would draw up a contract between the Health Department of Guatemala and the Bureau to establish a serological laboratory in Guatemala for the training of serologists from the Central American countries and for the standardization of other laboratories in the region. In the contract you should state exactly what the Guatemalan Government is willing to put into the laboratory, and another statement embracing the part to be played by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in the way of supplying personnel to direct the laboratory and such other items as should be included. I think the contract or agreement should be entered into for a period of at least two years with the right of renewal. It may be possible to use this laboratory at a later date for the training of serologists and technicians from other Member Republics.

Dr. Bower, the Director of the Venereal Disease Division of USPHS, on the recommendation of Dr. Spoto and myself agreed to pay the expenses of Dr. Mario Mollari, Professor of Bacteriology and Director of the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology, School of Medicine, Georgetown University, to spend the remaining part of the summer in Central America. I have schooled Dr. Mollari on what we would like him to do during his trip. He is first to get in touch with you and Dr. Cutler to discuss the entire Venereal Disease Program and then to meet with the Minister and Director of Health on formulating plans for getting the project under way. After he has obtained the necessary information from you and the Guatemalan authorities, he will act as the Bureau's advance agent in the other Central American countries and Panama in promoting the program. In other words he will visit El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama to explain the advantages to be gained by these countries in having technicians trained at the laboratory, and also to further cultivate the ground in a program for standardizing other laboratories. Dr. Mollari will leave here on July 28, stopping en route in Mexico, and should arrive in Guatemala City on Flight No. 501 on the 31st.#

Dr. Mollari will also try to build up renewed interest in the countries visited regarding our nutrition program. It is hoped that he may be able to convince the authorities in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama to take part in the program in the near future. Dr. Mollari speaks Spanish fluently and should make an ideal agent for Pan American Sanitary Bureau in gaining the wholehearted cooperation of the other Central American countries in these two programs.

Give my best regards to the Minister and Director of Health and too all of our people in Guatemala.

Sincerely,
(sgd)
John R. Murdock
Assistant Director

#Some change has been made in the time Dr. Mollari will leave. We will advise you later as to his time of arrival.