October 17, 1946

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

Dear Dr. Mahoney:

Your letter of September 20 reached me last Friday and was certainly glad to hear from you. The proposal for the study of the spirochete cuniculi sounds very interesting and I hope that you can carry it aout.

Your note about the study of the q 2 hour schedule is rather disturbing, and I hope that your follow-up plan will be productive. I am planning here to treat using the 2 hour schedule using 40,000 units just as at Staten Island, and feel that we shall be able to get very close follow-up on our group of patients. If the penicillin which was purchased for use here has not yet left the Laboratory, I will appreciate if it could be packed into small units and sent to me under Government frank to the APO address. It is my feel that part of our success in gaining complete cooperation will depend upon setting up some treatment programs on a formal scale which can be done in the Military Hospital and in their prison hospital. This we shall do as soon as our penicillin arrives. It has been the feeling of both Dr. Spote and Dr. Funes and the other men here in the office that we shall have to do the prophylactic studies very gradually, and to do all laboratory work on a small scale treatment program.

I am gradually learning the meaning of the word frustration. The work in the laboratory is now completed except for painting and ordering of connection to a water supply. We have now being waiting almost a week for this to be done, but labor and material difficulties have held it up, so that we have gone ahead to set-up and to clean as best possible. We have hopes that the contractor will be complete with his work by the end of this week. Yesterday I got the first tank of Butane gas available in Guatemala and alone with it the only regular and reducing valve in the whole city. If you can buy in New York the necessary valve to use with a Prestolite system, a reducing valve and precission meter you might enclose it in the next shipment as we can turn back the one that we have for a $30.00 credit. The gas here cost us $15.00 per 100 lbs.; if you have gas in the Laboratory already bought you can ship it down if it appears that it will be a savings to us, otherwise we can procure subsequent bottles of gas from a local source. We shall also be able to get all of the carbon dioxide that we need, however, we shall need the valve equipment for the container.

The Portnoys are by now comfortably settled in their own house, and I have a prospect of being able to move in a new house about the first of November.

The group here sends their best regards to you.

Sincerely,

John [illegible]

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