

September 3, 1946

Medical Director John F. Mahoney, USPHS
Venereal Disease Research Laboratory
U. S. Marine Hospital
Staten Island, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Mahoney:

By now, according to my calculations you should be back from your vacation, I hope that it was a pleasant and restful one. We feel right at home here by now, are learning the language, and like the city much. However finding a house is a problem, as there is an acute shortage, and the rents are sky high. We have time, though, to look and have not lose hope.

There are a number of things that I should like to report about our progress here. Mr. Portney arrived Saturday morning and is comfortably settled pending the finding of a house. The work of alteration on the laboratory is progressing satisfactorily and may well be finished within the next two or three weeks. There have been several delays, notably procurement of window glass which although ordered, is still not here so far as I know. We are making plans to go ahead putting out as much as possible of the equipment just as soon as it arrives even though the work is not altogether completed, so that it will be possible to have the formal dedication of the laboratory before Dr. Spete leaves for vacation around the fifteenth of September. It is doubtful, though that we will be able to do much actual serology or bacteriology before the end of September.

Dr. Spete has been introducing me to the various officials of the Guatemalan Public Health Service and to the chiefs of the Army groups with which we shall work. Our program has been outlined for them, and agreements are being signed. The men in their V.D. Program and the Surgeon General of the Army has even asked if we can set up a treatment program in the Military Hospital.

There is enclosed a copy of the program which is to be signed by the Minister of Health, War and "Gobernación". The prison work comes under the jurisdiction of the last named department. For purposes of facilitating our work here Dr. Spete believe it very necessary for us to undertake some treatment programs. In the army hospital and in the prison we shall have excellent facilities for close follow-up on syphilis. It is probable that observation in their Venereal Disease Hospital will not be so close, so that our syphilis treatment may be secondary to some gonorrhoea studies. It appears that we should be able to evaluate some syphilis studies using the bees wax mixture and Dr. Spete and I should like to try a series using

300,000 U daily for eleven days which will give a group comparable to that given 40,000 U q2h x 85 which we also expect to use on others here. If you approve will you please order enough PCB for 200 patients, part of which will be used for treatment of gonorrhoea.

It appears that it will be at least two months before there will be need of Dr. Harlow so that he is probably much more valuable at Staten Island than here.

In checking through our packing list it seems that there is no material for acid - proofing the desks and table tops in the first shipment. If in checking through the record there it is found not to have been sent could you please send us a sufficient quantity by air express, for by regular freight it will take over a month and it cannot be secured here.

We hope too, that the typewriter for this project will be included in the next shipment, for there is a shortage in this office. Until their arrival though, I shall use my portable. By the way, since both regular mail, parcel post, and freight take 18, 30, and more days respectively, it might be well for all correspondence regarding the program to go air mail and for all important, small shipments needed in a hurry to go air express or air mail.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Outler
S.A. Surg., USPHS

Respectfully forwarded

Joseph S. Spoto
Chief, Caribbean Sector