

August 21, 1946

Dear Dr. Arnold,

By now we are well settled, having arrived the evening before last at about 3:30. Dr. Funes had made arrangements for us to go right to a pension where for \$8.00 per day we have room and board in the most luxurious of surroundings in the private home of a family which was once very wealthy but which is now out of political favor. By the way, it is the place where we shall be able to put up the others while they are looking for a place to live and also where we shall be able to quarter any visitors who cannot stay with us. It may interest you to know that all prices here have gone up considerably since your visit here, so that the hotel charges \$14 per day for room alone. Our flight here from Mexico City was all that you said it would be, extremely beautiful and thrilling, and you may be sure that we were most happy to see Guatemala, a clean, prosperous place, after Mexico City!

Mr. Del Vecchio was very kind to us while in Mexico City and showed us all around during his spare time. His laboratory there is a very good looking place and seems to be well run. In talking to the other people there it is evident that he is very well liked and is doing a good job; he seems to be an ideal choice for it.

Yesterday Dr. Spoto took me to see our laboratory which is under construction yet and which will not be finished for about 2-3 weeks; there have been delays due to difficulty in procuring materials of one kind and another, the last of which was the glass for which Dr. Spoto had to go to Mexico City. We have not yet met the chief of their P.H.S., for he is on vacation but should be back in a day or two; then after meeting him he will take me to see the others, but he wants me to see the chief before any others. We saw the ~~laboratory~~ Hospital of Dr. Funes which is now full to capacity and which now contains about 20 native males which are being studied by the onchocerciasis group. I was really much impressed by it, for he is trying hard to run it as he learned in the States. Both Dr. and Mrs. Funes asked about you and Dr. Mahoney and asked me to give you their regards and to tell you how much they enjoyed your visit here.

Dr. Spoto has been talking a good deal about our project and thinking about it. He says that with the Indians in the prison we may well do our work with little or no explanation, as they are only confused by explanations and knowing what is happening. Likewise our payment for the males will be considerably less than we had originally planned. He says that even though the officials are all ready for us we shall have to work very slowly in getting into the prophylactic and infection studies, for he does not want to make any mistakes or to do anything to jeopardize our work. In building the ground work we shall set up the lab., begin to make surveys of infection in the population of the prison and among the prostitutes, and to train the native workers. He would like very much, among the first of our projects, to try some treatment studies of gonorrhea on the patients whom we can keep under observation in the hospital and prison, using cultural studies of cure just as we had discussed. It may well be that we can get a large enough group, followed long enough to put to rest for the second time the myth that penicillin is not good. Is there any particular schedule that you would like particularly to try, the 50,000 U q2h x 6, or bedswax, or is there another, shorter one that you would like to try?

They are beginning to see considerable chancroid and lymphogranuloma venereum here and have had difficulty to get Duesrey vaccine and the Frei antigen in the rapid treatment center. Dr. Funes asked if we might get some for him to use; then they would also like, if possible, to have us run the complement fixation test for L.G.V., I have told them that it is not satisfactory, but they are still somewhat interested in it, if we would like to try it for them.

The shipment of lab equipment is at Puerto Barrios, but they are not going to try to hurry it up here, as there is now no place to put it; however in the normal course of events it should arrive herewithin the next week or ten days.