



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

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



February 19, 1948

Dr. John C. Cutler
Sanidad Publica
9a Ave. Sur y - 15 Calle Oriente
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear John:

Doctor Levitan departed for points west and south early this morning. We were all more than glad to see him and to learn at first hand the progress of work in Guatemala. Needless to say that we were all impressed.

In going over the work it appears that most of the good tricks have been taken. We were all more than gratified over the prophylaxis results. Although the findings in gonorrhea are significant, even in the face of an overwhelming exposure, the results in syphilis are most informative. The outcome will give added assurance to the field trials in Germany which should get under way momentarily.

No doubt you have learned of the change which has taken place in the Surgeon General's office and, less recently, in the office of the Administrator of the Federal Security Agency. To date we have not received any flashes as to the policies which are to come. Equally uncertain are the changes which may follow the installation of the new group at Headquarters. We do know that we have lost a very good friend and that it appears to be advisable to get our ducks in line. In this regard we feel that the Guatemala project should be brought to the innocuous stage as rapidly as possible.

We are in serious doubt as to the actual value of Portnoy to the project and suggest that you send us the earliest date after which his activities may be transferred elsewhere. We will initiate orders for his return to the States at that time. The entire matter was discussed with Levitan and he will relay the details to you.

I am scheduled to be on the Mexican border March 20th to the 22nd for the meeting of the Border Public Health Association. If you feel that it would be of any assistance to you, I can con-

Dr. John C. Cutler

February 19, 1948

tinue on to Guatemala City, or if you should need a change of scenery, we can initiate orders for you to come to Laredo. This would allow us several days to discuss any subjects which may be of interest. I wish you would cable me your thoughts in this matter.

Sincerely,


J. F. Mahoney
Medical Director
USPHS

JFM:tcf