



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

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



September 8, 1947

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

Dear John:

I have written you an official note in regard to the employment of Mrs. Portnoy and Mrs. Dalmat. About all that could be said was to use your best judgment. I should like to add the admonition that having people in an organization who cannot be treated with complete impartiality is always dangerous. Personally I would be very hesitant about employing either of the parties mentioned.

Mr. Jobbins is in the hospital here. I think that he has the usual engineer's distain for the medical mind and the medical approach. I am informed, however, that he may well have a rather complicated condition in the upper right quadrant. Will keep you advised as to any progress.

I wish you would give some thought to the future of the work in Guatemala. In the event of the prophylaxis angle proving to be impossible of resolution, we will have left only the serology study and the work in penicillin therapy. We would surely have difficulty in selling an expensive project of this kind to the Service. Also, a comprehensive study of the reliability of serology as a diagnostic instrument among aboriginal peoples in tropical America would require a different approach than the one being used at present. We would be obliged to canvas the South and Central American natives, the Mexican Indians, the Indian tribes in the United States and, finally, the southern negro. A study of this type would require mobile teams capable of doing medical work as well as serology. I am not at all sure that we could make the necessary financial arrangements.

Please give me your thoughts in the matter.

Sincerely yours,


J. F. Mahoney
Medical Director
USPHS

JFM:tcw

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