



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:

Just a personal note to open a subject that has not reached the official stage at the present time. It concerns the study of the final phase of the prophylaxis subject.

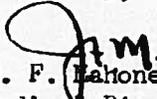
As you know, we have delayed setting up a field trial of the prophylactic agent in the hope that the Guatemala work would give precise data which would support, even in a small way, the experimental findings in animals. From your reports both Arnold and myself are somewhat pessimistic as regards the possibility of setting up a controlled experiment in gonorrhoea within the range of the patient material which will be available to us. Also, in syphilis, unless we can transmit the infection readily and without recourse to scarification or direct implantation, the possibilities of studying the subject are not bright. Both of the latter procedures are drastic, are beyond the range of natural transmission and will not serve as a basis for the study of a locally applied prophylactic agent.

The Army now desires that we join them in guiding a field study in prophylaxis. The first inclination was to select field organizations in Germany. This has been changed to Italy. We have agreed to undertake a pilot study, which, if successful, will be followed by a statistically sound investigation to be conducted entirely by the Army. The work of organization is going on but the timing of the onset of the study is not in sight.

Arnold feels that either you or himself should guide the laboratory's part of the show. This detail should not require a prolonged stay. The work will be done by a joint commission of Army and Public Health Service men, with the Army doing the official part of the job. Please write me your feelings in the matter in a very frank way.

By the way, Arnold is now in Greenland on a syphilis survey of the natives who have been infected with syphilis as a consequence of war activities.

Sincerely,

  
J. F. Mahoney  
Medical Director  
USPHS

JFM:tcw

CTLR\_0001234