

# NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

ESTABLISHED IN 1916 BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES UNDER ITS CONGRESSIONAL  
 CHARTER AND ORGANIZED WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC  
 AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES OF THE UNITED STATES

~~Confidential~~

804 Medical Arts Bldg.  
 Baltimore, Md.

March 1, 1943.

Dr. A. N. Richards, Chairman,  
 Committee on Medical Research,  
 2101 Constitution Avenue  
 Washington, D.C.

Declassified per Memo,  
 Acting Secretary of Defense  
 dated Aug. 2, 1960, by *SPT*  
 NARS, Date 6-26-84

Dear Doctor Richards:

I enclose herewith three copies of a letter which I have just received from Mr. James V. Bennett, Director of Federal Bureau of Prisons. Mr. Bennett's letter indicates that subject to the working out of details, it will be possible for his Bureau to cooperate in the study of the prophylaxis of gonorrhoea in human volunteers.

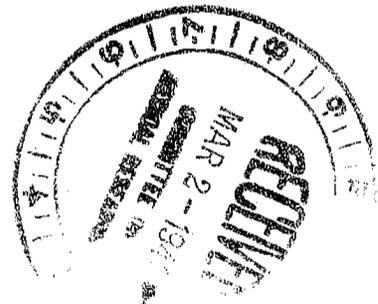
I suggest that if the various proposals for contract now in Dr. Bush's hands, are approved by Dr. Bush, in view of Mr. Bennett's letter the next desirable step would probably be a conference in Washington between Mr. Bennett and his medical representatives, myself, a representative of CMR, and the responsible investigators who have made proposals for contract, namely, Doctors Miller, Carpenter, and Cohn.

I shall appreciate it if you will let me know at your early convenience the action taken by Dr. Bush and, if it is favorable, whether such a conference as I propose should be called by CMR or by myself as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Venereal Diseases, National Research Council.

Sincerely yours,

*J. E. Moore*  
 J. E. Moore, M.D., Chairman,  
 Subcommittee on Venereal Diseases.

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James V. Bennett  
Director.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Bureau of Prisons  
Washington, D. C.

February 26, 1943.

Dr. J. H. Moore, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Venereal Diseases  
804 Medical Arts Building  
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Dr. Moore:

Following the discussion we had in this office relative to the feasibility of undertaking a proposed research project pertaining to the use of Federal prisoners on a voluntary basis as subjects in a study of prevention, mode of infection, and cure of gonorrhea, I discussed the plan with the Attorney General.

The Department is sympathetic toward the project, especially since it is understood that studies of this nature will be of great help in promoting the effectiveness of the armed services. We shall, therefore, be glad to discuss the feasibility of this project with you or your committee further on the understanding that we do not feel we should, in securing volunteers, indicate that commutation of sentence or a pardon for any Federal prisoner will be given as a reward for participating in the project. We cannot obligate the Government in any manner insofar as reduction of sentence for those who volunteer is concerned. It is believed, however, that the U. S. Board of Parole would be willing to give each subject who participates in the project due credit and consideration for his willingness to serve his country in this manner when he becomes eligible for parole consideration in the usual manner.

It is also my understanding that it will be possible to grant each prisoner who participates in the project some monetary consideration to compensate him for loss of his earning capacity while engaged on the project. My understanding is that granting each subject an amount of approximately \$100 and providing him with adequate insurance for any possible permanent disability are also feasible.

I think, too, that in order to protect the general morale of the several institutions, it would be well to carry out the study on a strictly secret and military basis for at least the time being.

I have been governed in my favorable representation of the plan to the Attorney General by the fact that the project seems genuinely promising to the Surgeons General of the Army, Navy, and Public Health Service. I am advised that the technical aspects of the problem do not appear too difficult and that the major problem appears to involve administrative matters relating

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to the selection of the subjects and the organization of the staff. It might be, therefore, that we shall need to call upon the OSRD for supplementary personnel to assist us in this matter.

I should be very glad to discuss the whole matter with your committee further if you think the project should be undertaken in view of the principles I have outlined as governing our part in the program.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

S/ James V. Bennett,  
Director.

