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700

RFH

Typhus-malaria

September 12, 1947

HV JAN 13 1948 HV
Airmail - Through Dr. Leach and Dr. Bauer

Dear Austin:

I have before me your letter of August 28, 1947, addressed to Dr. Bauer. In it you set forth the reasons for your recommendation that the labbranchiae eradication program be abandoned. I am unwilling to accept the recommendation. We assumed a very clear and definite responsibility vis-a-vis UNRRA and the Italian Government to eradicate this mosquito, if possible, and we have not as yet carried the work to a conclusion. To stop now would satisfy no one, nor would it permit us to declare the task impossible. We would open ourselves quite properly to severe criticism.

In view of your personal convictions, I cannot but assume that you would wish to be relieved of responsibility for the Sardinian project, and this letter is to advise that I must act upon that assumption.

I am proposing to the Regional Director that he send you a replacement in the person of Mr. Logan, and I hope the transfer of responsibility can be effected with the least possible delay.

You will understand my reluctance to take this step but, since the best interests of the organization must come first, I have no alternative. You have been completely frank and honest in reaching your decision and the Director should not be less so.

I am deeply grateful to you for carrying the burden of a very trying and difficult assignment, and I harbor no ill will in the action I am taking. I am still cognizant of your excellent qualities and wish to use you to the utmost. I am therefore proposing an assignment to the New York Laboratories where we have great need for someone in the influenza section.

It is my fervent hope that the transfer of the Directorship of ERLAAS can be effected without disturbing the local situation and I am counting on you to assist in every possible way.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dr. J. A. Kerr
 Paris Mail

G. K. STRODE

GKS:AJ
 Copy attached for Paris Office
 Copy attached for Rome Office