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GHS - GFS 9/4
700
RFHC
Typhus - malaria

Confidential.

September 1, 1947.

Dear Dr. Strode,

Last Friday I received a cable from Dr. Kerr which read as follows :

"Mailed you today letter recommending attempt eradicate labranchiae Sardinia be abandoned forthwith because not feasible stop available lire insufficient also have grave doubts ability find and train necessary personnel in time available stop was reviewing this matter prior receipt announcement your visit Sardinia - Kerr".

I relayed this to you and added that I was going to Sardinia on September 2nd and would appreciate instructions. I did this because my plane reservation had already been made and there was not enough time to consult you by letter. I had planned to go down there to see how Kerr's health is and how the work is progressing.

This morning I received the letter which he mentioned in his cable. A copy of this letter is herewith attached and you will find that there are no additional reasons given for recommending the abandonment of the project than those mentioned in the cable.

Having not been down there, I do not know how real these reasons are, but it has been emphasized by McCoy, Logan, Fair and others who have visited Sardinia recently that Dr. Kerr never really believed in the feasibility of the eradication of labranchiae and never made a serious effort to try whether it can be accomplished. It would be a tragedy if the project was abandoned now without a thorough trial. It would open us to all sorts of criticism, especially in view of the fact that a large sum of money which did not belong to us in the first place has already been spent. Italian communists would jump on this occasion.

For these considerations I like to recommend that, instead of abandoning the project, it be continued for a year at least for the purpose of ascertaining whether eradication really is feasible or practical. However, I do think that the project should be placed under a new director as soon as possible, and I cannot think of any person better suited for this job than Dr. Downs if he can be spared.

I realize, of course, that I am making this recommendation before I have had an opportunity to investigate the situation on the spot.


Confidential

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But time is an important factor here. At present all preparations would have to be made for the resumption of house spraying campaign not later than October 1st if it is to be completed before next summer. Then during the winter most of the antilarval squads would have to be trained and material assembled for island-wide campaign next spring. Probably very little will be accomplished if the work is directed by a man who does not believe in it in the first place.

I will submit you a more detail report after I get back from Sardinia on September 8. In the mean time, I thought that you might like to have my views, which incidentally are fully shared by Dr. McCoy and Mr. Logan, while you are considering Dr. Kerr's recommendation.

Sincerely yours,


J.H. Bauer.

Encl.

JHB/MH

Dr. George K. Strode,
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