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Confidential

OCT 22 1947

Cagliari,
August 28, 1947

Dear Doctor Bauer:

When Doctor Strobe was here in April he asked me if I thought that the eradication of labbranchiae from Sardinia was feasible. I replied that I did not know whether it was or not, adding that it was too early to say definitely that it was not feasible.

I have now come to the conclusion that the eradication of labbranchiae from Sardinia is not feasible.

An estimate which I have just had prepared of the cost of the island-wide antilarva campaign in 1948--based on our known costs this year--shows that there are not enough lire available to finance the eradication measures in 1948. In fact, to allow for the depreciation of the lira, nearly one billion additional lire appear to be needed.

Coupled with this I have very grave doubts indeed--amounting to practical certainty--that I can find and train the personnel to execute the necessarily very meticulous antilarva measures which are required for eradication, in the time at my disposition for this selection and training. The total personnel needed, of all grades, totals about five thousand.

If I could be sure, either of having enough lire, or of being able to find and train enough suitable personnel, I might feel otherwise, but with grave doubt on both these essential matters, I recommend that the attempt to eradicate labbranchiae from Sardinia be abandoned forthwith.

Experience to date has shown conclusively that, because of the topography of Sardinia, the eradication of labbranchiae here is technically much more difficult than was the eradication of gambiae from either Brazil or Egypt; and that the administration of an eradication service in Italy is much more difficult than was the administration of the gambiae eradication services in either Brazil or Egypt; and, finally, that the DDT spray-painting campaign against imagoes is of no help in eradicating labbranchiae because the species is obviously capable to maintaining itself, particularly in the sparsely inhabited mountains, quite independently of man and his buildings.

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If the eradication program is to be abandoned an early decision is indicated because extensive changes in operations will be necessary, particularly regarding the timing of the coming DDT spray-painting campaign. Before any changes are made the Alto Commissariato per l'Igiene will have to be informed and its approval secured.

Furthermore, the assignment of Dr. Peterson to this field will not be necessary, nor will any additional Health Commission funds be needed.

I know this recommendation will be a disappointment to Dr. Strode. I shall be pleased to have it reviewed to any extent which may be desired. It is particularly fortunate that you have arranged to visit Sardinia at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Austin
J. A. Kerr

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