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December 8, 1942

Dear Dr. Soper:

This is to give you definite instructions regarding your new assignment.

Your next assignment is to a project in typhus control. The exact location of your activities can probably not be determined until you have made inquiries on the ground but we have in mind that you will work in Iran, if the opportunities are favorable. It is also understood that you have been invited to accompany the United States of America Typhus Commission and will travel with that Commission to the point of your activities under the International Health Division typhus project. While it is probable that the military mission will take care of your long-distance travel with the Commission, it is understood that travel expenses not provided in this way will be borne by the International Health Division.

If conditions are satisfactory and promising you are authorized to remain in Iran and set up a study in typhus control with emphasis on the systematic elimination of lice from a civilian community. We have in mind, as we have stated in conversation, developing methods for organizing and carrying on such work and later utilizing the knowledge and the experience in Europe and elsewhere.

It is planned to send Mr. Wheeler with you to assist in the entomological side of this undertaking. You will be director of the project and Mr. Wheeler will be assigned to you.

An initial appropriation of \$30,000 has been made for typhus work from the funds of the Rockefeller Foundation Health Commission, and I am enclosing a copy of the action. Before you leave New York we shall expect you to consult Mr. Beal as to methods of accounting to this office for expenditures, and also as to the ways in which funds may be transmitted to you.

In this project, in which you will be unable to take your wife with you, you will be given full living expenses abroad and also after you have reached your post the 10% commutation. In addition, we are hoping that it will not be necessary for you to remain in a foreign field for a full tour of three years under these circumstances. In fact, we have in mind a tour of around a year and a half, but circumstances will have to be taken into account.

I feel that this assignment is a very important one and have the utmost confidence in your ability to develop it. I need not emphasize to you the part that typhus fever is likely to play in the near future in many parts of Europe. I wish you the best of success in this new and difficult undertaking.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. F. L. Soper  
New York Office

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