



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY  
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

October 30, 1950

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE

Dr. Walter G. Nelson  
Medical Director  
U.S. Public Health Service  
American Embassy  
Paris, France

Dear Dr. Nelson:

Feeling that the situation here is fraught with personal factors as well as administrative, I would appreciate your acceptance of this as a personal letter.

In the past 10 days I have visited the stations of Innsbruck, Villach, and Vienna. In these places I have found for myself, evidence for your concern for closer supervision in Austria. There are important questions on our diagnoses and requirements which need constant attention in order that our part of the program be precise, and that there be no difficulties with Immigration. Constant review of deferred cases in all stations is necessary to preclude backlog, which I have found in some areas. We have relatively new, though capable, doctors in all stations who are still in the process of learning our requirements, and who need counsel. In addition, the other agencies welcomed me in a happy manner, pleased that someone will visit regularly, and discussing ways of facilitating individual cases and the program as a whole.

The Salzburg office is in receipt of a copy of every examination form from each station at the end of each work-week. I have initiated the policy of having one of us in this office see every form on arrival, in this way having every problem related to our examinations controllable from here. With a letter or call dispatched at once to the local doctor, and by my regular visits, questions or corrections can be handled at their source.

Due to the central function of Salzburg for all the DP program agencies, most of the problems arise and are decided here. Since Dr. Scott has been in charge here from the outset, the commissions have come to call on and depend on her. Except for certain differences in our medical outlook and opinion, I have considerable confidence in her function in this capacity, and you are the most familiar with all aspects of her performance here. However, by its nature, this situation leaves my position less than tenable. Most of the problems, as I say, arise in Salzburg. As long as Dr. Scott is here the agencies will quite naturally continue to bring their problems to her. I think that

if we were dealing with a normal "share the work--share the responsibility" relationship it would work out. As it is, and you are quite aware of the personality factors, any situation that arises is a direct challenge to Dr. Scott and must result in her domination of it. Since her conversation with Dr. Dunnahoo she has now decided not to resign. She will stay on and as much as possible remain in authority over the situation entire. Due to the fact that we await your word after our conversations, that I am new on the job and obviously was not equipped to take over completely on my arrival, and to the simple fact that I have no desire to usurp Dr. Scott's position, I have not assumed the full duties as indicated by my orders as "Medical Officer in Charge, Salzburg".

As I expressed to you, I am willing to do my part in your decision, and will not come running every time the personal problem here gets tough. At this point, however, I do feel that you should know my opinion on the work here: that I believe one person working as Medical Officer in Charge, stationed in Salzburg, and working efficiently, is adequate, both for the local station and close supervision of substations; and that my position with Dr. Scott in charge in actuality is untenable. I feel that one of three things will have to be done. My first orders backed and left to stand as Medical Officer in Charge. This would probably cause Dr. Scott to resign. The Transfer of Dr. Scott to another Civil Service or Commissioned position. My transfer, which would concede to her, but enable me to do an effective work elsewhere.

The fine ideal you had in mind of our two functions is to the best interest of the work and the Service. Due to the central function of this office, to the long presence of Dr. Scott here, and to her insistence of full direction, I do not believe this ideal can be realized.

These must be crucial days for you in London, and I await with interest the big news. Am sorry that the little terra cotta figure in Innsbruck was sold to a German gentleman two weeks or so prior to my visit. The silver pieces were not interesting I'm afraid, so I will keep your check in case you would like something else Austrian, or destroy it as you direct.

With appreciation for your past considerations, and kindest regards to you and Mrs. Nelson.

Henry W. Blackburn, Jr.