

USC (DR. SEVRINGHAUS) CORRESPONDENCE

Health Div  
# 4987 Dr # 3

1523 New Hampshire Avenue N.W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

*See*

20 June 1946

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Director of Clinical Research  
Medical Department  
Hoffmann-LaRoche, Inc.  
Nutley 10, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

Your letter of 14 June requesting a copy of a medical manual produced by UNRRA reached me at a time when Dr. Goodman, Director of Health of our European Regional Office, was in Washington.

Neither Dr. Goodman nor I can identify the manual your Swiss affiliate had in mind. Since we have produced no comprehensive manuals in Washington, I would suggest that your affiliate direct their request to our London Regional Office describing the manual requested in as definite terms as possible.

With best personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Deputy Director of Health

AHB:gk



MEDICAL DEPARTMENT  
HOFFMANN-LAROCHE, INC.

NUTLEY, 10, NEW JERSEY

June 14, 1946

Col. A. Hughes Bryan  
Health Section of U.N.N.R.A.  
1523 New Hampshire Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Bryan:

Word has just come to me that UNNRA had produced a comprehensive medical manual which is being requested by our affiliate, F. Hoffmann-La Roche & Co., Ltd., of Basle, Switzerland.

I do not know this manual. If such a volume is available and you can send me a copy, I shall be glad not only to see what it is but to forward it to Basle.

Appreciating what information you can give me in this matter, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Director of Clinical Research

ELS:MM

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

December 13, 1944

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan,  
U.N.R.R.A.,  
1344 Connecticut Ave.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:-

In reply to your letter of December 6th I should like to submit a very slightly revised <sup>copy</sup> ~~and~~ of the second paragraph in my letter to you of October 17th, stating our purpose and study plan.

We plan a team of at least thirteen members, not more than eight of whom would remain resident at a given station in an Italian zone of serious undernutrition for a period of probably one year. In addition, the other five of senior consulting staff members would be present at this theatre of operation for the first two to four months to assist in setting up the study, making some of the earlier examinations of the undernourished population and to prepare for the evaluation of results. By careful history taking and physical examination, supplemented with simple bio-chemical technique we shall attempt to determine what medical conditions may have arisen as a consequence of long continued undernutrition, then the nutrition is to be brought up as nearly to requirement as possible, maintained at that level for a matter of months and physical improvement noted case by case. Parallel to this the psychological changes produced by undernutrition and their improvement under treatment are to be observed and recorded. From these observations we expect to be able to determine which illness is reversible and which causes permanent disability. Also how soon the benefits of treatment may be expected. We want to find out what doses of vitamins, of grain supplements, ect. are worth using, in order to conserve vitally necessary materials in the future feeding of large populations.

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I trust that this information will be helpful not only to you  
but to the officials of the Italian Mission now in Italy.

Sincerely yours,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*  
Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M. D.

ELS:j

RECEIVED  
DIVISION BOARD

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\_ 6 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

For your information I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to Dr. Joy.

I am writing Dr. Reekie, Chief Medical Officer of the Italian Mission, at frequent intervals in order to keep him informed of our progress and to learn his reaction and needs in the field. For transmittal to him, I would very much like to receive from you and Dr. Visscher a statement of the sort of a population group you would like to study, and the sort of study you plan to make.

To a large degree, I believe Dr. Reekie and I understand your desires in these matters, but it might be wise, at this time, to have a written statement from you to avoid misunderstanding.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

Copy to Dr. Reekie



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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

October 17, 1944

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

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*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL

Madison 6

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UNHRA  
1344 Connecticut Ave.  
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/S

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Sincerely yours,

/s/

Elmer L. Bevinghaus, M. D.

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6 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

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To a large degree, I believe Dr. Reekie and I understand your desires in these matters, but it might be wise, at this time, to have a written statement from you to avoid misunderstanding.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

Copy to Dr. Reekie



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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

October 17, 1944

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Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNHRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Elmer L. Seyringhaus, M. D.

HIS:fv

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
Madison 6

Medical Division

December 13, 1944

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNHRA  
1344 Connecticut Ave.  
Washington, D. C.

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but to the officials of the Italian Mission now in Italy.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M. D.

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6 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

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/s/ A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

Copy to Dr. Reekie



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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

October 17, 1944

Medical Division

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNHRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
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/s/ Elmer L. Seyringhaus, M. D.

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

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UNHRA  
1344 Connecticut Ave.  
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Sincerely yours,

/s/

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M. D.

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6 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sewringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sewringhaus:

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Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

Copy to Dr. Reekie



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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

October 17, 1944

Medical Division

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNHRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Elmer L. Snodgrass, M. D.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL

Madison 6

Medical Division

December 13, 1944

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UNHRA  
1344 Connecticut Ave.  
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/s/ A. Hughes Bryson, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

Copy to Dr. Reekie



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/s/ Elmer L. Seyringhaus, M. D.

ELS:fv

THE ITALIAN MEDICAL NUTRITION MISSION  
OF THE  
UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE  
25 BEACON STREET, BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS  
AND  
CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE  
289 4TH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.  
COOPERATING WITH  
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

February 9, 1946

Mr. Howard L. Brooks  
Associate Director  
Unitarian Service Committee  
25 Beacon St.  
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

In reply to your letter of February 6th, which reached me on the 8th, let me explain that I had a copy of the cable given me the preceding night by my pastor, Dr. Swan, who had recently been in Mr. Edwards office and brought it back with him. I had a telegram from Visscher on the afternoon of the 8th saying "Believe you should go if possible, letter follows". The situation is very much confused as I see it at present.

Frankly I foresaw some of the difficulties which Dr. Joy refers to but hoped that my fears were not well grounded and that the judgment of the other members of the team in this country would be found correct, namely that the advantages of my returning were not great enough to warrant the expense in time and money and the added hazards. I still feel as I felt in the fall, that it would be well for me to be there for the closing two months of the work. However, I wonder now whether it is physically possible to make arrangements for pass-port, transport across the Atlantic and all the way to Naples so that I could really be there for a sufficient length of time before the completion of the contract. You will recall that our contractual relation with UNRRA runs to the end of March. After that I assume that there is no obligation on the part of UNRRA to retain or to be responsible for us in anyway, including the return trip. I am quite certain that I could be of relatively little use in Naples if the team were not there with me for the last few weeks so that we could work together at finishing up the project and getting the results into the hands of the appropriate people in Italy. The answers to these questions you see, will depend on the advices from Col. Bryan and your knowledge of the project as it goes on at present. I have had no word from members of the team later than an informal letter from Dr. Gollan on January 1st.

Further difficulties are that I have numerous obligations which will keep me busy through the 28th of February in Madison and I have speaking obligations which cannot very well be avoided in Akron, Ohio on March 6th, Richmond, Virginia on March 7th, and 8th. Immediately after that I had planned to be at a scientific meeting in Atlantic City and then to take up my new work at Nutley, New Jersey beginning March 15th. It is at least conceivable that I might arrange to be available immediately after March 8th. However, I should have to take that up with my new employer, Hoffman-LaRoche, Incorporated and see what could be arranged there.

In addition to all this there will be a very considerable disturbance in my family responsibilities, included in which are the disposing of our present home and arranging to move the family to Montclair, New Jersey the first of June. I leave



Mr. H. L. Brooks #2

these matters all frankly before you and shall await further word from you before making any decision to taking any other steps.

Regretting the numerous difficulties which are involved in this whole matter but assuring you of my steadfast interest in the Italian Medical Nutrition Mission, I am,

Cordially,

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS/o'f

*Copies to Bryan  
Edwards  
Visscher*

17 January 1946

*Sev*

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

This is to acknowledge your letter of 10 January.  
I was indeed interested to learn that you are leaving  
the University of Wisconsin, and I hope that now that  
you will be in the East, we will have the pleasure  
of seeing you occasionally in Washington.

Very sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Deputy Director of Health

AHB:gt



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

MEDICAL DIVISION

January 10, 1946

Col. A. Hughes Bryan, Deputy Director of Health  
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Col. Bryan:

In reply to your letter of January 3rd, let me say that Dr. Visscher is very urgent that no report of any kind be made until the entire staff can get together after their return from Italy and that we do plan on doing that at a very early date after that occurs. Then a preliminary report can be drafted and plans made for the comprehensive reports to be written up. If you think that a preliminary report ought to be prepared at a date earlier than that, I wish you would write directly to Dr. Visscher about that matter.

You will be interested to know, perhaps, that after March 1st I shall no longer be at the University of Wisconsin. I have accepted the appointment as Director of Clinical Research for Hoffmann-LaRoche, Inc. and will be at Nutley, N. J. beginning in March. This will not effect in the least my ability to carry through with the finishing up of the reports for UNRRA.

Cordially,

*Elmer L. Savringhaus*

Elmer L. Savringhaus, M.D.

ELS/br

3 January 194<sup>6</sup>

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
The University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am sorry there has been some delay in replying to your letter of 19 December due to the impact of holidays upon this office. I note the decision of yours and your associates that it is not considered wise for you or any other senior member of the Italian Medical Nutrition Mission to return to Italy, and we will, of course, be guided by this decision.

I shall be interested to learn your plans for submitting a brief comprehensive report covering the findings of the Mission. I believe this report can be as well prepared in this country as in Italy. I have no doubt that you and your colleagues plan to publish a series of papers on the various scientific aspects of the work, but we would appreciate a working report of the findings of the Mission.

With kindest personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Deputy Director of Health

AHB:sk



## THE ITALIAN MEDICAL NUTRITION MISSION

OF THE  
UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE  
25 BEACON STREET, BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS  
AND

CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE  
289 4TH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.  
COOPERATING WITH

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

December 19, 1945

Lt. Col. A. Hughes Bryan  
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration  
1344 Connecticut Ave.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Col. Bryan:

Since talking with you on the evening of December 1st, I have considered further the question of my return to Italy in early 1946 and believe now that we had better leave the word definitely with you that I shall not expect to return. If authorization comes for my transportation from Rome, I would suggest therefore that you ignore it and explain why.

In addition to your feeling that I should return, you will recall that several members of the team now in Italy have expressed themselves the same way and so has Mr. Flint, representing the Congregational Committee. On the other hand, Mr. Brooks and the Unitarian Committee have consistently said since October 1st that this matter should be decided by Dr. Visscher and me. We have been in some correspondence and telephone conversations about the matter. Recently, I submitted the question to all the senior members of the team who are now in this country. A telephone conversation with Dr. Schour tends to discourage my return. I have heard from none of the others except with the recent letter from Dr. Visscher which I quote in total.

"Dear Elmer:

I have talked with several of our associates on the Italian Medical Nutrition Mission about the various problems connected with the possible return to Italy of any of our senior group. It is still my opinion that there are more disadvantages than advantages in having any of us return. I am particularly anxious that any reports that will be made to UNRRA or any other organization will be on the basis of material editorially criticized by the senior staff. I hope that you will agree with us in this. I personally appreciate the sacrifice that you are willing to make in order to go to Italy again, but I am convinced that we can prepare a better report from the U.S.A. than can be done in Naples without the consultation of the entire group.

With my best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Maurice B. Visscher"

Since I have heard from none of the others, namely Drs. Perkins, Stebbins and Sontag, I must assume that Dr. Visscher's letter represents their reactions. I believe I should not urge my return since it is entirely possible that I may have <sup>less</sup> ~~lack~~ of an adequate perspective on the advantages and disadvantages than these other

Lt. Col. A. Hughes Bryan #2

members of the team have, since all of them have been there and know much of the problem.

I am particularly concerned not so much about getting the adequate scientific data and conclusions from them as about our obligation to the Italian section of UNRRA and to the Italians themselves. I feel that this obligation is to get into their hands at the earliest possible date the tentative findings which will be of practical importance in planning a nutritional program in Italy for 1946 as well as later times. I hope that in some way the members of the team who are still in Italy may get this information into the hands of the Italian Government. As I understand the agreement between the Service Committees and UNRRA, we are obliged to do this. I hope that we shall not have to consider the implications in Dr. Visscher's letter as preventing us from making any recommendations to Mr. Keeny or the Italians from the team now at work in Italy.

With cordial, personal regards, I am

As ever yours,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS/br

P.S. I have just heard from Dr. Sontag, the pertinent parts of whose letter are as follows:

"Because of the obligations of Dr. Bergami, it might be very wise for you to plan to return for the final two months. Since you are highly familiar with every phase of the study, it would be my opinion that you could check on the entire program from the standpoint of the science and data involved, and you could as well advise UNRRA on the questions about which it is concerned. In doing so, you would, of course, draw upon the experience and knowledge of the entire group now in Italy.

In summary I should be quite sympathetic with your returning to Italy for the terminal period of the study, but I question the value of the return of other members of the group".



Stebbins left 31 March

Sevringhaus " 4 April

Naples, July 15.

The first episode of the Mission closed yesterday, with the departure from Rome by air of Lt. Col. Ernest Stebbins, for London and New York. The intensity of his work, arranging the matters of location, securing the team members, securing supplies in spite of failure of the local UNRRA organization to make adequate provisions for the work and in spite of the army's official unwillingness to be of help such as they had formally promised on Feb. 10, 1945, all these can never be appreciated by those who were not on the spot. But thousands of Italians have been examined, the significance is beginning to be seen, and the results in Italian life can only be told at a later date. Attempts to distribute food according to medically determined needs are farther along because of the discovery in Fondi and Pontecorvo of poverty, undernutrition, an extremely high incidence of malarial infection, and a surprisingly low amount of tuberculosis. The quality of the Italian medical personnel on the team is shown by their spontaneous insistence on revisiting one of these cities soon afterward, detecting some serious irregularities in the ways the local officials administered the foods supplied by UNRRA, and then participating in presenting this problem, where it belonged, to Italian officials. This very simple democratic process was strange enough to them. Of such items as these democratic reeducation may be ~~composed~~ composed.

A bit over a week ago Lt. Col. James Perkins, of Albany, N.Y. reached Italy, and will carry on the studies in the field, begun by Dr. Stebbins. Perkins came just as Stebbins was concluding almost 3 weeks study in the prosperous manufacturing city, Varese, near the Swiss border. Malaria was almost non-existent there. Nutritional deficiencies were far less frequent. Direct war desolation had not reached the area. The team under Dr. Perkins is now starting another type of study, Italian prisoners of war just coming down via rail, etc. out of central Europe.

In the last four weeks, the intensive study program at the clinics of the University of Naples has become increasingly well knit. In early July, Miss Ruth Flumerfelt, the dietitian, was finally allowed to come and join the Nutrition Mission. Now we have noon lunches of the entire staff, Italian and American, which adds to those matters of acquaintance that are so important. In the morning Ruth goes out with her interpreter and brings in from the markets near-by the fresh vegetables and fruits, which are washed in chlorine water and delight us. Soups, baking powder biscuits, peas, a fish-chowder, fresh fruit, cocoa-milk made with skim milk powder-- these represent the foods we share, and which help us demonstrate to the doctors and interpreters what can be done with UNRRA foods. This week we will begin to have bread and macaroni made from the specially improved flour which has been a part of the design of the project. Permits are necessary to get a mill to blend flour, to make macaroni from our flour, to make bread from our flour. The "black market" needs control.

In the clinic we have been achieving a clarification of marked difficulties in the diagnosis of undernutrition diseases in children, due to differences in terminology, and to the relative isolation of the Italian doctors from nutritional research for past years. Finally there came an opportunity to treat a baby who was very nearly dead from prolonged malnutrition plus the final dehydration which causes an intoxication. Our Dr. Gollan got the Italians to consent to his using some of the plasma we brought along by courtesy of Sharp and Dohme. The results have amazed the Italians, and have made open new paths for study, for teaching, and also for preventing some troubles. Dr. Gollan continues to be most helpful, with his understanding of European ways, his rapid acquisition of the language, and his ability to get on with us all, American and Italian.

Dr. Schour has made some happy contacts with the Allied Dentists, given them some much appreciated talks, and we have all been rewarded by some emergency laboratory supplies to help keep the project going on the matters we did not predict. Schour has a nose for new and interesting dental studies, groups of patients to be seen, and is a delight in himself.



The current week will see Dr. Sontag leave us to return to his work at Yellow Springs, Ohio. We have become indebted to him for a number of contributions. He has supervised, and actually done much of the mechanical work involved in, the details of getting the X-ray apparatus to operate so that we can secure the vitally important films to prove the existence of rickets, check on the maturity of children as shown in the bones, etc. The technical and personnel problems involved are by no means small. In the process of the first few examinations he has been alert enough to see that we have probably a hitherto unrecognized problem child in Italy, where stunted growth and development cause a new type of bone disease. The method of approach to diagnose and treat this type of case have been outlined. He has also taught us all, Italians included, how to use charts with relative records of delay and advance in any sort of biological process, thus eliminating the difficulties of comparing Neapolitan children with Ohio children. Finally he has planned the study of the effects of undernutrition on the new-born babies, which has been suggested by Prof. Tesauro, the local head of Obstetrics. This is being carried on by Dr. Kyhos and Dr. Vaglio, her Italian colleague.

Dr. Kyhos has the responsibility of examining and treating the adult patients, men and non-pregnant women, as well as the expectant mothers just referred to. One of her most difficult tasks is to teach the Italian interpreter and doctor how to secure adequate data about the economic and family backgrounds of the patients. The complications of life here and the differences from American organization in the home and community make this a task for even a woman whose experience in home, clinic and community are as broad as hers.

When the patients come to the laboratory they are met by Dr. Cuckler, Miss Hagedorn, and Miss Knowlton. The Italian associates are 3 men and 1 woman physicians, and an interpreter who is also teaching languages in both directions. This group are having such a good time, discussing the new laboratory methods, new foods, and making new friends, that informal rules had to be enunciated to reduce conversation and allow work. The 3 Americans are seeing how they can develop executive and pedagogic powers and get the Italian doctors to working vigorously with their hands. They all like to talk, and that involves both hands. Also this laboratory staff have to manage the patients and the parents of the children. The physical equipment does not include good chairs and examining tables on which to obtain the needed specimens. Improvisations are in order.

Robert Kellerman is doing a most interesting job, not only as handy man at supplies, errands, shipping, securing new interpreters, hiring a cook, but we have discovered a glass-blower in him. His real task is the calling in homes and looking up people that need our help. He has secured a part time assistant, Miss Campagnuola, of real talent, who was employed as a consequence of Bob's prompt contacts with the local Italian Protestant clergy. Together they call in homes in the afternoons, and they will be reporting to us observations on how well our prescriptions are being followed out.

One of the great needs of these Italian doctors is for book and journal contacts with America, which they are eager to reestablish. We have therefore asked for an extensive group of recent texts, and are hoping to get journal exchanges set up. One evidence of their being out of touch is an extended debate in staff meetings in which they dilated greatly upon the vital merits of mother's milk. It finally became apparent to us that they were defending their practice of overdiluting cow's milk, since they do not understand the modern methods of feeding babies with formulae both safely and adequately. To achieve safety they are probably starving many babies. We are now beginning a study of some new-born babies to be transferred from the foundling's home to our hospital, to demonstrate the point.

In between times, we have moved to a pensione on the bay front, with very pleasant arrangements and good meals, housed by a Swiss couple. The immediate availability of boating and sea bathing is welcome.

E. L. Sevringhaus

*File*

# Unitarian Service Committee

25 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

TELEPHONE CAPITOL 3660



July 6, 1945

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bryan:

Enclosed is a copy of the latest letter from Dr. Sevringhaus which we hope you will find of some interest.

Sincerely,

*Jacqueline A. Ford*

Secretary to  
Mr. Brooks

F.



*Dr. Bryan*

Naples, June 28

Dear Howard,

Here comes some more request for supplies and help. You see that I am doing my best to convince you that "I am not more than human" but have some forgetting capacity. First, please add to the book request the 2 volume set by Peters and Van Slyke, published by Williams and Wilkins, title something like Quantitative Clinical Chemistry. One volume is methods, the other interpretations. Both are of great value.

We have been trying for some time to find how we can get basal metabolism tests made, and at last find there is in Naples one apparatus still operating. The rest have been laid up for lack of rubber parts, if not damaged otherwise. The one we can use is American made, and it will hold out a while, but we need replacements very soon. Please see if you can get help from the maker, Warren Collins, whose business address was formerly 553 Huntington Ave., Boston. If he is not there, nor in the Boston directory, call the Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory in Boston, and ask them where to get Collins parts. The needed parts are as ~~XXXX~~ follows: 2 rubber tubes of 75 centimeter length, 25 millimeter diameter, about 2.5 millimeters thick.

4 interior soft rubber valves.

4 mouth pieces, diameter 25 millimeters, length 70 millimeters.

Charles Joy is not yet back from Marseilles, and no word from him. Today I interviewed the woman we summoned from Cairo, Mrs. Musgrave-Thomas, who will be our office manager in Rome. She went on to Rome at once by good fortune of Col. Reekie's being here. I think she will be a help, and she understands that her ~~XXXXX~~ chief function is to see that things get done.

The camera, long ready in Washington is not yet here. Worst of all there comes no word about Perkins, Visscher, or Flumerfelt. We are holding up our feeding program till we have the dietitian to supervise it. There are some things I am not trained to do. I have asked Reekie to cable Washington that if they cannot get Flumerfelt here this week, I want to ask for Miss Kathleen Van Cleft, now in El Shatt, and about out of a job. She is on Jim Flint's list, and well recommended. But even if Reekie cables, and if Washington answers, that might take a month more.

Isaac Schour has made a couple of talks before the dental officers of combined American and British hospitals, and they are so grateful that they have invited me to talk next week also, with him, and still better, have given us some chemicals we needed, and promised more for emergencies. I sent A.H. Thomas an order today, for some ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ chemicals and items we cannot get that way, which they can mail to us.

Just interrupted by a cable from Flint that I may stay for August. I am really glad to know it is arranged.

Difficulties we have, but much fun also with the eagerness of all to cooperate. We really have a fine team, and the Italians are a good group.

(signed) Cordially,

Elmer



## THE ITALIAN MEDICAL NUTRITION MISSION

OF THE  
UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE  
25 BEACON STREET, BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS  
AND

CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE  
289 4TH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.  
COOPERATING WITH

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Naples, June 26, 1945.

Major A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Ave.  
Washington, 25, D.C.

Dear Dr. Bryan,

*Replied by Reekie's letter dated 6/27/45*

In the unpacking of our freight and the more careful arrangement of the chemicals on the shelves in our "new" laboratories Dr. Cuckler has pointed out that we have two kinds of Giemsa stain. The dry powder was not ordered by us, but was for some reason packed in with other materials in the large boxes, presumably those from the A.H. Thomas Co. It is not surprising if they sent us something ordered for UNRRA, even though it might have been originally ordered for another group. I report this matter to you only to keep the records clear, in case someone else is inquiring where the stain is, and also since the shipping slips list the material as charged to UNRRA. None of our supplies were so charged. I enclose the shipping slips for your use. The material is on our shelves, and will be a reserve in case our liquid stain is exhausted.

We had very little loss in shipping, and have found only a few items forgotten, which must be secured over here. This latter is especially a headache for me. This is because although the army stores have everything we want, we have been unable to secure the channels by which to purchase those items. Col. Reekie and Mr. Keeny, apparently for good reasons which I have never had explained to me, decline to do what the army medical organization here asked, namely come in and establish an account. Now the Surgeon General has issued an order which makes it impossible for the medical depots here to sell to us, save on declaration of emergency and that they do not wish to do too often. I secured such action by my taking many hours of my own time, travel to Caserta, etc. for the immediate needs. But as other items come up, I must still protest, UNRRA owes its professional personnel a businesslike arrangement for securing supplies.

We are operating the clinics for examination of sick children and women, dispensing foods, and carrying out the mission for which we came. We are still at a loss to know why, 10 weeks after the request was sent, we still have no dietitian. Also Miss Flumerfeld was requested to resign her position some weeks ago, in anticipation of this trip. So far as we can tell here, nothing is happening to get her to us. I have therefore asked Col. Reekie to cable that if she cannot be sent this week, I wish to invite Miss Kathleen VanCleft, now in El Shatt, with little future work in prospect there. A letter from her dated June 2 said Dr. Findley had advised her to write directly to me about the possibility of my needing more dietetic help. I need some dietetic help urgently.

The situation about Dr. Perkins is also a profound puzzle. Stebbins has gone north, hoping Perkins can catch up to him before Stebbins must return. We are also increasingly urgent about those two cars requested 10 weeks ago, known to be ready. With all the empty planes and ships that come to these shores it is hard to understand the delays.

This letter may sound petulant, but I assure you it is not vs. Bryan, but hoping UNRRA Washington can expedite action.

Cordial greetings, Elmer L. Sevringhaus



COPY

#3 Arrived June 28, 1945 - Dated Naples, June 22, 1945

*My husband  
learned  
Bryan*

Dear Howard,

The clinic is getting under constantly increasing momentum, with growing interest on the part of the Italian staff. The group is now all selected, and there are 9 doctors, 1 dentist, 1 laboratory technologist, 1 radiological technician, 5 interpreters (including 1 nurse and 1 administrative assistant), 1 part time case worker, and an office secretary. Quite a team for me to keep running. Opposite to these are 10 Americans. We have daily staff meetings for half an hour to start the day. So far there are always enough items to talk about. The last 2 days we showed them the few books we brought, they showed us their best, and now we are prepared to get to asking again. You know what a good beggar I can be. We really think that there would be good accomplished in several ways if some more American medical books could be sent over. Incidentally books come through as fast as letters, if addressed to me via the A.P.O. route. Just get them sent in little packages, not over the weight limit, which I think is 4 pounds per package.

It was suggested by a couple of our members that the publishers might be willing to send books at reduced rates, for the advertising value of their being in the Pediatric Clinic library, where we plan to leave them. The books we hope you can beg, buy, or otherwise secure are as follows:

- A textbook on Parasitology, by Dr. R. P. Strong, 1944
- Stitt's Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment of Tropical Diseases, 7th edition, 2 volumes, Blakiston.
- Conant, Martin et al, Manual of Clinical Mycology, Saunders.
- Laboratory Methods, published by the Public Health Assn., 1790 Broadway, N.Y.C. 1945 edition.
- Sax, a volume on nutrition in children.
- Brenneman, a loose leaf set of about 4 volumes, comprehensive gift. work on Pediatrics. Nelson publishes it. (Try for a rate or ~~XXX~~)
- Best and Taylor, Physiological Basis of Medical Practice. Williams and Wilkins.
- McLester, J. Clinical Nutrition and Dietotherapy.
- Paul D. White, of Boston, has a book on Clinical Heart Disease
- Thoma, Oral Pathology, Mosby
- Miller, Oral Diagnosis, Blakston.
- Massler and Schour, Atlas of the Mouth, American Dental Assn., at Chicago. Dr. Schour personally contributed 6 of these to some individual dentists over here.

A new and very wonderfully illustrated book on hematology in children, the name and particulars about which will be sent you from Madison by Miss Ethel Thewlis, at our request.

In addition I am securing some of my books, and others from the same publisher, all at half price. This entire request may run to about \$150 at retail prices. Even so, it is a worthwhile gift.

We are getting eager to see Flumerfeld, Perkins, Visscher, 2 cars. Sontag is in the 17th Gen. Hosp. with dysentery. Any sympathy!

Sgd. Elmer



During the week of May 14 Stebbins and I worked intensively at the details of preparing the Italian team for the extensive survey of nutrition and infectious diseases. A truck has been assigned, with driver, to transport our food, bedding, and Italian personnel to and from the points of study. As a sequel to my early visit to the Eastman dental institute, I was able to "borrow" from their large stock 30 electric light bulbs for the hospital in Fondi and the house where the team lived. Otherwise no electric lights. The truck had to be sent way down to Lecce camp to get beds and bedding for the use of the team. A trip to Naples was required to get the electric power turned on in one of the houses we occupied. This was a beautiful villa on the beach at Gaeta, near Fondi. Use of it by the American team allowed us to have down as overnight guests numerous members of the UNRRA staff at Rome, to see the team at work, and to cement the friendships which make work so much better.

May 18 I submitted formal request for an office manager, Mrs. Musgrave Thomas, in Cairo, whose recommendation by Waitstill Sharp made her seem very much the kind of person who could keep details moving in Rome. Although the matter was approved, cleared, ordered, etc., 4 weeks later she still had not made the 3 days sea trip to come up. The need for an office manager to carry on our interests in Rome gets ever more obvious.

At the last moment I discovered that we had in Rome UNRRA two sisters, Ann and Sally Haynes, trained laboratory technicians, for whom no technical employment had been found. One was added to the team, and ultimately began getting the blood smears for malaria and anemia diagnoses, and now at the beginning of the second month of the extensive study, both sisters will be with the team, giving part of their time to work with Dr. Cuckler in the study of the slides they prepare in the field.

Drs. Gollan, Schour, and Sontag arrived May 20, and during the next week were all introduced to the work of the extensive team as observers and consultants. Dr. Sontag was a very helpful instructor in clinical medicine for the young Italian doctors. Dr. Schour soon began to see ways to add dental examination and treatment, and by the end of the fourth week he had introduced into the team an Italian dentist to do examinations, another to perform extractions as indicated. Dr. Gollan surprised us all by his grasp of Italian language, and he is able to converse at moderate speed with the doctors and patients.

In order to give the best of nutritional examination instruction to the team, the three young Italian doctors were trained by Drs. McQueeney and Metcalf, while still in Rome, and these men came along for the first 2½ days of the Fondi study to supervise the work in the field. Miss Amalia Baran, their technical helper accompanied us. For this assistance we shall always be very grateful. The long delays in arrival of our freight made it necessary to draw on their stock of nutrition Key-sort cards, with which to record the first 5000 or so of our subjects.

The Italian team was composed of 3 young physicians, 4 students from the 4th year in medical school (Rome), 1 anthropometric technician (also an excellent house manager and meal planner), 3 nurses (speaking English fairly well), an administrative assistant and clinic manager (using English), and the 2 men who operated the power truck and made the X-ray exposures for chest diagnosis. With the truck driver this made 15 Italians to transport from Rome. Then we employed 4 clerks locally, and a housekeeper. All this Italian staff are compensated from the Italian or Lire fund, at rates set by the Allied Commission. The team, as it moves north in another week, will be augmented by the 2 dentist members and another nurse, a further student of X-ray work, and by Lt. Lowry, the newly arrived tuberculosis consultant for UNRRA, who will have the opportunity to study the tuberculosis situation with us as he also reads the films we take. The team will move first to Varese, shoe manufacturing city north of Milan, and then to 3 camps for prisoners of war just returning from Germany.



The clinic started off with a crowd that pressed for examination, so we examined 316 the first day. The total for the 12 days of operation at Fondi was well over 4000 persons. This is a community of about 17000, in the devastated area, half way between Rome and Naples, on the edge of the marshy sea coast. Malaria was almost universal judging from history and examination of this 25% sample of the city. The hospital superintendent, Dr. Bruno Accorinti, and his wife were most helpful in making the arrangements, and we are hoping that in the matters of distributing food to those in medical need, and of clothing to be sent over by the Unitarian committee, they can have a responsible part, for we have confidence in their integrity and intelligence about such matters.

The most distinct impression in the clinic is the need for soap and water, next for clothes, and often for food. Full-blown vitamin deficiencies were rare, moderate lack of B and C vitamins common, rickets surprisingly frequent as we had learned elsewhere. The physical plant and equipment of this hospital make it entirely impossible to do the intensive study here. It is evident that this must be placed in either Rome or Naples. The northern cities probably have less nutritional need.

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Mailed June 18  
Received June 28

Chas. F. Lanning



## ITALIAN MEDICAL NUTRITION MISSION

## Second Monthly Report

June 17, 1945

During the week of May 14 Stebbins and I worked intensively at the details of preparing the Italian team for the extensive survey of nutrition and infectious diseases. A truck has been assigned, with driver, to transport our food, bedding, and Italian personnel to and from the points of study. As a sequel to my early visit to the Eastman dental institute, I was able to "borrow" from their large stock 30 electric light bulbs for the hospital in Fondi and the house where the team lived. Otherwise no electric lights. The truck had to be sent way down to Lecce camp to get beds and bedding for the use of the team. A trip to Naples was required to get the electric power turned on in one of the houses we occupied. This was a beautiful villa on the beach at Gaeta, near Fondi. Use of it by the American team allowed us to have down as overnight guests numerous members of the UNRRA staff at Rome, to see the team at work, and to cement the friendships which make work so much better.

May 18 I submitted formal request for an office manager, Mrs. Musgrave Thomas, in Cairo, whose recommendation by Waitstill Sharp made her seem very much the kind of person who could keep details moving in Rome. Although the matter was approved, cleared, ordered, etc., 4 weeks later she still had not made the 3 days sea trip to come up. The need for an office manager to carry on our interests in Rome gets ever more obvious.

At the last moment I discovered that we had in Rome UNRRA two sisters, Ann and Sally Haynes, trained laboratory technicians, for whom no technical employment had been found. One was added to the team, and ultimately began getting the blood smears for malaria and anemia diagnoses, and now at the beginning of the second month of the extensive study, both sisters will be with the team, giving part of their time to work with Dr. Cuckler in the study of the slides they prepare in the field.

Drs. Gollan, Schour, and Sontag arrived May 20, and during the next week were all introduced to the work of the extensive team as observers and consultants. Dr. Sontag was a very helpful instructor in clinical medicine for the young Italian doctors. Dr. Schour soon began to see ways to add dental examination and treatment, and by the end of the fourth week he had introduced into the team an Italian dentist to do examinations, another to perform extractions as indicated. Dr. Gollan surprised us all by his grasp of Italian language, and he is able to converse at moderate speed with the doctors and patients.

In order to give the best of nutritional examination instruction to the team, the three young Italian doctors were trained by Drs. McQueeney and Metcalf, while still in Rome, and these men came along for the first  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days of the Fondi study to supervise the work in the field. Miss Amalia Baran, their technical helper accompanied us. For this assistance we shall always be very grateful. The long delays



in arrival of our freight made it necessary to draw on their stock of nutrition Key-sort cards, with which to record the first 5000 or so of our subjects.

The Italian team was composed of 3 young physicians, 4 students from the 4th year in Medical school (Rome), 1 anthropometric technician (also an excellent house manager and meal planner), 3 nurses (speaking English fairly well), an administrative assistant and clinic manager (using English), and the 2 men who operated the power truck and made the X-ray exposures for chest diagnosis. With the truck driver this made 15 Italians to transport from Rome. Then we employed 4 clerks locally, and a housekeeper. All this Italian staff are compensated from the Italian or Lire fund, at rates set by the Allied Commission. The team, as it moves north in another week, will be augmented by the 2 dentist members and another nurse, a further student of X-ray work, and by Lt. Lowry, the newly arrived tuberculosis consultant for UNRRA, who will have the opportunity to study the tuberculosis situation with us as he also reads the films we take. The team will move first to Varese, shoe manufacturing city north of Milan, and then to 3 camps for prisoners of war just returning from Germany.

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(signed) Elmer L. Sevringhaus

# Unitarian Service Committee

25 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

TELEPHONE CAPITOL 3660



June 21, 1945

For your information I am sending you the enclosed copy of a report which has recently come to us from the Medical Mission in Italy.

Howard L. Brooks



## ITALIAN MEDICAL NUTRITION MISSION--UNRRA

### Proposed Plan of Procedure

This mission is an organic, although a temporary unit of the UNRRA Italian Mission. It is sponsored jointly by the Service Committees of the Unitarian and the Congregational-Christian Churches of U.S.A. The aim is to provide a service to the Italian people in several ways: by participating in the provision of food where needed, by securing data as to the types of food most urgently needed for the restoration of health, by determining the speed with which such restoration may be accomplished when the food is supplied under intelligent supervision, and by learning what are the more important health hazards that have followed in the wake of prolonged and profound malnutrition. The carefully recorded and studied results of such observations made during the feeding program should prove of value to Italian officials in future nutrition work, as well as to UNRRA in the more adequate planning of its program. The results will serve also to furnish the scientific and public justification for providing aid for Italy, if it can be shown that the feeding fits the needs.

It is planned that this Mission be located in an active hospital or dispensary, so that in collaboration with the local Italian staff, the patient clientele may receive comprehensive and intensive therapy whether this requires nutritive correction alone, or that in combination with other medical care. The facilities which the Mission brings include everything which the most modern human nutrition practice considers essential, in both diagnostic and therapeutic details.

The requirements for this Mission comprise:

1. A community in which there can be found probably 1000 women and children who show definite evidences of malnutrition. Such a community should be essentially stable, in order that the results of feeding can be observed over a period of several months.
2. A hospital in which space and non-portable equipment, such as an autoclave, refrigerator, incubator, and electric lights are available.
3. Services of at least 2 physicians, one dentist, and five clerical employees, to be compensated by UNRRA, and to participate throughout in the examinations of the clients of the nutrition clinic.

The staff of the Mission is made up of 14 persons, but there will never be more than 11 in this field at once, and for a significant part of the year's work, there will be only 8 persons occupied. The nucleus is a group of 4 clinicians, a dentist, a parasitologist, two laboratory technologists, a dietitian, and an executive officer and welfare contact man. In addition there will be an epidemiologist collaborating with the rest of the team, and also conducting a parallel program of extensive study, described in the attachment.



The examinations to which the clients of the nutrition clinic will be asked to submit will include a rapid medical history, physical examination of the head, eyes, mouth, skin, chest and abdomen such as will determine nutritional deficiencies and gross evidences of complication illnesses, rudimentary anthropometry, including silhouette photography, and in those cases where there is suspicion of deficiency states, blood samples from the antecubital veins. X-rays of the chest will be routine, as will bone development X-rays of the children. Frequently the bacteriologist will desire throat smears, the parasitologist a stool specimen, and routine urinalysis will be done.

The provision of food for these clients will be according to two determining factors: the supplies available to UNRRA, and the apparent medical needs of the individuals. Whether this will be done as communal feeding in institutional groups, or as provision of foodstuffs to be prepared at home by the family will depend on the nature of the population involved. Since the food supply available at this time involves so little animal protein, and since this limitation will probably persist for an extended period, the materials provided include the following: vitamins in pure form in abundant supply to demonstrate the need and value thereof, iron for therapy of anemia, powdered whole milk for beverage use by the smaller children only, and a series of supplements to be added to cereal flour for improvement in the quality of the protein. These supplements include wheat germ (embryo), corn germ (maize embryo), soya, sunflower seed, and are prepared as flours which by actual trial can be blended with wheat flour to make pasta and bread almost indistinguishable from products made with the conventional white flour in America. The condition for continuing supply of food will be the return to the clinic for such re-examinations as are considered essential to determine the success of the program.

Since the work of the Mission will deal with many cases of exaggerated nutritive disorder as well as with moderate deficiency, and since it will operate in a medical clinic environment, and since it will be staffed by personnel with teaching experience, and since it will have technical facilities of high grade, it is suggested that the Mission provide an opportunity to establish a center for postgraduate study by Italian clinicians interested in human nutrition. The staff will welcome Italian personnel on appropriate recommendation for courses in clinical study. The details of such courses are to be worked out in conference with Italian leaders, but will include lectures and discussion, in addition to practical experience in examination of patients. Lantern slides for illustration of clinical lectures are available.

Dr. E. L. Sevringhaus  
May 7, 1945



## PLAN OF EXTENSIVE STUDY BY DR. E. L. STEBBINS

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND NUTRITION SURVEY

#### General Objectives

Many observations have been made which suggest a relationship between undernutrition and the occurrence of infectious disease. For the most part these data have not been sufficiently complete to determine whether the increased prevalence of the infectious diseases was due to the lowered resistance to infection resulting from the malnutrition or whether the malnutrition was the result of a disturbance of metabolism associated with infection. It has also not been clearly established that the increased prevalence of the infectious diseases in presumably undernourished groups was not due entirely to other concomitant factors such as contamination of water, milk, or food supplies, increased exposure to infection due to crowding and the general breakdown of normal protective measures.

In Italy at the present time there are areas in which there has been extensive disruption of the normal safeguards against infection and also a reduction in the dietary intake or at least a change in the normal food habits of the people. In other areas there has been no extensive disruption of the normal safeguards against the spread of infection but there has been at least a temporary limitation of the food supply. There appears to be an increase in the infectious diseases in both types of area which would suggest a relationship between undernutrition or malnutrition and the increased prevalence of the infectious diseases. Unfortunately reported morbidity is not considered an accurate measure of the actual prevalence of disease in these communities. A more accurate measure of communicable disease morbidity seems urgently needed and there is general agreement that this can best be obtained by means of a sickness survey. It is also possible to obtain valuable information concerning general nutritional status by means of a rapid but detailed clinical inspection by especially trained clinicians supplemented by X-ray examination of the chest and of certain of the long bones to show skeletal development in children. It is therefore proposed that an infectious disease and nutrition survey be undertaken in carefully selected areas of Italy and that the Public Health authorities and other governmental as well as private agencies be asked to cooperate and lend the support that will be necessary if a sufficient sample of the population is to be examined. The department of Public Health will be kept currently informed of the findings of the survey, the data subjected to detailed analysis and should be of great value to the Italian government in the development of its general health program and should also be of great scientific value.

#### General Outline of the Survey

The purpose of the survey shall be first to determine the population groups which can be considered representative of the country and in these population units to determine the prevalence of the common communicable diseases and second, to determine in the same communities the frequency of clinical evidence of malnutrition and thirdly to attempt a correlation of these two factors.



The sample examined in any area should be of sufficient size to provide significant observations and would be carefully checked to rule out the possibility of unintentional selection. It is proposed that a sample consisting of ten percent of any population group be considered an ample number provided that this group can be shown to have the same demographical characteristics as the population from which it was drawn. It is recognized that in large cities samples might be satisfactory though of smaller relative size if no selection could be demonstrated.

#### Clinic Procedure

The procedures in the clinic would be as follows, persons entering the clinic would first be interviewed by specially trained historians and a complete infectious disease history obtained. The patient would then be given a quick but detailed clinical inspection and all suspicious clinical findings recorded, the clinical examination would include search for obvious dental defects. Following the clinical inspection the following anthropometric observations would be recorded, height, weight, biacromial diameter, bicristall diameter and maximum calf diameter. Each person would then be given a chest X-ray by the photofluorographic method and children under sixteen years of age would be X-rayed for skeletal evidence of malnutrition.

In a small proportion of the patients blood smears would be taken.

#### Facilities Needed for the Survey

1. Waiting room space (maximum 75 -- minimum 30)
2. Space and desks for four historians
3. Examination space for two clinicians and a minimal equipment
4. Space for two operators for anthropometric observations (scales with height stick, calipers)
5. Complete photofluorographic unit
6. Small laboratory space for obtaining thick and thin blood smears

The space should be so arranged as to provide a continuous flow of patients through the routine. It is expected that the proposed team could handle approximately five hundred patients a day.

The success of the survey will depend to a very large extent upon the co-operation of the local health authorities and other community organizations. It will be necessary to make definite arrangements for the scheduling of the clinic, and the approval of the local church authorities would be obtained in advance. It is hoped that families would come together and all children would of necessity be accompanied by at least one parent.

May 7, 1945



Dear Dr. Bryan,

Naples, June 14

I must apologize for delay in writing you, and for not doing it on letterhead. But days are so full that this has to be done at the hotel in the evening. In fact, so much of my time is devoted to medical and also non-medical supplies, that little clinical work will be done by the director and senior internist. The supply organization of UNRRA is getting into shape slowly, but it is one of the major disappointing features of an organization that has been growing here since last October. I am being embarrassed by medical army men who want to know when I will stop executive work and hunting for supplies, to get down to my own profession. This is not a pleasant way to start a letter, but I feel it is time that some of your superior officers in Washington know about it all.

The chief headache has been that X-ray film we were promised. All that has yet reached Italy was labeled a "refrigerator", discovered by accident, and last night after weeks of arranging, it was delivered to me here. The size was wrong, so part of today was spent, pleasantly enough as to personal contacts, in exchanging it with army stores for the correct 10 x 12 size. This provides for 720 films. More is promised via London next month.

In response to Visscher's letter about the product to be made from the washed chicken viscera, I cannot get enthusiastic. First the product would need careful trial, with chemical data. Next it would have to have a large supply assured. But even then, if it were not an indigenous product of this country, I would hesitate. I believe they must learn to produce their own protein foods, for they cannot import all they want. The solution seems to me to be in better cereal culture, better use of whole grains, learning to use the soya and other pulses properly, and developing dairy herds. So I cannot become enthusiastic about adding another source of protein to our study.

As a matter of fact the number of cases of serious protein deficiency which we may encounter here will be limited, and make it hard enough to evaluate the cereal and milk products we now have. The general nutrition of this country is not as bad as we thought. Metcalf and McQueenie are conservative, but I think the reports you have had from them give you an honest report and serve to furnish a prelude for the story we hope to tell. We have had much advantage from working with them. I regret that we had to use so largely on the card supply they had, and the reason I asked that cable be sent you for more of their cards, is that Metcalf felt hurt that we used their cards, at a rate which he thought would handicap their further work.

Cuckler and Hagedorn arrived this week, and we had just got our freight moved into place, so they began laboratory work at once. We have set up in the Pediatric, Gynecologic and Dental clinics of the Royal Univ. of Naples, with as pretty a space and equipment layout as you could ask for. The personal attitude of the Italians is most cordial and enthusiastic. We have already 11 Italians on the staff here, with a few clerks yet to be added. We began seeing patients today. One was so bad that an intravenous plasma therapy is planned for him tomorrow if he gets back to the clinic.

Of course I am at a loss to know how the State Dept. has managed to hold up Flumerfelt, as well as to delay everyone else. My plan is to leave here about July 1, via Marseilles, where the Unitarians want my advice for their men who are there. Thence I shall fly to the U.S.A. I expect that I will stop in Washington for a brief report.

I wonder whether the detailed report of the first month here ever reached you. It was sent in 3 copies, by diplomatic pouch. I was told that was the most prompt way to send detailed reports that the censor might garble. It left my hands on May 15, I think. I fear the diplomatic pouch is the most uncertain way, and I shall not use it again. Shortly I will prepare another report on the second month's work, and send it directly. We are all well, save Sontag has a lighting up and discomfort from an otitis that occurred as an immediate sequel to the plane trip. The external drainage has been less of a problem than the loss of hearing and the malaise.

We all join in sending our hearty personal greetings to you.

Cordially,

Elmer L. Suringhaus



45 File USC

REPORT OF FIRST MONTH OF ITALIAN MEDICAL NUTRITION MISSION

April 13. On first day at headquarters we attended a conference arranged by Col. Reekie with Mr. Solimena, Minister of the Interior's chief of Public Health, attended by numerous medical advisers, including Dr. Bergami, high commissioner for food, and Dr. Canaperia, the one most interested in tuberculosis. The decision of the meeting, sought by Col. Reekie was in favor of the medical determination of which mothers and children deserve supplemental food from UNRRA stores. The Italians were to prepare a detailed plan.

The next day we began interviews with Miss Elizabeth Gardiner who had come up from San Spirito, to discuss joining our mission. After Mr. Keeny found that she lacked personal enthusiasm and eagerness for the task of rehabilitating Italians, she and we were convinced that she had better remain with the Yugo-Slavian mission.

On the 15th we were taken by Dr. Landsberg, Italian educated, but now in U.S.P.H.S. for an inspection trip to Frascati, where we saw at first hand the devastation of homes and churches, on the hills which gave military command of Rome from the west. Nevertheless we ate our sandwiches at an operating sidewalk restaurant, and our conversation (Landsberg's) brought delicious artichokes cooked in deep oil, as well as Frascati. That evening we heard Mr. Keeny, chief of the Mission explain UNRRA in Italy to a crowd of Allied officers at the A.R.C. bull session. It is evident that many army men have little understanding of the program or needs.

On the 16th, at a conference of the various department heads in this staff of some 60 people we laid our program down in detail, with much understanding and real cooperation from the others. It was evident to us that more cars would be required, and request for a sedan and a station wagon was made at once by mail. Mr. Keeny consented at once to call the balance of the team forward. Today, 4 weeks later, we are still waiting to hear when they will come. We had assigned to us a 3rd year student of engineering, former lieutenant in the Italian army, as interpreter. He does well.

Quarters are in the Hotel Esperia, where the staff, and others in similar work, have a comfortable mess and quarters, that helps us get acquainted. I have had over a few weeks three different British transients as room-mates. I find it adds much to the interest and understanding. The interchange of ideas between the two groups might well be greater. Mr. Contini has just arrived, bringing word that Salvemini had published in the U.S.A. an attack on our program, asking why take an experiment to Italy, when the money could better be spent on food. For relaxation we have on 6 evenings per week the opportunity to attend the fine opera which is two minutes walk from the hotel. Performances are magnificent in every way. Beginning at 5:30, we can have dinner after the opera.

On the 18th we began our contacts with the Eastman Dental Clinic, which we found operating in somewhat reduced fashion, not badly damaged, and doing a splendid job in plastic surgery. The 19th found me equipped with a card to the PX, even though I needed little save soap. But the rations of cigarettes and gum are the most useful tips and rewards. Imagine giving an adequate tip with 1 cigarette, and getting beams of happiness with "molto grazie" for 3 after a jeep driver has done us a nice favor.



Dr. Stebbins had called on Maj. Gen. Stayer in Caserta, and this day he and Col. Perrin Long came to Rome, inviting Stebbins and me to dinner, where we chatted long about our program.

On the 20th, I began a series of hours of working with Lt. Col. Butler and with McQueeney and Metcoff on the revision of the code for recording nutritional diagnostic findings. The numbers as included are to remain with their previous significance, but we are adding further details, and supplying exact details for eyes and mouth by a decimal scheme.

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May 15

Elmer L. Sevringhaus

May 15

Dr. Harvey J. Burkhardt  
Eastman Dental Dispensary  
800 E. Main St.  
Rochester 3, New York

Dear Dr. Burkhardt:

Upon Mr. Keeny's request, I am enclosing a letter  
directed to you by Dr. Elmer Sevringhaus.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

gk  
15/May/45



EXECUTIVE OFFICER:  
RAYMOND B. BRAGG

*MSC Sevringhaus*  
SCIENTIFIC CO-DIRECTORS  
ELMER L. SEVRINGHAUS, M.D.  
MAURICE B. VISSCHER, M.D.

THE ITALIAN MEDICAL NUTRITION MISSION

OF THE  
UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE  
25 BEACON STREET, BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS  
AND

CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE  
289 4TH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.  
COOPERATING WITH

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

A.P.O. 394

May 1, 1945.

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Major A.H. Bryan  
UNRRA, Washington.  
Dear Dr. Bryan:

After two preliminary field inspections, and conference with Dr. Gould, as well as with Daniels of London, McDougal of Athens, and Gass, and with the local staff here, we want to make a request for very prompt action in the United States on some further equipment. The items desired are an automatic camera, 70 mm. size, and a Morgan timer. The reasoning is as follows:

Dr. Gould and the rest of the UNRRA personnel are willing to make available to Dr. Stebbins for the extensive study the one and only photofluorographic set for not to exceed 2 months, that is until the end of June. Thereafter they feel that it should be ready for use in other fields, possibly ~~Italy~~ *India*. Therefore if the extensive study is to continue in Italy, to see 100,000 cases, other apparatus must be made available by June 30.

There are at least 2 Italian sets which are in condition to warrant our using them except for lack of tires, camera, and timer. The tires have been acquired, and are thereby assured. The other items can be secured only in America. Dr. Stebbins knows from his own experience in early 1945 that both can be secured in a very few weeks if the priority is sufficiently high, for which purpose the assistance of the F.T.E.A. and the State Department may well be needed and justifiably requested, we believe.

If these two items can be added to the Italian sets here, one complete set can be made from the two available to us. This would not only implement Dr. Stebbins and Dr. Perkins for their work, but would leave behind in Italy when we return to the States a very concrete token of an interest in an expanded program for tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment in Italy. From the point of view of the Service Committees this should make an appeal. Furthermore this equipment should cost about \$2000, which is to be offset against the fact, until recently unknown to us or the Service Committees, that the cost of the Italian personnel for all teams, as well as other services we secure, makes no drain on Service Committee funds whatever.

Dr. Stebbins hopes the automatic camera can be for the 70 mm. film, since this is now generally agreed to provide superior diagnostic results. This should be secured only on 2 conditions: that it can be provided at once, and that 70 mm. film can be provided. If either of these conditions cannot be met, the camera should be for 35 mm. film.

Our contacts in the past week have been distinctly encouraging as to the prospects of examining 100,000 people. Not only have we had the personal assurances from Mr. Solimena, Director of Public Health for Italy, but on April 30 we were accompanied on an all day trip to two provincial hospitals by Dr. Canaperia, the public health man who is most directly interested in tuberculosis control. It is evident that we will have adequate official access to these provincial hospitals. After conversations with Mr. Myron Taylor, Mr. Kirk, and Monseigneur Carroll, Secretary to the Pope, it is certain that we will have letters



Maj. Bryan. 2. 5/1/45/

to the local bishops, requesting their aid in the localities where we propose to work. I have also made some contacts with the Jewish Relief group, already at work here among displaced persons, and with the Waldensian Church, a Protestant group with numerous churches, especially strong in the northern cities. This will afford us access to varied types of personnel for our teams, and also points of view about the local alignments. Incidentally from the Waldensians I learned of a most encouraging incident, where a farmer explained to some American visitors that what they wanted was not so much food and relief materials as tools to get back to cultivating their own land. This reinforces our feeling of urgency in requesting the camera and timer to make possible the sustained extensive program in this country, for the 6 months, and even after we leave.

The Ford came over in good condition, was off the boat on April 27 and on that date I visited Pisa and Florence briefly, since they were near at hand. I doubt the need for our efforts there, but now we plan to take 2 more of the UNRRA public health staff there and farther north next week, to get more exact details. On the 30th Stebbins and I visited Fondi and Pontecorvo, about 100 miles south, where the hospitals shared the extensive devastation of their communities. Repairs are now under way, there are adequate space and willingness to cooperate, so we plan to have these two centers be the first for the extensive work. Staff are being recruited, and trained, and we would make the first survey observations May 14 except that we have as yet no assurance of that freight, with record cards for the clinical data.

The care of the car will be less of a problem than I anticipated, so long as there is a military group here. Repairs, parts, tires, and fuel are supplied on request, immediately, and accounted to UNRRA. So far we had to replace the battery, secure a new carburetor float, get an inner tube repaired, and secured a new spare tube, replaced the missing windshield wiper blades. I mention these matters merely to show how well we have got what we asked for. The car is in beautiful condition, and makes us quite the envy of those who have been riding in a jeep, or not riding.

The plan to have the assistance of Lt. Col. Charles J. Birt, now with A.C., is still indefinite. He was here for some adequate conversations with us, but was called north, to participate in the progress immediately after the army occupies the industrial sector. His suggestion that we may do well to place the intensive work there, made as early as last January, and still adhered to by him, has been reinforced recently by Col. Poletti, who suggested that he may very soon have some advice for us on that matter. Present rapid troop movement north and west may have determined that matter before this letter reaches you.

Finally, may we ask again that the matter of the camera and timer be placed in the hands of some one person to follow through with the utmost despatch, in the hope that the equipment may be sent by air express to us here in time for installation during the last of June.

Appreciating your consistent enthusiasm and assistance for our project, and with personal greetings,

Cordially,

Copy to Brooks.

Elmer L. Swearingen



OK  
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April 13. On first day at headquarters we attended a conference arranged by Col. Reekie with Mr. Solimena, Minister of the Interior's chief of Public Health, attended by numerous medical advisers, including Dr. Bergami, high commissioner for food, and Dr. Canaperia, the one most interested in tuberculosis. The decision of the meeting, sought by Col. Reekie, was in favor of the medical determination of which mothers and children deserve supplemental food from UNRRA stores. The Italians were to prepare a detailed plan.

The next day we began interviews with Miss Elizabeth Gardiner who had come up from San Spirito, to discuss joining our mission. After Mr. Keeney found that she lacked personal enthusiasm and eagerness for the task of rehabilitating Italians, she and we were convinced that she had better remain with the Yugo-Slavian mission.

On the 15th we were taken by Dr. Landsberg, Italian educated, but now in U.S.P.H.S. for an inspection trip to Frascati, where we saw at first hand the devastation of homes and churches, on the hills which gave military command of Rome from the west. Nevertheless we ate our sandwiches at an operating sidewalk restaurant, and our conversation (Landsberg's) brought delicious artichokes cooked in deep oil, as well as Frascati. That evening we heard Mr. Keeney, chief of the Mission explain UNRRA in Italy to a crowd of Allied officers at the A.R.C. bull session. It is evident that many army men have little understanding of the program or needs.

On the 16th, at a conference of the various department heads in this staff of some 60 people we laid our program down in detail, with much understanding and real cooperation from the others. It was evident to us that more cars would be required, and request for a sedan and a station wagon was made at once by mail. Mr. Keeney consented at once to call the balance of the team forward. Today, 4 weeks later, we are still waiting to hear when they will come. We had assigned to us a 3rd year student of engineering, former lieutenant in the Italian army, as interpreter. He does well.

Quarters are in the Hotel Esperia, where the staff, and others in similar work, have a comfortable mess and quarters, that helps us get acquainted. I have had over a few weeks three different British transients as room-mates. I find it adds much to the interest and understanding. The interchange of ideas between the two groups might well be greater. Mr. Contini has just arrived, bringing word that Salvemini had published in the U.S.A. an attack on our program, asking why take an experiment to Italy, when the money could better be spent on food. For relaxation we have on 6 evenings per week the opportunity to attend the fine opera which is two minutes walk from the hotel. Performances are magnificent in every way. Beginning at 5:30, we can have dinner after the opera.

On the 18th we began our contacts with the Eastman Dental Clinic, which we found operating in somewhat reduced fashion, not badly damaged, and doing a splendid job in plastic surgery. The 19th found me equipped with a card to the PX, even though I needed little save soap. But the rations of cigarettes and gum are the most useful tips and rewards. Imagine giving an adequate tip with 1 cigarette, and getting beams of happiness with "molto grazie" for 3 after a jeep driver has done us a nice favor.

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May 15

Elmer L. Sevringhaus



U.S.C.  
Sevringhaus

AIR MAIL

14 March 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
The University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

Things seem to be moving rapidly and I will keep you posted on events as they occur.

1. Mr. Brooks has obtained and registered the car and tires, and we have obtained the export license. Accordingly, I wired Mr. Brooks to hold the car in Boston until we notify him to deliver it to shipside. Our Ocean Shipping Branch is working on a booking at the present time, and I have every reason to expect the imminent departure of the car.
2. We are sending today letters to Sontag, Schour, Cuckler, Kyhos, Hagedorn, Knowlton and Flumerfeld instructing them to apply immediately for a passport and giving them directions for the application. I am requesting them to notify me of the date of their passport application and the dates of each of their immunizations, so that we can prepare the papers necessary for their travel status including an international vaccination certificate.
3. We must prepare an international vaccination certificate for yourself and Mr. Bragg. Dr. Stebbins already has one. For this purpose I will need to know the dates of each immunization you and Mr. Bragg received. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Bragg so that it will be unnecessary for you to notify him.
4. The target date I have set for transporting the three of you by air to Italy is the last week in March and if possible before the first of April. Before plane bookings can be arranged, we must have your passports and military permits in hand, and this takes ordinarily fourteen days. Every attempt will be made to speed this



14 March 1945

matter. Dr. Stebbins will be called to active duty on March 26, and Mr. Bragg has informed me that he will arrive in Washington on March 22 to take up the numerous details we have left for his attention. I cannot tell you today when you should arrive in Washington. It will depend to some extent on the preparation of the detailed list of supplies and the caring for the numerous details which are sure to arise at that time. As soon as we receive the invoices and packing lists from you, Dr. Gollan will immediately get to work on the supplies. A general statement can be made, however, that you, Mr. Bragg and Dr. Stebbins will all need to be in Washington when your passports and military permits have been received by UNRRA and final arrangements are being made for plane bookings.

5. I consider it important for a member of your team to handle the detail of assembly and transport of your supplies in cooperation with our Ocean Shipping Branch, so that someone in your mission will know the answer to all the details in reference to your supplies. For that reason Dr. Gollan will work out the lists with the Ocean Shipping Branch and will attend to the necessary details. In a week or so, when this work is well under way, we will make arrangements for Dr. Gollan to visit Dr. Krogman and Dr. Sontag.

With kindest personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M.D.  
Health Division

CC: Mr. Bragg



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

March 7, 1945

MAR 10 1945  
HEALTH DIVISION  
UNRRA

MEDICAL DIVISION

*H*  
Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA, Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

*USC  
Surplus*  
I am enclosing the letter from the Borden's Company which has just come in in further explanation of their wanting a copy of the ocean bill of lading signed for customs purposes. This letter need not be returned to my file but I submit it to you so that you may know what the firms expect. If this is necessary I will expect that your shipping department will provide such papers and return them to all the manufacturers when I send you the papers that are provided for in our plans.

We are getting more and more evidence from the manufacturers of the desire to get these materials into motion. Mead Johnson of Evansville, Indiana, wrote me a day or two ago that they were unable longer to hold it at Evansville and therefore had forwarded this to UNRRA. This was definitely with the knowledge that I had told them to hold it and without any permission from me to move it.

I have had materials from the midwest moved by freight to the Unitarian Warehouse as we agreed when in your office on the 27th of February. That should make easy transfer when the time really comes that you are ready to accept the material. Let me call your attention to the difficulties in this matter of getting the manufacturers to move. As I understand the scheme it is at present as follows. You will notify me of a date when you are ready to receive the papers such as invoices and packing lists. I will forward them to you. Two weeks from that time the material can be sent to the UNRRA warehouse. I must have from you a definite indication of when I can notify the manufacturers to do this. I shall then have to send word by letter or telegram to each of the manufacturers involved. All of this necessarily must be done before I leave Madison and I will be the first one to leave to go abroad. Somehow or other we must find a way for circumventing this clumsy and time-consuming process. When can I begin to send word to the manufacturers?

I am getting further evidences of difficulty in holding the team for delayed program. Besides my personal leave problem which runs out July 1st, Dr. Stebbins' which probably runs out a little earlier, I have just heard from Dr. Sontag among other technical things as follows: "You will remember that my leave of absence began March 1st, for a period of three months. Since I did not leave at that time, I may be able to extend the date of that leave somewhat, but at the moment I am not in a position to guarantee that I shall be able to stay the full three months if I leave substantially later than originally expected. The crucial point is that the building plans upon which we have been working must be ready by early summer, because is the European War ends by that time, we should probably proceed at once with construction."

If the currently reported difficulties with the Bonomi cabinet in Italy are going to create an indefinite delay in moving forward with this project, I fear that we shall have to make a complete fundamental revision in the whole program. I should be very much pleased to have your reactions to these several items.

Cordially,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

12596



7 March 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
The University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

Your letter of March 1 arrived yesterday. In regard to Dr. Gollan's proposed visit to Chicago to work with Dr. Krogman, we have the matter in mind and will make arrangements with Dr. Krogman well in advance of April 15.

In regard to export licenses for your supplies, it is my understanding that our Bureau of Supply will apply for these. I believe in most cases it is not necessary for UNRRA to have export licenses. However, that matter is within the responsibility of our Bureau of Supply. In regard to the letter from Du Pont in Wilmington requesting a dock receipt and permit before delivery to our warehouse, I think we can best take care of this detail when we are ready to move the supplies to the warehouse. I note that Du Pont has furnished us with duplicate invoices and triplicate packing lists, and I would suggest that you send us a copy of their letter at the time that you forward the invoices and packing lists.

I feel that our last meeting in Washington was a productive one, and have to report that our cable to Mr. Keeny is now on its way.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M.D.  
Health Division

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

March 1, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA, Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

I talked with Dr. Krogman on the way through Chicago yesterday and he tells me that he would be happy to have Dr. Gollan come and work with him in the very near future. As a matter of fact it must be completed before April 15 when Krogman will be occupied with examinations and other things so that he would have no time to instruct Dr. Gollan in anthropometry. I hope, therefore, that things can be arranged immediately for Gollan to go to Chicago with a note to Dr. W. M. Krogman at the Department of Anthropology, telling him of the date when he is coming. We should like to have Dr. Gollan stop on his return trip to spend a few days with Dr. Sontag at Yellow Springs as you will remember. May I leave this matter for you to arrange with the greatest expedition possible.

On return I found some letters from firms from whom we are making purchases and in which they mention that it will be necessary for us to secure the export license for their products. I am assuming that all this matter of export licenses will be taken care of by the simple fact that these things will be delivered to UNRRA for shipment. If this is not adequate, please let me know at once so that we can give you the appropriate information with which to secure the export license. In addition, one of these letters is from E. I. du Pont de Nemour & Co. of Wilmington. From them we are purchasing a single 50-pound package of Duponol which is a soap substitute. Their last paragraph says: "Dock receipt and permit must be in our possession before carrier will accept material for delivery." This refers to delivery by truck from Wilmington, Delaware, to your warehouse in New York. Please instruct me what reply to send to Du Pont about this material. I have from them already the duplicate invoices and triplicate packing list as well as the shipper's export declaration for the census bureau.

We certainly do appreciate the time and energy you gave to us on Tuesday last and your sustained interest and enthusiasm in this project. Of course, we shall be very much gratified to have further word from you when the report comes back from Mr. Keeny.

Cordially,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv



28 February 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

For your information I am enclosing three copies  
of the bulletin on Immunization.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure--3

AHBryan:ek

C  
O  
P  
Y

*U.S.C.  
Severinghaus*

23 February 1945

Arthur H. Thomas Company  
230-2-4 South 7th Street  
West Washington Square  
Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania

Attention: Mr. Liggett

Dear Mr. Liggett:

This will refer to your telephone conversations with Miss Keller of this division concerning priorities for merchandise which Dr. Severinghaus has ordered from you and wishes to export.

Miss Keller has just talked with Mr. Turner of WPB and clarified in so far as possible Dr. Severinghaus' relationship to UNRRA. As she stated, it is against UNRRA policy to accept responsibility for obtaining WPB priorities and it is Mr. Turner's suggestion that Dr. Severinghaus apply on behalf of his organization to the FEA for the necessary priorities. Mr. Turner also suggested that if no commodities in short supply are involved, Dr. Severinghaus would have no difficulty in obtaining the necessary priorities.

Sincerely yours,

**I. V. SOLLINS**

I. V. Sollins,  
Acting Chief, Medical and  
Sanitation Supplies Division.

cc: Dr. Wood ✓



*Severinghaus called  
wants FEA on whole  
order. Will get it.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 8

February 13, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
HNRRRA, Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

Thank you for your letter of February 10th which came by the hand of Dr. Gollan and for the vial of plague vaccine which we will put into use with the Madison group today.

*Coltrane*  
May I report that all of us at Yellow Springs were well pleased with Dr. Gollan personally and with the prospect of having him with us professionally. Dr. Sontag was distinctly enthusiastic about the matter and I am reporting this also to the Service Committees as a background for their going forward in clearing with your office the arrangements for Dr. Gollan's service in our team. We hope that at a very early date he can have several days with Dr. Krogman in Chicago and after that Dr. Sontag suggests that he spend a week at Yellow Springs working with Dr. Sontag in the examination of children there. I certainly endorse this suggestion.

*Dr. Deady*  
Dr. Stebbins informs me that he will have leave of absence on salary from New York City for approximately one month but that after that his leave will be without pay from New York City. I understand that he gets no compensation from the Public Health Service for this activation although he will be listed as a Public Health Service Officer on active duty. Therefore, it will be necessary for the Service Committees to undertake any compensation that is made to him. He agreed with me that it would be difficult for New York City to accept this money from the Service Committees and therefore it would seem probable that arrangements ought to be made directly between the Service Committees and Dr. Stebbins about any such stipend. If this is going to be out of line with U.S.P.H.S. policy, I think you ought to mention that matter at once to Dr. Joy and Mr. Flint.

*Dr. Wood*  
The x-ray film situation gives us very deep concern. Dr. Sontag has explored this matter rather carefully with the representatives of the x-ray manufacturing firms and he tells us that it will be virtually impossible for even each member of the team to act as a purchasing agent and buy what small amounts of film he can buy individually to contribute to a pool for the whole project. This is because allocations are so well restricted now that any extra purchases would be only as a given distributor felt that he could spare a very small allotment, say a half gross, to a given person at a given time. Five of us are going to make efforts in this direction although from what Dr. Sontag tells us, we feel that this is almost futile. Therefore, we do feel that we must come back with renewed urgency in asking that the UNRRA office in Washington should make strong representation to the Office of Civilian Requirements for such other agency in Washington as it involves in the hope of getting the entire x-ray film allotment set aside. If this cannot be done and it can be arranged in terms of allotments for three or four shipments, that would be the next best.

The only word I have so far on alcohol is that the Alcohol Tax Division will look the matter up and let us know. If I get a definite answer from them, I shall communicate it to you promptly.

Dr. Schour asks me to tell you that last weekend he had the opportunity of inspecting a medical chest No. 60 and that he very definitely would like to have such

a chest or its equivalent incorporated in the material which is sent over with us or is made available to us by the time we arrive in Italy. This would make possible the employment of a service dentist which we all agree with you is very important for the outcome of our program over there. Is it possible for you to give us any assurance on the matter of such a medical chest?

*Sent*  
Could you send me at once another copy of the mimeographed instructions about the UNRRA program in which is the detailed code for recording of physical examinations and diagnoses? My copy got into Dr. Stebbins' material when he left Yellow Springs on Sunday and I am totally without such material at a time when I must finish up the details on the key-sort cards and get them printed. Dr. Schour would like to have a copy of this same set of instructions, also, if you can send him one.

*Bring also*  
Visscher and I will be in Washington for a Committee session at the National Research Council on Monday, February 26th. We are making hotel reservations for that night at the Statler so that we may have Tuesday, the 27th, available for consultations with you and the other officers of UNRRA. From the discussion of our group at Yellow Springs I am very strongly inclined to think that if by that time, definite word has not come through from Mr. Keene so that we can plan an early departure for Italy, that we should consider some other alternative plan for this team.

Cordially yours,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

*P.S. Letter just in from J.B. Burt of W.P.B., O.C.R. makes it obvious to me that our only hope for X-ray film is F.E.A. or UNRRA.*



*Sevringhaus*

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

February 20, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA, Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

In reply to your night letter of February 17th about the confusion incident to some of our supplies arriving at the New York warehouse, let me explain that I have been sending mimeographed copies of Mr. Dominick's letter to all the contributors and all those from whom we are purchasing supplies asking that they hold the packages until I notify them that the date has arrived for shipment. I do not know who has misunderstood these directions and caused this confusion. I am accumulating the invoices and packaging lists here and have not attempted to send them on to you until the batch is essentially complete. Most of these lists are not yet in and I am today dispatching requests to the firms asking again for such lists and pointing out the necessity for holding the packages until word comes that they can be set down in New York at the warehouse. So far I have not instructed anybody to move material away from the manufacturer or dealer's own warehouse.

It occurred to me that probably one reason why such premature moving of material may have occurred is that in my requests to these manufacturers I have often made it urgent that the materials must be available to us at an early date. Originally this was in December and on inquiry from some of them I told them that it would probably occur in early February. However, at no time has any manufacturer been given the name of the warehouse in New York without having the complete statement including the information that it should not move until word came from me.

I am planning, as I mentioned last week, to be in Washington for a committee meeting on February 26, and Dr. Visscher and I plan to stay over for the 27th to confer with you, hoping also to meet Dr. Crabtree, who is reported to be just returning from some first-hand contact in Italy.

Anticipating with pleasure the opportunity of another day of discussing these details with you, I am

Cordially yours,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURE TO ARRANGE SHIPMENT OF SUPPLIES OVERSEAS

1. Packaging and packing of supplies are to be in accordance with standard export packing practice U. S. Army Specification No. 100-14A.

2. Marks to be shown on the outside of the container as follows:

UNRRA (letters 4" to 6" high case permitting,  
letters under 2" high must be stencilled).

Package Number (to be applied only when a quantity of a  
commodity is packed in a number of containers).

Naples

Commodity

Gross Weight

Cubic Measurement

Caution Marks

Assist

Packing list to be placed inside container and a copy in a waterproof envelope is to be securely attached to the outside.

3. Warehousing - When supplies have been properly marked and packed, they may be addressed to and consolidated at: UNRRA, c/o Liberty Freight Forwarding & Warehouse Co. Inc., 573 Hudson Street, New York, New York.

Freight is to be prepaid to UNRRA warehouse. A written statement must be sent to the Ocean Shipping Branch covering details of goods ready to be shipped to UNRRA warehouse with remarks as to special stowage or refrigeration required, if any. The following documents must be supplied to the Ocean Shipping Branch at least two weeks before the transfer of the goods to the UNRRA warehouse:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Send these papers to Dr. ) | 1. 2 copies of invoice or an informal statement |
| Sevringhaus at Madison )   | showing the value of the merchandise.           |
| at the earliest possible ) |   |
| date. )                    | 2. 3 copies of itemized packing list.           |

4. The Consignee in Italy - Documents covering the supplies will be addressed as follows: UNRRA, c/o Allied Commission, Naples, Italy, Notify: Doctors Dudley A. Roekie and Elmer L. Sevringhaus, UNRRA, Ina Bldg., Rome, Italy.
5. Payment of ocean freight to be made by UNRRA.
6. Customs Declaration UA-SP-2003 (which is the symbol covering contributed supplies) to be used.



*Sevringhaus*

17 February 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus

Dr. Maurice Visscher

Mr. Raymond B. Bragg

Dear Sir:

We have just received from Italy a memorandum from Mr. Keeny dated 25 January, and one from Dr. Reekie dated 16 January, the contents of which will be of great interest and importance for you.

1. I will quote Mr. Keeny's memorandum in toto. The subject of the memorandum is "Comment on Unitarian Congregational Nutrition Study", and Mr. Keeny says,

"Col. Reekie very properly points out some practical difficulties that this team will have to face. I hope that no one will read into these remarks, however, the implications that we do not want the teams. We emphatically do.

"We have asked for 25 cars to come over on the first ship that carries UNRRA supplies. When these arrive, our situation will be a lot better. I agree completely with Col. Reekie, however, that the team should not come ahead of their transport. We shall do everything we can to help them, but the safe thing is for them to bring along their own transport."

We have not yet received word of the signing of the agreement between UNRRA and the Italian Government, but have reason to believe that it is imminent and it is not unlikely that the word will be received before Drs. Sevringhaus and Visscher arrive in Washington.

2. Dr. Reekie's memorandum, which occasioned Mr. Keeny's note, is a long one, and I will summarize the important points covered.

a) Apparently through the good offices of Major Birt, a colonel who is a regional commissioner of AMG states that he is strongly in favor of having your project in his district. Dr. Reekie discusses this by pointing out that Italy is at present divided into three zones or spheres of influence. Immediately behind the Fifth and Eighth Army <sup>are</sup> provinces governed by AMG, and the region in question is in this zone. To the rear of the AMG provinces, is a second zone



17 February 1945

ruled by provincial commissioners. The rest of liberated Italy constitutes the third zone referred to as "King's Italy", and it is in this zone that UNRRA operates. Thus Reekie points out that there would be a number of complications in arranging for UNRRA's service in this military area. As Dr. Sawyer and I have pointed out, decisions of this type rest with our Italian Mission, but I think you should regard it as fortunate that both our Italian Mission and the military are anxious to see you start your work in Italy.

b) The greater part of Reekie's memorandum discusses transportation difficulties, with the very strong recommendation, almost a requirement, that you provide a car for your mission. We are all accustomed to discussing transportation difficulties rather glibly, but I think it is hard for us in this country to realize that both the Italian Government and its public health officers and the UNRRA Mission are tied to their offices in the large centers by their lack of transportation, and have very little knowledge of conditions about the country. A letter from our chief nurse states that she finds that the Italian public health nurses know very little about the conditions in their regions, since they have been unable to visit them for some time. Reekie is very emphatic that we (both the mission and yourselves) should not look to the military for aid in transportation since the military has assigned their transport on a table of organization, and never have more than they need, and frequently have less.

Reekie points out that it will be necessary for his officers to get leads from the Department of Health and to go with them to the provinces in order to locate a suitable field for you to work in and to promote the acceptance of the local organizations. I am informed that the 25 cars mentioned in Keeny's memorandum have left the country, or are about to do so, so that there will soon be an opportunity to carry on the field work necessary for finding a location for your work.

c) Reekie goes on to answer specific questions raised in my letter of 8 January. Reekie sees no complication in regard to your use of the photo-fluorographic unit, providing your demands for its transportation do not exceed the possibilities in this matter. He states that they have ordered nine Army portable x-ray outfits and that he believes it will be possible to have one assigned to the region where you are working, to be used by your group and the other health groups in that area. He recommends that you provide yourselves with a dental cone and an ample supply of dental films, since Italians do not do much dental x-ray work.

The electric current in Italy is 110-220 volts, alternate type, but subject to considerable surging. The filaments of Italian light bulbs are constructed to withstand these surgings, but American light bulbs have a very short life, hence it is very important to bring a regulator of some type to protect any equipment that will not stand high voltage peaks. This would apply particularly to your photo-flood lighting.

The Italians do not use x-ray technicians, this work being done by the physicians themselves, and by the salesman of the equipment firms. Reekie advises you to bring your incubator, refrigerator or autoclave if needed, and the refrigerator should be of a kerosene type.

In regard to my question about the feeding program, whether the food



17 February 1945

would be given to families for preparation in their home, or whether mass feeding operations would be employed, Reekie states that these matters have yet to be decided, and that probably both methods would be used.

d) Reekie makes a number of remarks in regard to the nutritional status of Italians in the light of the observations he has made. I wish to report faithfully his statements, but I do think that it should be remembered that lack of transportation has made it impossible for Reekie and Metcalf to specifically seek out areas where malnutrition may be more serious. Reekie states that there are plenty of people in Italy who have been hungry for a long time, but that the kind of starvation that existed in Poland and Russia in the last war will not be found. The chief signs of malnutrition Dr. Metcalf has found in the Rome area consisted of an apparent increase in rickets. The middle class living on fixed incomes have suffered more than the rich, who can afford black market prices or the poor who have received supplementary feeding by a number of agencies. At this point Mr. Keeny makes an annotation to the effect that these special kitchens reached less than a million of the whole population. As I mentioned above, I think that further excursions into the field will reveal regions of malnutrition suitable for your study.

In another communication I have noted that Reekie proposes that his first four public health districts will have their headquarters in Rome, Naples, Sicily and Sardinia, and it is possible that in Sicily or Sardinia, or in the southern part of the Italian boot conditions are more unfavorable due to the lack of supplementary feeding of the type mentioned by Reekie and Mr. Keeny. At any rate the reports from Greece and from Belgium and France sound very much like Reekie's remarks on Italy. The extreme malnutrition expected by everyone has not become apparent and a matter of record so far.

3. I will answer Dr. Sevringhaus' letter in full detail at a later time, but I do wish to comment about the assignment of Dr. Gollan. I was happy to note from Dr. Sevringhaus' letter that the group finds Dr. Gollan acceptable and I wish to report that he is very enthusiastic about the possibility of working with you. A short letter of agreement between UNRRA and the two voluntary agencies establishing the principle that the agencies will reimburse us for his salary is clearing our office the first of next week, and we have every intention of assigning him to you if that is your wish.

A day or so ago Dr. Luigi Buzzatti, an Italian-American pediatrician, who spent some time in Minnesota with Dr. McQuarrie, and who states he knows Dr. Visscher was in the office and it appeared that he would be interested in working with your group. I suggested that he write Dr. Visscher, just in case some change in the Gollan assignment was contemplated, inasmuch as I had not yet heard from Dr. Sevringhaus. However, I wish to make it clear that we have offered this opportunity to Gollan and do not wish to withdraw it as Gollan is very much interested in the opportunity to work with your group.

4. I am very happy to note that Drs. Sevringhaus and Visscher will be in Washington on the 27th of this month and I would strongly urge that Mr. Progg make his proposed visit at that time, since there will be a number of important decisions to consider. At that time we should draw up a cable to Rome informing Mr. Keeny of the personnel to be called forward and the comparative



17 February 1945

urgency of their service and either informing him about the supplies, or telling him that a later cable will supply this information. I hope that we will be in possession of further information at that time or shortly thereafter. Depending upon the amount of information we have, it may be worth while for one or more of you to stay here longer than one day.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Copy to Mr. Silverstein

AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY



*Sevringhaus*

17 Feb. 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Your supplies arriving our New York warehouse contrary to our instructions that you furnish us invoice packing list two weeks in advance causing us considerable confusion, expense. Please hold and follow procedure Dominick memorandum.

A. Hughes Bryan, UNRRA

*Sevringhaus*

16 February 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am enclosing the mimeographed  
material on our field work in medical nutrition,  
which you requested in your letter of 13 February.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure  
SPECIAL DELIVERY



*Sevringhaus*

10 February 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am taking the occasion of Dr. Gollan's conference with you to send you some information about various points raised in our recent correspondence.

1. Dr. Gollan is bringing with him a vial of plague vaccine.
2. In reference to Dr. Gollan's service with your project, the following steps have been taken: A letter of agreement has been drawn up by our General Counsel to be submitted to Mr. Joy and Mr. Flint in the same manner as the previous letter of agreement. This letter establishes the principal that we will loan you Gollan and you will reimburse us for his salary. The letter is now being cleared through the various divisions in UNRRA and should be dispatched to Mr. Joy and Mr. Flint early next week for their concurrences.

I assume that after your conference with Gollan, you will be able to let me know definitely whether you wish to have him as a member of your project. I raise the point since his service has been requested in Italy for another assignment. After some consideration, I felt it would be better for Gollan to postpone his trip to Chicago until we are quite sure that he will be a member of your project.

3. In reference to the activation of Dr. Stebbins' commission in the Public Health Service, we need to know whether New York City will continue to pay his salary during his field service or whether the Unitarian and Congregation Service Committees will pay him. If the latter is the case, we would probably handle it in the same way we are handling Dr. Gollan's assignment. You see when a Public Health Service officer is put on active duty, definite arrangements have to be made about his pay.
4. In regard to X-ray film, the situation is as follows: I am informed that the Office of Civilian Requirements is turning down your application for a priority for X-ray film on the grounds that it is their policy not to grant priorities on items for export unless they are charged to the allocations of either the Foreign Economic Administration or UNRRA. X-ray film is extremely tight during this quarter



10 February 1945

and our requested allocation of X-ray film has been reduced by 75%. I shall now bring the matter to the attention of our Bureau of Supply in order to see what help we can afford you in obtaining film. In the meantime I have been informed by both OCR and our Bureau of Supplies that X-ray film can be obtained on the market without priority in small amounts, and that over a period of time you might be able to buy your total needs.

5. In regard to the alcohol, please let me know the decision of the Alcohol Tax Division. It would, of course, be better for you to ship your own alcohol, but as a matter of fact, we have a rather large amount going to Italy as part of our medical supplies, and it is possible that Reekie would let you have your needs perhaps on a reimburseable basis. Let us first learn, however, whether you will be able to provide it yourself.
6. Please inform Dr. Schour that I really do expect to provide him with the specifications of our Dental Unit in the next few days. I appreciate that I have advised him in these words several times in recent weeks, but I believe I am at last getting some action. Please tell Dr. Sontag that I have obtained from the Picker Company specifications of the Army Mobile Field Unit which I will mail to him immediately upon receipt.
7. You may rest assured that I will notify you immediately of any news in reference to the agreement between the UNRRA Italian Mission and the Italian Government, or in reference to the probable date your personnel will be called forward.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

AHBryan:gx



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

February 6, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA, Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

Confirming my telephone conversation to you of February 5th, let me report that in our attempt to secure the 3000 10x12 x-ray films and 15,000 dental films, we have taken the following steps. Dr. Sontag has approached representatives of the film manufacturers and found out that priorities would be necessary. Thereupon, I have applied to our local War Production Board and have used the blank which we were advised to use. This has been filled out correctly according to the local office but they felt that they were not authorized to assign a priority on it. They have forwarded it to the Washington office late last week. Under date of February 2nd, Dr. Sontag wrote me that he had a letter from the Eastman Kodak Company, indicating that film for the UNRRA project cannot be manufactured and supplied directly by the film companies themselves. The representative of the Eastman Company suggests that arrangements to secure this film from the company's quota should be worked out with the War Production Board. Perhaps this matter should be included in the quota of film being allotted to UNRRA. Therefore, I hope that you or some other member of the UNRRA staff might take the matter up at once with the War Production Board in Washington so that we would know where we stand and whether any other efforts should be made on our part to get the film in time to ship it without freight.

The matter of 95% alcohol for use in the different laboratory tests seemed simple at first. We were told that the Arthur H. Thomas Company could not sell us alcohol but they could act as our agents to purchase it in the State of Pennsylvania. This, however, was found impossible and when our different demands were totalled up we found that we ought to have about 35 gallons 95% ethyl alcohol to carry us through for the 12 months of work. After several inquiries I finally found that my nearest source of information would be Mr. E. C. Yellowley of the Alcohol Tax Division in Chicago. I have addressed a communication to him but have not yet had time to secure his reply. This would be a matter of information as to how I might go about purchasing and shipping this alcohol. It may be that this can be handled very much more simply and directly through an alcohol allotment for UNRRA in other procedures and uses. If you can give us any information or can secure an allotment of approximately 35 gallons for us, that would simplify matters very greatly.

Sincerely,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*  
Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

*Mrs. Blasing 71658  
Health & Med Supplies  
O.C.R.*

1539

FEB 9 1945  
HEALTH DIVISION  
UNRRA

*We are  
sending  
2500 gals*

WU V92 11

MADISON WIS FEB 8 1945 300P

DR A HUGHES BRYAN, UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND  
REHABILITATION ADMN 1344 CONNECTICUT  
AVE WASHDC

CORRECTING FEBRUARY 6TH LETTER REQUEST FIVE THOUSAND TEN BY  
TWELVE FILMS

ELMER L SEVRINGHAUS.

447P

6TH.

*5000 10 x 12*  
*15000 Dental*



Dr Arringtons call 2/5-

MSC

1) Difficulty getting X-ray film - must come under our quota

Want 3000 10 x 12  
15000 Dental

2) Alcohol tax under consid.

Want 35 gals 95% alcohol  
(1/2 standard drum)

3) Follow to stay out with Krugman

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

February 2, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

H  
Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA, Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

FEB 6 1945  
HEALTH DIVISION  
UNRRA

Dear Doctor Bryan:

There are a number of items which I ought to mention to you. First of all, we have not yet received the plague vaccine and I hope that can come very soon so that our immunization program need not be a source of delay in our getting away.

*Gollan*  
The film for x-ray work is apparently going to require priority and yesterday the priority blank was filled out for the local War Production Board. They do not know how to handle it but understand that it has to be sent in to the Washington Office of the War Priority Board for validation. The film is going to be secured by Dr. Sontag. It might help if you could follow this matter up at once with the Washington Office of the War Production Board in case they have any uncertainty as to this being a genuine need for a large lot of film.

You will recall that we planned that the junior pediatrician should train in anthropometry by Dr. Krogman. In view of that decision, I wonder whether Dr. Gollan ought to plan on coming on from Yellow Springs to Chicago to spend a few days with Krogman there. I have mentioned the item to Krogman and the only difference it would make is that Gollan ought to have his authorization before he leaves Washington and change his train reservations accordingly. Let me ask you to use your judgment on this matter provided Gollan's appointment is definite enough to count on this at this trip.

Has any further decision been made as to whether we are to go in uniform or not? It would help so much if the members of the team could be shaping up their plans and trying to secure uniforms. We understand that it is not too easy to get a fit in these materials on extremely short notice and the same thing would apply to extra shoes, especially for the women, if they are to have any significant amount of extra shoes they would have to be supplied with extra shoe stamps which they understand can be done.

I wonder if any word has come through from Italy about the proceedings toward getting the agreement with the Italian government. I note that it is now about 5 weeks since this memorandum was submitted to the Italian government and it begins to make me rather uneasy for fear that the thing will never go through in time to make use of the kind of mission we have planned. Obviously we shall be much interested to have any news that has come to you on these items.

I am pressing for the packaging and labeling of all the freight shipments in order to have them ready to go to New York. This involves a very large amount of detail as you can well imagine. Material that you sent me recently has been put in mimeographed form and distributed to all those who are preparing packages in any part of the country. We shall have rather a major task here of packaging a variety of things and that is to be carried on by the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory just as soon as we can get the last bits of equipment together. There will also be quite a variety of packages coming from A. H. Thomas and Co. in Philadelphia but about



that I have very little fear since they are experienced packers. The last of the orders have been put in their hands by now.

Cordially,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

P.S. your letter of 1/31 just arrived

*Sevringhaus*

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 14, 1945

IN REPLY REFER TO:

WPB Dept. 1250

#-  
Dr. A. H. Bryan  
Health Division  
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration  
1344 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

FEB 15 1945  
HEALTH DIVISION  
UNRRRA

Dear Dr. Bryan:

This is a copy of the letter which we sent to Dr. Sevringhaus last Saturday denying his application for x-ray film. Perhaps it will be of some assistance to you in trying to convert UNRRA to your way of thinking. Good luck.

Very sincerely yours,

*Ruth Blassberg*

Ruth Blassberg  
Surgical & Accessory Health Supplies Section  
Chemicals, Drugs and Health Supplies Division  
Office of Civilian Requirements

Enclosure



2624



February 10, 1945

WPB Dept. 1250

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
1300 University Avenue  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

In re WPB 541 application, WPB case #66 453

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

Your application requesting priority assistance for x-ray film is denied because the official policy of the Office of Civilian Requirements does not permit assistance for any commodity to be used overseas if the domestic civilian stock is in short supply.

Although we recognize the value of the project you are undertaking, and would like to make the film available to you, we are nevertheless in the position of protecting the supply of film allotted to civilians against diversion to non-civilian, non-domestic use. Therefore we have consulted officials of both the Foreign Economic Administration and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in an effort to persuade them to supply the film you need out of their allotments. Neither agency has up to this time indicated a desire to comply with our suggestion.

Inasmuch as hospitals throughout the country have reported to us that they are experiencing difficulties in obtaining sufficient quantities of x-ray film, we cannot permit any portion of our civilian allotment, however small, to be authorized for overseas shipment. We do feel, however, that because your research is being sponsored by UNRRA, you are justified in requesting a part of their allotment if you cannot procure the necessary amount on the open market.

We regret having to deny your application, and we trust that the agency sponsoring your project will assume responsibility for supplying the necessary film.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph B. Burt, Chief  
Surgical & Accessory Health Supplies Section  
Chemicals, Drugs & Health Supplies Division  
Office of Civilian Requirements

R Blassberg:ID



*Sevringhaus*

31 January 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

This letter will reply to your two letters of 26 January.

1. I have no hesitation in recommending Dr. Gollan from the point of view of his personality, and I am sure that you and your group will find him a most agreeable person. I note that Dr. Fertig will not be able to go to Europe due to his brief leave of absence, and that when arrangements are completed for Dr. Gollan's services, your list of personnel will be complete.
2. I am at present clearing through the various headquarter's divisions of UNRRA a letter of agreement enabling us to assign Dr. Gollan to your project and to receive a reimbursement for his salary. When this agreement has been approved at headquarters and has received the approval of the Public Health Service, we will forward it to Mr. Joy and Mr. Flint. I am sorry that in quoting Dr. Gollan's salary to you I forgot to state that an officer overseas receives an additional 10 per cent of his base pay. In Dr. Gollan's case this amounts to \$300 a year in addition to the \$5026.50, which I mentioned in my letter.
3. We are making arrangements for Dr. Gollan to attend the conference in Yellow Springs, Ohio with yourself, Dr. Sontag, Dr. Stebbins, Dr. Schour and Dr. Fertig.
4. I have sent Dr. Stebbins a copy of the nutrition assessment card as you requested.
5. Dr. Gollan will bring the vial of plague vaccine with him to the conference.
6. Word has not yet been received that the Italian Government has signed an agreement with UNRRA. The latest information was that Mr. Keeny was having a conference this week with all the principal ministries involved in the agreement so that we may hope for definite word in the not too distant future.
7. In reference to the memorandum from Mr. Dominick to me concerning the shipment of your supplies, I interpret paragraph 3 to mean that you should



Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus

- 2 -

31 January 1945

supply the Ocean Shipping Branch with the necessary information about the goods ready to be shipped to the warehouse two weeks before the transfer of the goods to the warehouse. I have called the attention of the Ocean Shipping Branch to the fact that your name is not Wilmer A. Sevringhaus.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

AIR MAIL

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

January 26, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

H  
Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA, Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

JAN 29 1945  
HEALTH DIVISION  
UNRRA

Dear Doctor Bryan:

①  
In reply to your telegram and letter of January 23rd about Dr. Gollan let me report as follows: While in Cincinnati on the 24th I talked to Dr. Weech and his four senior residents; one of them is a man who would have to be released from the Army if he were to be made available to us and since there is so much difficulty and uncertainty attendant upon this, I think we shall not attempt this process at all. The others there would not be available for one reason or another. I know of no other young pediatrician whom we can approach. I discussed Dr. Gollan's qualifications with Dr. Sontag and Dr. Visscher and we are agreed that we would be well advised to accept your suggestion and Dr. Gollan's interest and try to plan on including him as our junior pediatrician. This is with the assumption based on your letter that he is an agreeable sort of person and would fit into the team. Since you know him and I do not, I think we must rely on your judgment here. You have been with the team and know the entire spirit of the venture enough so that I have no hesitancy on this matter.

*Dr. Sontag*  
②  
We should like to have Dr. Gollan join with Dr. Sontag, Schour, Stebbins, Fertig and me in our one-day conference at Yellow Springs, Ohio, on Sunday, February 11th. For that purpose, let me urge that at once he secure passage on Pennsylvania train No. 31 out of Washington on the evening of Saturday, the 10th, to Xenia, Ohio, where Dr. Sontag will be meeting Dr. Stebbins and Dr. Fertig who will come from New York on the same train. The return trip should be arranged with reservations on Pennsylvania No. 30 from Columbus to Washington. He can get from Xenia to Columbus on a slightly earlier train at the same time that Stebbins and Fertig leave. The earlier train does not carry a Washington car. Yellow Springs is only 9 miles from Xenia and Sontag tells me that he will be glad to arrange that meeting.

③  
④  
In preparation for this meeting, may I ask you at once to send a copy of the UNRRA key-sort card to Dr. Stebbins at the De Lamar Institute of Public Health, 600 West 158th Street, New York. Dr. Stebbins informed me by telephone yesterday that Dr. Fertig will not be able to go with us to Europe because he can only get three months total leave and would have to spend two months of this on shipboard. On the other hand, Dr. Fertig is much interested and would like to participate in the preliminary plans of statistical and record type and in the final evaluation studies. Therefore, we are arranging the conference above referred to but we will not attempt to take a statistician with us to Europe. It means that we will then secure such statistical aid as we can on the other side. This you will see should suffice now to make the personnel list a closed list.

You will be interested to know that just after I returned from my last trip to Washington, Mrs. Birt had a letter from Major Birt saying that he had been in touch with Mr. Keeny and that he had been invited to consider accepting the responsibility for all of the welfare section of UNRRA in Italy. This fits in so perfectly with my desires about Birt's helping that I am very happy about the matter. I hope that will be consummated before I get over there. I have written Birt to that effect.

517926



Dr. Bryan - # 2

⑤ Let me call your attention to the fact that we are still waiting to receive the package of plague vaccine from you so that the entire teamout here can be immunized with plague.

⑥ We have as yet had no indication whether the Italian government has ratified the fundamental agreement with UNRRA and I assume this means you have no further news. We are of course very eager to hear anything that comes through in these matters.

Cordially,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

January 26, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UnRRA, Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

1  
Par 3

In reply to your letter of January 20th about shipping instructions, let me ask first of all ~~this~~ this is to indicate that we may now begin to ship materials to the Liberty Freight and Forwarding and Warehouse Company in New York? The letter does not say specifically whether we should begin to ship or not and I have not instructed anybody to do so until I have that word from you. One paragraph would suggest that we are not ready to ship where it says "A written statement must be sent to the Ocean Shipping Branch two weeks in advance of the transfer of goods". I am trying to get that information from the manufacturers but only a small part of it is now in.

2

In the Item 4, they have my name as Wilmer instead of Elmer and the middle initial "A" instead of "L". These are small items but it may be that it ought to be corrected. I think otherwise the instructions are clear and I will have copies made to send on to the manufacturers at once, telling them that everything is set except the date on which they may ship.

Sincerely,

Elmer L. Sevringhaus

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv



30 January 1945

TO: Dr. Sawyer *Has.*  
Dr. Dearing

FROM: Dr. Bryan *R. H. B.*

The attached letter from Dr. Sevringhaus indicates that the members of his project would like to have Dr. Gollan as junior pediatrician. This will involve a financial arrangement by which the sponsors of this project reimburse UNRRA for Dr. Gollan's salary and UNRRA in turn will reimburse the Public Health Service. This would probably involve a separate contract between UNRRA and the Unitarian Service Committee and the Congregational Christian Service Committee, and I believe it would be necessary to await word from Italy that the project is accepted as part of the Italian Mission before entering into such a contract.

In the meantime, the immediate problem is whether we are justified in paying Dr. Gollan's expenses to attend a meeting in Ohio with Drs. Sontag, Schour, Stebbins, Fertig and Sevringhaus on 11 February as outlined in paragraph 2 of Dr. Sevringhaus' letter.

Please let me have your advice on these matters.

Attachment

*M. Sigel 139*

*Sevringhaus*

30 January 1945

TO: Dr. Sawyer  
Dr. Dearing

FROM: Dr. Bryan

The attached letter from Dr. Sevringhaus indicates that the members of his project would like to have Dr. Collan as junior pediatrician. This will involve a financial arrangement by which the sponsors of this project reimburse UNRRA for Dr. Collan's salary and UNRRA in turn will reimburse the Public Health Service. This would probably involve a separate contract between UNRRA and the Unitarian Service Committee and the Congregational Christian Service Committee, and I believe it would be necessary to await word from Italy that the project is accepted as part of the Italian Mission before entering into such a contract.

In the meantime, the immediate problem is whether we are justified in paying Dr. Collan's expenses to attend a meeting in Ohio with Drs. Sontag, Schour, Stebbins, Fertig and Sevringhaus on 11 February as outlined in paragraph 2 of Dr. Sevringhaus' letter.

Please let me have your advice on these matters.

Attachment



*Sevringhaus*  
27 January 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am enclosing a copy of my letter  
to Mr. Bragg on the matter of the tentative  
transportation schedule.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

AIR MAIL

Enclosure

Same letter to Dr. Visscher and Mr. Joy

*Sevringhaus*

23 January 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

When you were last in this office we discussed the position of junior pediatrician on your project and the difficulty you were having in obtaining a suitable applicant. At that time I mentioned Dr. Frank Gollan and stated that I would determine whether he would be interested in such an assignment. Dr. Gollan has read the correspondence and material referable to your project and tells me that he would be most interested in spending a year with your team in this capacity.

It is my opinion that he would be a very useful team member and I think you would find it advantageous to have a man rather than a woman in this position. Unfortunately I am unable to locate Dr. Gollan's application blank but I have obtained the following information from his file.

You will probably wish to discuss this matter with your colleagues and perhaps you will desire additional information about Dr. Gollan's training and experience. Dr. Gollan has been commissioned in the grade of Surgeon (equivalent to Major) in the U. S. Public Health Service and assigned to UNRRA. I believe that we will be able to make him available to your project if you so desire, with a financial arrangement by which your sponsors will donate to UNRRA the amount of his salary. The pay for this grade is \$5026.50 a year. If you decide you would like to have Dr. Gollan's services, the financial arrangements will require discussion by your sponsors and our Bureau of Finance and Administration.

I have the following information to offer about Dr. Gollan.

Frank Gollan, naturalized American citizen of Czech ancestry  
Born July 1, 1909  
Married with two children  
Graduated University of Prague 1934  
Post-graduate work in France, Switzerland, Austria and Czechoslovakia  
Commissioned in the U. S. Public Health Service December 8, 1944 and  
assigned to UNRRA



23 January 1945

Dr. Gollan has been practicing pediatrics in Cleveland for the last several years and has served as research associate with Dr. Harry Goldblatt, Professor of Experimental Pathology, in his studies on experimental hypertension. Dr. Goldblatt recommended him very highly and his letter contains the following statement:

"I have known Dr. Gollan for the past five years and during the past four years he has been associated with me in our research on experimental hypertension. He has proved to be an honest, diligent, careful and cooperative worker, with original ideas and great zeal for medical research. He has been with me only on a part time basis because he practices medicine as a source of income. In my opinion, he is an excellent all around physician, but his specialty is pediatrics. In this field he has had excellent training."

In his original letter asking an assignment with UNRRA, Dr. Gollan wrote as follows:

"I am a naturalized citizen of the United States, of Czech extraction, and thirty-four years old. I received my medical education in Europe; Prague, Paris, Vienna, Zurich, Amsterdam.

I specialized in Pediatrics with particular regard to infant care and nutritional deficiencies as caused by the prevailing sanitary conditions in Czechoslovakia and France. With the publication of several scientific papers on those subjects in French, Czech and German medical periodicals, I terminated, after four years, the research in this field. During these years I also had the opportunity to gather wide experience in the control of epidemics and contagious diseases in Czechoslovakia and France - syphilis and tuberculosis.

At present I am the physician of the Bellefair Children's Home in Cleveland, Ohio and research assistant in Experimental Pathology in the Department of Dr. Harry Goldblatt at Western Reserve University.

I speak and write fluently the following languages: Czech, Slovak, French, German. I understand Polish and Slovenian. I have travelled repeatedly in Italy, Holland, Yugoslavia, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden and Denmark.

In Italy, as delegate of Czechoslovakia to the International Congress in Pediatrics, 1937, I had the opportunity to gather information about Italian Public Health administration and sanitation."

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus

- 3 -

23 January 1945

When you have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with your colleagues and sponsors, I will be happy to hear from you and to make such additional arrangements as may be necessary.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

AHBryan/mb  
Copy to HKAbrams



*Sevringhaus*

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Major Frank Gollan, USPHS anxious to be junior pediatrician your project.

Airmail details follow.

A. H. Bryan, MD, UNRRA

AHBryan/mb  
23 jan 45

*Sevringhaus*

20 January 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am enclosing a memorandum from Mr. Dominick, Chief of our Ocean Shipping Branch, outlining in detail the procedure to be adopted in the shipment of the supplies of your special mission. If you do not understand any of these items, I will attempt to clear them up with the proper authorities.

Under paragraph 2, the word "Assist" is placed on the outside of the container to indicate that UNRRA is handling this shipment on an assist basis. Under paragraph 6 the customs declaration will, I understand, be filled out by our Ocean Shipping Branch.

The CPA releases mentioned for tires and automobiles may or may not refer to other items you are shipping, and this question can only be decided when a complete list of your supplies is available. It has to do with the shipment of goods which are rationed in this country, and thus refers to somewhat different articles from those requiring a priority from WPE.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

AIR MAIL



*Sevringhaus*

19 January 1945

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am enclosing a paper prepared by our  
Welfare Division which gives a good deal of back-  
ground information on Italy, which I believe you and  
your project members will find of interest.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

Same letter sent to Dr. Visscher and Mr. Bragg.

*Seyringhaus*

18 January 1945

Dr. Maurice Visscher  
University of Minnesota  
The Medical School  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Elmer L. Seyringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin:

Dear Dr. Visscher and Dr. Seyringhaus:

I am enclosing in this letter a copy of a memorandum to Dr. Sawyer reporting the results of the meeting in Chicago on 14 January. I trust you will look it over carefully and inform me if I have made any misinterpretations. On page 2, Roman numeral IV, I have drawn up a tentative transportation schedule and after discussing the matter briefly with Dr. Seyringhaus, I arranged the individuals in the initial group in an order of priority which he suggested. Certain points in reference to this transportation schedule have occurred to me and I will pass them on to you as suggestions for further consideration.

1. Dr. Visscher might serve as executive officer during his stay in Italy, in which case it might be advantageous to delay Mr. Bragg's transportation until Dr. Visscher is ready to return. I made this suggestion with the thought that it will be difficult to arrange for the practically simultaneous arrival of five members of the initial group.
2. It occurred to me that Dr. Sontag might be included in the initial group, since his leave of absence will probably be for three months following March 1.
3. In reference to a dentist to carry on the therapeutic program, it appears wise to plan to use an Italian dentist since our transportation schedule is more than full, and since the dental therapeutic program is not one of the original aims of the project.

Similarly, with respect to an anthropologist, since Dr. Krogman cannot serve, it would appear wise to have the junior pediatrician make anthropometric measurements on the subjects of the intensive study, and not plan to transport from this country an anthropologist. This statement is contrary to a brief conversation I had with Dr. Visscher immediately after the meeting, and is made in view of the fact that the list of individuals to be transported is rather long. I have written a letter to Dr. Schour presenting this point of view.



Dr. Visscher, Dr. Sevringhaus

- 2 -

18 January 1945

I have written a letter to Mr. Bragg transmitting to him a copy of my memorandum to Dr. Sawyer, and discussing with him the various tasks he might perform in Washington as listed on page 2, Roman numeral III. I will expect to hear further from you both, in reference to matters discussed in this letter.

Before closing this letter, I would like to state that I consider the spirit shown at the meeting by all team members was excellent, and that I was particularly pleased with the great flexibility shown by all.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

45c  
27 November 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

Mr. Ibert has referred to me your letter of 21 November, with the request that I reply to some of your questions. I believe that he is also writing you a letter.

The agreement for the establishment of your project has been sent to Italy for ratification by UNRRA's Italian Mission after consultation with the Italian Government. We will not be able to effect any final arrangements until we have heard from Mr. Keeny, Chief of UNRRA's Italian Mission. However, as these matters tend to drag, it is important to get as much of the preliminary work done as possible.

We should get and process application blanks for all of your personnel. We should receive their physical examinations, and soon thereafter we should start them on their course of inoculations and have them apply for their passports.

It is extremely difficult to foretell the exact date on which we can obtain transportation for personnel going overseas, and it may be necessary to make some adjustments in the schedule of transportation in reference to our Italian operations. We are facing a delay in getting our own supplies over there, due to the extremely tight shipping situation which has reference in part to the increased war activity in Western Europe and the Philippines.

I fully understand how anxious you are to make your plans in reference to your leave of absence, but I think you can understand that it is difficult for me to promise in more than approximate terms when you and the other senior members of the project may be able to go to Italy. I will keep you currently informed, and would like to receive from you a table of organization as soon as you learn whether Dr. Jones and others will be able to join the project, and have settled on men to fill the vacancies.

In regard to supplies, I would advise you to calculate on 500 people for one year. Such a shipment might last you a full year, and would certainly last you three-fourths to one-half year, if you undertook to study more than 500 people. We would not advise relying on transportation of supplies every three months. The question of whether any of the supplies are perishable



27 November 1944

will enter into this decision. I would urge you to draw up a complete list of supplies for 500 people for one year specifying each item, and I can make arrangements with our shipping people and give you instructions as to where in the United States they should be delivered. Our shipping people like to have a complete list and are very reluctant to deal with partial and recurring lists for the same project.

I note that you mention dried milk, and I am wondering whether this is dried whole milk or skim milk, as we are sending a fairly large quantity of dried skim milk to Italy.

You may rest assured that we are all very happy with the progress which has been made in forwarding this worthwhile project, and we are now reaching the very difficult stage of operations in which the clearance and transportation of personnel and the transportation of supplies will offer many practical difficulties and will necessitate our all working closely together and perhaps even modifying plans in respect to timing. We certainly have every intention on our part of doing our best to facilitate your work.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Copies to: Dr. Visscher  
Dr. Reekie  
Mr. Iberg



*Letter Secv. Com*

11 October 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
1300 University Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am enclosing some mimeographed material which describes the framework within which we hope to set up nutrition surveys in the Balkan subregion and possibly in other areas in which UNRRA may operate. It has occurred to me that this material would not only be of interest to you, but might also be useful in formulating your plans for a special study. It would be highly desirable to have nutrition assessments sufficiently standardized so that the results would be more or less comparable.

I appreciate that the study you propose is of a special and more detailed nature than the surveys we are planning, but it is nevertheless possible that that part of your study which is comparable to ours might be reported on a similar basis.

I very much enjoyed meeting you and Drs. Visscher, Keys, McQuarrie, Brekhus, and Mr. Bragg in Minneapolis the day before yesterday and am awaiting the write-up of your plans which were formulated at that time.

It occurred to me, after I left Minneapolis, that it would be highly desirable to have on file, a brief description of the realimentation study, which you propose to make, as I believe Dr. Reekie would like to carry a copy of such a statement to Italy with him, and copies should be sent to various other officers of UNRRA providing final arrangements are made for your study. Such a statement need not be long, but should define rather clearly the type of study and procedures that you propose to use.

One of our nutrition officers has called to my attention the possible importance of making studies of plasma and blood volume in undernourished people and states that experiments in animals indicate a drop in blood volume as a result of malnutrition which precedes any change in the hematocrit or plasma protein concentration in the blood. This officer calls attention to the fact that Dr.



Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus

- 2 -

11 October 1944

Oregersen, Professor of Physiology, at Columbia University, has developed a suitable portable kit for determining blood volume. I am wondering whether you and your group would consider such studies of importance in your work.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosures 2

Copies to: Dr. Reekie  
Dr. Visscher

AHBryan/mb

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

December 9, 1944

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
Health Division, UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

DEC 12 1944

Dear Doctor Bryan:

There are several questions that I should like best of all to discuss with you and Dr. Sawyer in person but it seems rather impractical in several ways to come into Washington at this time. May I request, therefore, that as a substitute you call me by telephone on Tuesday afternoon, the 12th, between 2 and 3 P.M., Washington time. I will make it a point to be available at my office desk in the hospital which can be reached by phone, Fairchild 3600, during that hour. I hope it can be arranged so that you and Dr. Sawyer can each have a telephone in hand on the same connection when we talk.

One of the items most urgent on my agenda is an understanding about availability of x-ray equipment in whatever center is chosen for our work in Italy. Do you have any information as to the present x-ray equipment in the Italian civilian hospitals? If not, does it seem possible that you could get that in order to enable us to make a decision before we ship our supplies and start on the mission? If not, will it be necessary for us to order an adequate x-ray equipment as a part of the equipment that we are going to ship to Italy for our use? A letter from Dr. Schour tells me that he has mentioned this matter and includes a very complete list of x-ray equipment which UNRRA is ordering. I do not understand, however, whether this will be ready in time for us to make any use of it and whether in fact such a unit would be available to us for our purpose. Until I can have this situation pretty well cleared up, I do not want to place any orders for an x-ray outfit. This would obviously cost us somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2000.00 complete, and I am very sure that in order to get it we would have to have at least a triple A priority.

Another item of very real importance will be information as to what progress you have been able to achieve with the requests for triple A priority on the Van Slyke specific gravity apparatus and the Coleman Spectrophotometer.

The camera equipment and films have been ordered. We secured an AA-1 priority for the camera equipment and AA-5 for the film which the dealer here believes is adequate to care for it. However, in connection with that purchase, I find out that there will be an item of United States Government taxes to be taken into account. I believe that we are such a mission as ought to be exempted from taxes on all this equipment and material. Can you find out in Washington how such exemptions should be applied for and let me know so that can be taken care of without delay? This will apply to the laboratory equipment, cameras, film, and any other supplies although I do not know of any definite items which would come under taxable regulations.

I have assurances now of adequate supplies of wheat germ, corn germ, sunflower seed meal, soy flour, skimmed milk powder, and of vitamin concentrates. In order to plan any further we ought to know at once approximately what kind of food-stuffs UNRRA is planning to supply for the Italian people in the region where we will operate. This will enable us to know how to plan our supplements, how much to order, and in what respect we shall have to supplement the diets which you are already planning.

514295



*Army*

It has been suggested to me by local air force medical officers in Madison and yesterday by Brigadier General Simmons to Visscher in Minneapolis that definite arrangements ought to be made with appropriate Army officers in Washington in advance so that we might draw on the Quartermaster or other Army sources in Italy for certain types of supplies. I suppose that action ought to be initiated from your office. Can you suggest anything further that can be done about that at this time? Such advance <sup>provision</sup> ~~position~~ might save a great deal of difficulty in the case of such heavy chemicals as sulfuric acid, some supplies as a Coleman stove. Is this the way we should secure the x-ray films of which we will need a large amount, or should that be purchased here and taken with us?

*Uniforms*

Can you give us any information at this time about the uniforms with which we should be fitted? Apparently a little time is necessary to get uniforms custom-tailored and advance word on this matter would relieve the minds of all of us, I am sure.

At the rate at which things are now developing, I wonder whether there is much chance that Visscher, Bragg and I can get away by January 1st. I am making tentative plans to be in a further conference with you and others as necessary on Thursday and Friday, December 28 and 29. Does this seem an appropriate day for me to be there and talk the details over with you?

*Personnel*

Personnel looks now to be as follows: Bragg, Visscher and Sevringhaus for the first trip and the balance of the team to come over on the second trip to include Klineberg, Kyhos, Hagedorn, Knowlton, to which will be added a dietitian, Miss Ruth Flumerfelt, the dental research worker, Dr. Isaac Schour, epidemiologist, Dr. Ernest L. Stebbins, Commissioner of Health, New York City; Pediatrician, Dr. Lester Sontag of Yellow Springs, Fels Foundation; assistant in anthropometry, Dr. William Krogman of the University of Chicago; with the places of Ancel Keys and Chester Jones still uncertain but probably to be settled by the time we talk on the phone.

*Shipment*

Finally, the manufacturers of the vitamins and food concentrates would appreciate an informal word from you through me as to how their materials should be packaged; that is, whether in glass, in tin, in paper and in what sort of units. The final shipping directions can come from you subsequently. Will it be satisfactory to have the wheat and corn germ, the sunflower meal, the soy flour and the skimmed milk powders in barrels or should it be in smaller units for easier handling?

I hope that this is not too much of an order for a Tuesday telephone conversation and I hope we can get help on many of these items at that time. Thanking you in advance, I am

Cordially yours,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

WW8 NL PD

MADISON WIS DEC 7 1944

A HUGHES BRYAN

HEALTH DIVN UNRRA 1344 CONN AVE

SPECTROPHOTOMETER AND BLOOD SPECIFIC GRAVITY APPARATUS OF VAN  
SLYKE NOT AVAILABLE UNLESS YOU CAN SECURE TRIPLE A RATING AND  
ALSO ARMY RELEASE FOR US TO SEND MANUFACTURERS

ELMER L SEVERINGHAUS.

VAN SLYKE.

844A.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

December 5, 1944

MEDICAL DIVISION

DEC 8 1944

H  
Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
Health Division, UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

I shall reply in greater detail to your letter of November 27th very soon. Things are moving on. At present I should like your urgency added to our efforts to obtain sufficient priorities to buy a Coleman Jr. Spectrophotometer as one important bit of laboratory equipment for vitamin and chemical analyses in Italy. Conference shows this to be most helpful of the various types of apparatus for colorimetry and also most safely portable. It is being made only for Army use. I was assured by phone today from the manufacturer at Maywood, Illinois, that if appropriate clearance is granted from Washington, they can make delivery to me within five days. We have no substitute apparatus nor no special electric colorimeter here or at Minneapolis which I could take. The local officer of the W.P.B. informed me that if these blanks were sent to Washington and cleared, that we would have the minimum delay. Assistance from some member of your staff might help to save many days in getting our entire equipment ready for shipment to Italy. Therefore, I solicit this effort on your part with the enclosed blanks.

Sincerely,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

*Memo to Lazarus for priority*

513518

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

December 6, 1944

MEDICAL DIVISION

DEC 9 1944

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
Health Division, UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

Since writing you on the 5th, I have received a quotation from E. Machlett and Son on the portable blood specific gravity equipment according to Van Slyke et al saying that they can make delivery in eight to ten weeks on an AA-1 preference rating. This will obviously interfere seriously with getting our supplies. I am enclosing the appropriate War Production Board forms asking that you make an effort to get this rating AAA so we can obtain it in time for the shipment of equipment. I think a similar ruling might help with the Coleman Spectrophotometer although I happen to know that they are on hand for delivery if adequate rating is assigned.

Sincerely,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

513711



6 jan 12:25 pm

Mr. Kirschbaum called with this message:

"The Administrator of WPB order L 144 is W. R. Turner,  
RE 7500, ext. 73629."

*8-10 copies on AA-1*

## EQUIPMENT:

APPLICATION FOR SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION  
REQUIRED BY A WPB ORDER OR REGULATION

## SPACE BELOW FOR WPB USE ONLY

LEND-LEASE REQUISITION NO.	WPB CASE NO.	
DIVISION CODE	DATE IN	DATE OUT
ROUTING		

BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS FORM see the current WPB-1319 instructions  
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ADDRESS OF  
APPLICANT  
(Street,  
City, Zone  
State)

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

1300 University Ave.  
Madison, 6, Wisconsin

6. WPB ORDER NO. (See Instructions)

L-144

2. NATURE OF APPLICANT'S BUSINESS (Indicate type of product to be man-  
ufactured or service to be rendered)

Medical Care

7. WPB DIVISION CONTROLLING EQUIPMENT (See  
Instructions)

Consumers durable goods

3. APPROXIMATE TOTAL DOLLAR  
VALUE OF THIS APPLICATION

\$115.75

4. APPLICANT'S PHONE NO.

F-3600

5. DATE OF APPLI-  
CATION

12-5-44

8. I REQUEST AUTHORITY (Check one only) ☐ TO DELIVER, ☒ TO RECEIVE, ☐ TO \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify) THE ITEMS SPECIFIED  
BELOW, ALL OF WHICH ARE CONTROLLED BY A SINGLE WAR PRODUCTION BOARD DIVISION UNDER THE ORDER SHOWN IN BLOCK 6 ABOVE.

NAME OF ITEM (Specify if used or reconditioned)	MAKE AND MODEL NO. (If not standard, give special features)	SIZE OR CAPACITY	QUANTITY	PURCHASE PRICE PER UNIT	REQUIRED DE- LIVERY DATES (Month, day)	WPB USE ONLY	
						QUAN- TITY (g)	RATING (h)
Portable kit for determining blood specific gravity	VanSlyke	Kit B	1	\$115.75	12-15-44		
THIS EQUIPMENT IS TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNRRA OPERATIONS IN ITALY.							

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YOU FOR THE PURPOSES THERE INDICATED.THIS AUTHORIZATION BECOMES  
VOID IF NOT EXERCISED BY

DATE



9. A. THE EQUIPMENT IS FOR (a) ☐ REPLACEMENT (b) ☐ MAINTENANCE (c) ☐ ADDED CAPACITY  
(d) ☒ NEW PLANT (e) ☐ STAND-BY

B. (Answer only if you have checked (c), (d), or (e).)

1. WILL INSTALLATION OF THE EQUIPMENT REQUIRE CONSTRUCTION RESTRICTED BY ORDER L-41? ☐ YES ☒ NO  
2. IF "YES," HAS APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT BEEN FILED? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
3. IF "YES," IS APPLICATION ☐ APPROVED ☐ DENIED ☐ PENDING. GIVE PROJECT CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

10.

PROBABLE  
SUPPLIER'S  
NAME AND  
ADDRESS  
(Street,  
City,  
Zone,  
State)

E. Machlett and Son  
220 East 23rd Street  
New York, 10, N.Y.

11. A. WHERE IS EQUIPMENT TO BE USED?

(Street, City, Zone, State. If for  
export, give name of country.)

Naples, Italy

11. B. NUMBER AND TYPE OF EXPORT LICENSE

Not commercial export

12. FOR WHAT PURPOSE AND IN WHAT MANNER IS THE EQUIPMENT TO BE USED?

To secure accurate records of nutritional deficiency and enable  
U.N.R.R.A. to plan better nutrition for liberated countries.

13. STATE AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS A WEEK EQUIPMENT IS TO BE USED

50

14. URGENCY STANDING NUMBER, IF ANY

15. HAS APPLICATION FOR THIS EQUIPMENT BEEN FILED PREVIOUSLY? ☐ YES ☒ NO. IF "YES," WAS APPLICATION ☐ APPROVED  
☐ DENIED ☐ PENDING? IF DENIED OR APPROVED, GIVE DATE \_\_\_\_\_ AND CASE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

16. DO YOU INTEND TO APPLY FOR TAX AMORTIZATION PRIVILEGES FOR THE EQUIPMENT? ☐ YES ☒ NO (If so, this  
WPB-1319 must be accompanied by a WPB-3467)

17. IF THE EQUIPMENT IS FOR REPLACEMENT

A. WHY CAN'T EXISTING EQUIPMENT BE REPAIRED?

New equipment

B. HOW WILL ITEMS TO BE REPLACED BE DISPOSED OF?

18. FROM WHOM AND WITH WHAT RESULTS HAVE YOU TRIED TO OBTAIN USED, IDLE OR RECONDITIONED EQUIPMENT? (Answer only  
if new equipment is being applied for.)

Only similar equipment is in Army and Navy laboratories.

19. HOW IS THE WORK NOW BEING ACCOMPLISHED?

To begin January, 1945.

## THIS PAGE FOR WPB USE ONLY

## CLEARANCE

## C. FOR USE BY FIRST REFERENCE DIVISION

## D. FOR USE BY DIVISION CONTROLLING EQUIPMENT OR FIELD OFFICE

ASSIGNED TO (Analyst)

INITIALS

ASSIGNED TO (Analyst)

INITIALS

CASE IS:

DATE OF ACTION

RECOMMENDATION:

DATE OF ACTION

- ☐ URGENT  
☐ ESSENTIAL  
☐ IMPORTANT, BUT CAN BE DEFERRED  
☐ DENIED AND FORMAL DENIAL SIGNED ON ORIGINAL OF FORM  
☐ DENIED AND EXPLANATORY LETTER ATTACHED

- ☐ APPROVED  
☐ APPROVED WITH CHANGES  
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☐ DENIED AND EXPLANATORY LETTER ATTACHED

REMARKS

REMARKS

## E. CONCURRING DIVISION OR AGENCY

## F. FIELD OFFICE EXAMINATION FOR COMPLETENESS

DATE OF ACTION

DATE OF ACTION

FIELD OFFICE CASE NO.

RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

DIVISION

PROCESSED

SIGNATURE

DATE IN

DATE OUT



20. GIVE OTHER DATA REQUIRED BY CURRENT WPB-1319 INSTRUCTIONS. IDENTIFY ANSWERS BY "a", "b", "c", ETC., AS SHOWN IN SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

- a. none
- b. none
- c. three
- d. No other laboratory available
- e. Special nutrition mission.

1944 DEC 9 PM 3 05  
UNRRA MAIL ROOM

21. CERTIFICATION - THE UNDERSIGNED AND ANY OFFICIAL EXECUTING THIS CERTIFICATION ON BEHALF OF THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION IS CORRECT AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

*Charles L. Seuringhaus*

Dec. 6, 1944.

DATE

BY

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

TITLE

SECTION 35(A) OF THE UNITED STATES CRIMINAL CODE, 18 U.S.C. SEC. 80, MAKES IT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO MAKE A WILLFULLY FALSE STATEMENT OR REPRESENTATION TO ANY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES AS TO ANY MATTER WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.

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ROUTING

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ADDRESS OF  
APPLICANT  
(Street,  
City, Zone  
State)

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

1300 University Ave.  
Madison, 6, Wisconsin2. NATURE OF APPLICANT'S BUSINESS (Indicate type of product to be man-  
ufactured or service to be rendered)

Medical Care

3. APPROXIMATE TOTAL DOLLAR  
VALUE OF THIS APPLICATION

\$115.75

4. APPLICANT'S PHONE NO.

F-3600

5. DATE OF APPLI-  
CATION

12-5-44

6. WPB ORDER NO. (See Instructions)

L-144

7. WPB DIVISION CONTROLLING EQUIPMENT (See  
Instructions)

Consumers durable goods

8. I REQUEST AUTHORITY (Check one only) ☐ TO DELIVER, ☒ TO RECEIVE, ☐ TO \_\_\_\_\_ (Specify) THE ITEMS SPECIFIED  
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NAME OF ITEM (Specify if used or reconditioned)	MAKE AND MODEL NO. (If not standard, give special features)	SIZE OR CAPACITY	QUANTITY	PURCHASE PRICE PER UNIT	REQUIRED DE- LIVERY DATES (Month, day)	WPB USE ONLY	
						QUAN- TITY	RATING
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
Portable kit for determining blood specific gravity	VanSlyke	Kit B	1	\$115.75	12-15-44		
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9. A. THE EQUIPMENT IS FOR (a) ☐ REPLACEMENT (b) ☐ MAINTENANCE (c) ☐ ADDED CAPACITY  
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Zone,  
State)

E. Machlett and Son  
220 East 23rd Street  
New York, 10, N.Y.

11. A. WHERE IS EQUIPMENT TO BE USED?

(Street, City, Zone, State. If for  
export, give name of country.)

Naples, Italy

11. B. NUMBER AND TYPE OF EXPORT LICENSE

Not commercial export

12. FOR WHAT PURPOSE AND IN WHAT MANNER IS THE EQUIPMENT TO BE USED?

To secure accurate records of nutritional deficiency and enable  
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13. STATE AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS A WEEK EQUIPMENT IS TO BE USED

50

14. URGENCY STANDING NUMBER, IF ANY

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19. HOW IS THE WORK NOW BEING ACCOMPLISHED?

To begin January, 1945.

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## D. FOR USE BY DIVISION CONTROLLING EQUIPMENT OR FIELD OFFICE

ASSIGNED TO (Analyst)

INITIALS

ASSIGNED TO (Analyst)

INITIALS

CASE IS:

DATE OF ACTION

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☐ ESSENTIAL  
☐ IMPORTANT, BUT CAN BE DEFERRED  
☐ DENIED AND FORMAL DENIAL SIGNED ON ORIGINAL OF FORM  
☐ DENIED AND EXPLANATORY LETTER ATTACHED

REMARKS

RECOMMENDATION:

DATE OF ACTION

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☐ APPROVED WITH CHANGES  
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DATE OF ACTION

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FIELD OFFICE CASE NO.

RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

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PROCESSED

SIGNATURE

DATE IN

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- a. none
- b. none
- c. three
- d. No other laboratory available
- e. Special nutrition mission.

1944 DEC 9 PM 3 05  
UNRRA MAIL ROOM

21. CERTIFICATION - THE UNDERSIGNED AND ANY OFFICIAL EXECUTING THIS CERTIFICATION ON BEHALF OF THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION IS CORRECT AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

Elmer L. Levinghous

LEGAL NAME OF APPLICANT

Dec. 6, 1944.


DATE

BY

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

TITLE

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Approved by  Bureau of the Budget only for use when the equipment applied for is covered by instructions appearing in the WPB-1319 instruction pamphlet.

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DIVISION CODE DATE IN DATE OUT

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ROUTING

1. NAME AND  
ADDRESS OF  
APPLICANT  
(Street,  
City, Zone  
State)Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.  
1300 University Ave.  
Madison, 6, Wisconsin

6. WPB ORDER NO. (See Instructions)

L-144

2. NATURE OF APPLICANT'S BUSINESS (Indicate type of product to be manufactured or service to be rendered)

Medical Care

7. WPB DIVISION CONTROLLING EQUIPMENT (See Instructions)

Consumers durable goods

3. APPROXIMATE TOTAL DOLLAR  
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F-3600

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
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E. Machlett and Son  
220 East 23rd Street  
New York, 10, N.Y.

11. A. WHERE IS EQUIPMENT TO BE USED?

(Street, City, Zone, State. If for  
export, give name of country.)

Naples, Italy

11. B. NUMBER AND TYPE OF EXPORT LICENSE

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12. FOR WHAT PURPOSE AND IN WHAT MANNER IS THE EQUIPMENT TO BE USED?

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U.N.R.R.A. to plan better nutrition for liberated countries.

13. STATE AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS A WEEK EQUIPMENT IS TO BE USED

50

14. URGENCY STANDING NUMBER, IF ANY

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A. WHY CAN'T EXISTING EQUIPMENT BE REPAIRED?

New equipment

B. HOW WILL ITEMS TO BE REPLACED BE DISPOSED OF?

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To begin January, 1945.

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## D. FOR USE BY DIVISION CONTROLLING EQUIPMENT OR FIELD OFFICE

ASSIGNED TO (Analyst)

INITIALS

ASSIGNED TO (Analyst)

INITIALS

CASE IS:

DATE OF ACTION

- ☐ URGENT  
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REMARKS

RECOMMENDATION:

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REMARKS

## E. CONCURRING DIVISION OR AGENCY

## F. FIELD OFFICE EXAMINATION FOR COMPLETENESS

DATE OF ACTION

DATE OF ACTION

FIELD OFFICE CASE NO.

RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

DIVISION

PROCESSED

SIGNATURE

DATE IN

DATE OUT



20. GIVE OTHER DATA REQUIRED BY CURRENT WPB-1319 INSTRUCTIONS. IDENTIFY ANSWERS BY "a", "b", "c", ETC., AS SHOWN IN SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

- a. none
- b. none
- c. three
- d. No other laboratory available
- e. Special nutrition mission.

REC'D  
1944 DEC 9 PM 3 05  
UNRRA MAIL ROOM

21. CERTIFICATION - THE UNDERSIGNED AND ANY OFFICIAL EXECUTING THIS CERTIFICATION ON BEHALF OF THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION IS CORRECT AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

Elmer L. Levington

LEGAL NAME OF APPLICANT

BY

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Dec. 6, 1944.

DATE

TITLE

SECTION 35(A) OF THE UNITED STATES CRIMINAL CODE, 18 U.S.C. SEC. 80, MAKES IT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO MAKE A WILLFULLY FALSE STATEMENT OR REPRESENTATION TO ANY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES AS TO ANY MATTER WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.

13 December 1944

Dr. Elmer Seyringhaus  
University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Seyringhaus:

Following our telephone conversation of yesterday, it appears important to me to write you a general and rather detailed letter regarding the factors which will influence the timing of the operations of your project in Italy. This appears especially important in view of the fact that you apparently have had a January 1 date in your mind and you stated that it would be very difficult for you to change your commitments with personnel if the operations of the project were delayed. I have gathered together information regarding the various steps which must be taken prior to the dispatching of your personnel to the field and the minimum time required to effect some of these arrangements.

Unfortunately, in the case of some of the details we cannot state a time since they are dependent in actuality upon the course of history during the next few weeks. These are matters having to do with military operations, and the effect of these operations on shipping both of personnel and supplies, as well as political events and discussions which govern the arrangements for the Italian Mission of UNRRA and the like.

In the following paragraphs, I have outlined some of the important decisions and actions which will govern the timing of your project.

1. Negotiations in Italy. Our Italian Mission is in the process of formalizing its agreement with governmental authorities in Italy, this agreement covering the whole scope of UNRRA operations and these operations must be fitted into the military and national government picture in Italy and must be coordinated with the work of other relief agencies in Italy. Our project in medical nutrition forms a part of the UNRRA operations and you can readily see that negotiations setting up the whole must precede those establishing a part of the mission.

In reference to your project, the draft agreement contained in Mr. Van Hyning's letter to Mr. Joy and Mr. Flint, probably arrived in Italy during the last week in November, and I am sure that Mr. Keeny will inform us of his reactions to these arrangements as soon as he has outlined sufficiently clearly the whole picture of his mission's operations in that country. I have requested Dr. Reekie to inform us as rapidly as possible of Mr. Keeny's and his decision



25 December 1944

as to the time this project should get under way and you will appreciate that this must be coordinated with the time of the rest of the operations of the mission. I believe at the same time, Dr. Reekie will give us suggestions as to a place of operation and notify us of other field conditions which we should take into consideration. As soon as I have received from you a list of supplies and personnel, I will transmit these to the Italian Mission in order to keep them currently informed of all of our discussions because we must look to them for the actual field arrangements.

2. Personnel Action. We have received to date, applications for two of your personnel and physical examinations for two. Your own physical examination has been approved. That of Dr. Kroger will require further consultation in Chicago. I should estimate that two weeks would be required in receiving and processing your applications and physical examinations. It requires four weeks from the date of application for a passport, before the passport is issued, and no transportation arrangements can be made until UNHRA has the passport actually at hand. These four weeks are usually spent in getting the proper inoculations, gathering together a personal field kit, making personal financial arrangements and caring for all other details which are necessary before leaving this country. Once the passport is obtained, your personnel will be entered on our travel list to await actual transportation to the theatre. Here we run into a bottleneck which is always tight, and sometimes tighter than usual. In general, we cannot get personnel actually out of this country in less than two weeks after they are entered on the travel list and the average time is at least four weeks.

There is nothing that we can do to expedite this, because it depends upon the number of places allowed us by the Army, with the Army taking into primary consideration its own needs in this regard.

3. Procurement of Supplies. In regard to the procurement of supplies, we have run up against the difficulty that you will be unable to obtain some of the supplies you want, because of their high priority ratings. As I have informed you, it appears that the only way we can obtain priorities for these supplies is to make arrangements to purchase them ourselves, as we cannot request priorities for you to purchase them. As soon as we know how many items require priorities, we will set the necessary machinery into motion. This will require an agreement between us and your sponsors as to how this transaction should be financed, and a minimum time of two weeks to carry out the necessary negotiations with FEA, WPB and the Combined Boards. When these negotiations have been successfully completed, the supplies must be actually obtained from the various dealers, which takes a long or a short time, according to the manufacturers' position in regard to the required item.

4. Shipment of Supplies. When the supplies are actually obtained and packed, they must be delivered to an assembly point two weeks before actual shipment is to take place. When they have been so assembled, we apply for shipping space. In the case of your supplies, since they will not amount to more than a ton or so, we hope to be able to fit them into a space in a ship which has an almost complete cargo for Italy. Here, as in the case of transportation of personnel, we run into a bottleneck as the theatre commander has full control of all shipping to the theatre. Once the ship actually departs from port, two or even three weeks may elapse before it arrives in



15 December 1944

Italy. You can thus see that the application for priorities, procurement of supplies, assembly and packing of them, arrangement of shipping and actually shipping across to Italy may easily consume six to eight weeks.

I am sure that a careful study and consideration of these facts will convince you that the timing of this mission will have to be done at a later date, when we have more information about all of the matters mentioned above. You will also gather that a great deal of work will be involved in effecting all of these arrangements and in keeping your group, our Washington office, and our Italian Mission informed of current developments in order that rapid decisions may be reached. For this reason, I took the liberty of telephoning Dr. Bragg yesterday to very strongly urge upon him the importance of one of your group coming to Washington to work with us in effecting these arrangements and this coordination. It is extremely important that your executive officer or some other member of your project be thoroughly familiar with the problems of the mission and the Washington office, and at the same time be present to keep before our eyes the problems of the personnel of your project. I feel convinced that the time has come for one of your members to undertake this assignment at our Washington office, in order to assure the success of the project.

I am sending copies of this letter to Mr. Joy, Mr. Flint, Dr. Bragg and Dr. Visscher, in order that they may all receive this information in time to give it careful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

AIR MAIL

Copies to: Mr. Joy  
Mr. Flint  
Dr. Bragg  
Dr. Visscher  
Dr. Reekie



12 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

This letter is to acknowledge your letters of 5 December, 6 December and your telegram of 7 December. I have been investigating the possibility of our helping you to obtain the Spectrophotometer and the specific gravity kit, and have the following to report.

In regard to the Spectrophotometer, as you know, the Army is taking the whole output of the company and WPB will not issue a priority, since from their point of view, this instrument is not on the market. I have contacted the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army and find that the Army's position on these instruments is not tight and that they may be willing to divert one instrument to UNRRA if a sufficiently good case can be made, and we will take steps to justify such a diversion.

In regard to the portable kit for blood specific gravity, it apparently will be necessary for UNRRA to request PEA to purchase this instrument for UNRRA's use in order to obtain AA-1 priority. Here again we are taking steps to bring this about. You will note that in each case it is apparently not possible for us to second your application for Army release on the one hand, and priority on the other, but we must show our interest in the transaction by actually attempting to make the purchase ourselves. The further question of whether we should ask the voluntary agencies to reimburse us for the purchase of these instruments or whether we should own them and loan them to your project for the duration of the study has not been decided. I will keep you currently informed in these matters.

Inasmuch as the paper work involved in such transactions as I have outlined above is inclined to be formidable and the possibility for delays in securing concurrences are great, I think it would be wise for you to consider an alternate plan, in case we find ourselves unable to obtain either the Army release or the priority. I am wondering whether Dr. Keys does not know of some way to obtain a photo-electric colorimeter or a Spectrophotometer for this purpose, and it might be possible to construct your own kit for blood specific gravities. This does not mean that we will not attempt to aid you in obtaining these items, but rather that it is a good idea to have an alternate plan in mind.



Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus

- 2 -

12 December 1944

I have been notified that your physical examination has been approved and I am enclosing two copies of our inoculation schedule. I talked to Dr. Bragg over the long-distance telephone yesterday about these inoculations, and told him that if you were unable to obtain a yellow fever vaccination in the Middle West, you can have that done in Washington. Similarly, plague and cholera vaccinations can be done in Washington before departure, as they require only two injections a week apart.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. Joy in reference to some questions brought up by Dr. Chester Jones.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosures - 2

P.S. Since dictating the above letter, I have had a conversation with the official in our Bureau of Supplies who orders and procures medical supplies. He informs me that for both the kit and the Spectrophotometer it will be necessary for him to go before the Combined Board and justify UNRRA's need for these items. Before doing so, he would like to know what other items are going to require similar justification in completing the supply list for your project, as in this way he can present the total program to the Board and justify it only once. It would appear wise for us to wait until you know whether you will need any other scientific instruments, microscopes, or any other items which require such justification before the Board.

My preliminary information, which I advise you to check carefully, is that priorities will not be needed for X-ray apparatus, but that a rather high priority will be needed for X-ray film. I will write you further about this matter when I have had an opportunity to discuss more of its ramifications with various people in this office.

AIR MAIL



16 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

Your two letters of 13 December arrived today, and the following points have occurred to me in reading them over carefully. I was very happy to get your list of personnel, but I imagine there may be some changes, inasmuch as I do not see, for instance, Dr. Keys' name. I very much hope Dr. Keys will be able to go, and I had an opportunity to talk to him on the telephone yesterday while he was in Washington.

The question comes up as to how soon after the first three members arrive in Italy, the other members of the team should be transported. The duties you outline for the co-director and the executive officer will, I imagine, take longer than four weeks, especially the arrangement of contacts of local personnel, medical, nursing, technological help and translators, make arrangements for the population sampling etc., since you will be working in a highly disorganized society.

In regard to priorities, I need to know definitely whether you are sure you can obtain sufficient priorities for the purchase of all of the scientific apparatus and equipment, reagents and supplies necessary for your work, except for the Spectrophotometer and blood specific gravity apparatus, which we have already discussed. I need to know this because our Bureau of Supplies wishes to have a complete list of items for which they must apply for priorities and it will confuse matters if you find, at a later date, that you are unable to obtain a sufficiently high priority for this or that film or chemical or instrument. We will not go about applying for priorities until we have such a complete list and until we have made arrangements satisfactory with our Bureau of Supplies and your sponsors for the payment for these articles, inasmuch as we will have to purchase them for our own account, in order to apply for priorities.

The question of X-ray equipment and X-ray films is a special matter. I will obtain word from Italy as rapidly as possible regarding the X-ray apparatus which may be available there. I am quite sure that you will have to furnish X-ray films and I will request information as to size of cassettes and film holders. You will find X-ray film under a very high priority. I am wondering whether you have included in your apparatus dark-room supplies and

18 December 1944

chemicals for developing X-ray plates.

Concerning your second letter of 13 December, I note that the total population studied would be more than 1600 as outlined in your groups of 50 of different ages. It will, of course, take longer to set up a study of this size than a smaller one. The UNRRA feeding program will, I believe, be limited to children and pregnant and nursing women, and I believe that the organization will wish you to pay special attention to these priority groups as they constitute our charge. I am referring this question to Italy for final answer.

Copies of your letters and relevant correspondence will be dispatched to Italy by fast courier together with a letter from me asking for information on all the points raised. I will continue to keep you informed.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

December 13, 1944

MEDICAL DIVISION

H  
Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:-

In accordance with your letter of November 27th I should like to submit herewith an outline on the personnel and of the supplies and equipment necessary to take the special nutrition mission to Italy. The applications for appointment should be in your hands from all of the personnel listed during this current week. I think physical examinations on all of them are likewise in your hands and certainly those of us who are expecting to go in the first group have already under way our immunization program.

The personnel is as follows:

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus, Clinical Director and Internist  
Dr. Maurice B. Visscher, Co-Director and Physiological  
Nutritionist  
Mr. Raymond C. Bragg, Executive Officer  
Dr. Ernest L. Stebbins, Epidemiologist  
Dr. Lester Sontag, Pediatrician  
Dr. A. W. Stoesser, Associate Pediatrician  
Dr. Emma Kyhos, Associate Internist  
Dr. Otto Klineberg, Associate Internist  
Dr. Isaac Schour, Surgical Dentist  
Miss Dorothy Hagedorn, Technologist  
Miss Marjorie Knowlton, Technologist  
Miss Ruth Flumerfeld, Dietitian  
Dr. William Krogman, Anthropometrist

It is considered urgently necessary that the first three listed should go at the earliest possible date, in order to select type of operation, to arrange contacts with local personnel, medical, nursing, technological and for translator help, and to prepare the ground so that when the rest of the team arrives they may enter with the utmost speed into the actual task of studying individual Italians and distributing the vitally necessary food and supplements.

The food supplements are in the form of pure vitamins or highly concentrated vitamin preparations, which I estimate to weigh about 168 kilograms. This is exclusive of packing and it may be raised somewhat depending upon the weight of an actual tablet which contains only one to five milligrams of the pure vitamin. This will be in at least fourteen different kinds of material, obviously therefore packing each separately.

The next item of importance is a supply of wheat germ, corn germ sunflower seed meal, soybean flour, skim milk powder and purified plasma for treatment of emergencies. These materials will come to a total of 880 kilos, not including the special packing called for. Except for the plasma, these materials will probably come in barrels or large bags, unless you direct to the contrary.

515362

Dr. Bryan--2

Special laboratory equipment which is considered essential for carrying out this program includes the following items:

Specific gravity of the blood,	25 pounds
Spectrophotometer	75 pounds
Special cameras and films	65 pounds
Medical diagnostic apparatus	10 pounds
Records	20 pounds
Dietitians hardware	20 pounds
Anthropometric equipment	10 pounds
Dentist's instruments	20 pounds
Laboratory glassware	145 pounds
Reagents	430 pounds

This total transformed into kilos is approximately 375 kilos.

No allotment has been made for x-ray equipment or films. If we must purchase and carry films with us from here, we ought to plan on 30,000 dental films, 3,500 10 x 12 films and 1000 14 x 17 films.

The x-ray problem may have to be decided by you in Washington. If we can be reasonably certain of finding in the civilian hospital or clinic in Italy in which the Mission will work an x-ray apparatus which will be sufficient to energize the 100 milliamper tube and a table and equipment for taking chest stereo x-rays, then we should have nothing further to be concerned about. If any of this equipment needs to be taken from here that would have to added to this list. We should certainly expect a dark room and x-ray staff would be available over there. If we are to depend on Italian films or films exported to Italy, we should need to know whether it is made in 10 x 12 and 14/x 17 sizes. If not the cassettes and holders would have to be obtained to fit the film available in Italy.

If any allowance should be made in accordance with the correspondence with Dr. Joy about automobile transportation then an addition should be made for a set of tires and rims or wheels, according to the final decision as to the preparation we should make.

The supply of all the vitamins and food supplements and minerals is assured and you need give no thought to that. Of the equipment I have listed I think we can be certain of everything except the blood specific gravity apparatus and the spectrophotometer. If you can secure releases from the Army for these the manufacturers have assured me that they can make prompt delivery.

As soon as you furnish us shipping directions and the place where these things can be assembled, we can begin to have the materials assembled so that they can be packed for shipment.

Awaiting your further instructions, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

E. L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:j/db



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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

Medical Division

December 13, 1944

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

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The food supplements are in the form of pure vitamins or highly concentrated vitamin preparations, which I estimate to weigh about 168 kilograms. This is exclusive of packing and it may be raised somewhat depending upon the weight of an actual tablet which contains only one to five milligrams of the pure vitamin. This will be in at least fourteen different kinds of material, obviously therefore packing each separately.

The next item of importance is a supply of wheat germ, corn germ sunflower seed meal, soybean flour, skim milk powder and purified plasma for treatment of emergencies. These materials will come to a total of 880 kilos, not including the special packing called for. Except for the plasma, these materials will probably come in barrels or large bags, unless you direct to the contrary.

Dr. Bryan--E

Special laboratory equipment which is considered essential for carrying out this program includes the following items:

Specific gravity of the blood,	25 pounds
Spectrophotometer	75 pounds
Special cameras and films	65 pounds
Medical diagnostic apparatus	10 pounds
Records	20 pounds
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Anthropometric equipment	10 pounds
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Laboratory glassware	145 pounds
Reagents	430 pounds

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The x-ray problem may have to be decided by you in Washington. If we can be reasonably certain of finding in the civilian hospital or clinic in Italy in which the Mission will work an x-ray apparatus which will be sufficient to energize the 100 milliamper tube and a table and equipment for taking chest stereo x-rays, then we should have nothing further to be concerned about. If any of this equipment needs to be taken from here that would have to added to this list. We should certainly expect a dark room and x-ray staff would be available over there. If we are to depend on Italian films or films exported to Italy, we should need to know whether it is made in 10 x 12 and 14 x 17 sizes. If not the cassettes and holders would have to be obtained to fit the film available in Italy.

If any allowance should be made in accordance with the correspondence with Mr. Joy about automobile transportation then an addition should be made for a set of tires and rims or wheels, according to the final decision as to the preparation we should make.

The supply of all the vitamins and food supplements and minerals is assured and you need give no thought to that. Of the equipment I have listed I think we can be certain of everything except the blood specific gravity apparatus and the spectrophotometer. If you can secure releases from the Army for these the manufacturers have assured me that they can make prompt delivery.

As soon as you furnish us shipping directions and the place where these things can be assembled, we can begin to have the materials assembled so that they can be packed for shipment.

Awaiting your further instructions, I am,

Sincerely yours,

ELB:j/ad

/s/ E. L. Sevringhaus, M. D.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

Medical Division

December 13, 1944

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

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The next item of importance is a supply of wheat germ, corn germ, sunflower seed meal, soybean flour, skim milk powder and purified plasma for treatment of emergencies. These materials will come to a total of 860 kilos, not including the special packing called for. Except for the plasma, these materials will probably come in barrels or large bags, unless you direct to the contrary.

Dr. Bryon--2

Special laboratory equipment which is considered essential for carrying out this program includes the following items:

Specific gravity of the blood,	85 pounds
Spectrophotometer	75 pounds
Special cameras and films	65 pounds
Medical diagnostic apparatus	10 pounds
Records	20 pounds
Dietitians hardware	20 pounds
Anthropometric equipment	10 pounds
Dentist's instruments	20 pounds
Laboratory glassware	145 pounds
Reagents	430 pounds

This total transformed into kilos is approximately 375 kilos.

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The x-ray problem may have to be decided by you in Washington. If we can be reasonably certain of finding in the civilian hospital or clinic in Italy in which the Mission will work an x-ray apparatus which will be sufficient to energize the 100 milliamperes tube and a table and equipment for taking chest stereo x-rays, then we should have nothing further to be concerned about. If any of this equipment needs to be taken from here that would have to be added to this list. We should certainly expect a dark room and x-ray staff would be available over there. If we are to depend on Italian films or films exported to Italy, we should need to know whether it is made in 10 x 12 and 14 x 17 sizes. If not the cassettes and holders would have to be obtained to fit the film available in Italy.

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As soon as you furnish us shipping directions and the place where these things can be assembled, we can begin to have the materials assembled so that they can be packed for shipment.

Awaiting your further instructions, I am,

Sincerely yours,

ELS:j/cb

/s/ E. L. Sevringhaus, M. D.



*Sevringhaus*

Dr. Elmer Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

ON BEING INFORMED CONTENTS VAN SLYKE GRAVITY KIT WPB INFORMS ME YOUR LOCAL BOARD  
CAN ASSIGN PRIORITY ON FORM WPB 541. SUGGEST YOU REAPPLY LOCAL BOARD CONTACT  
MACHLETT EXPLAINING CONFIRMING THAT CENTRIFUGE IS SMALL HAND MODEL COSTING LESS  
THAN EIGHTY DOLLARS.

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D. UNRRA

Drafted by:  
AHBryan/mb  
10 Jan 45

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

January 8, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA Health Division  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

Thank you for your note of January 2nd which awaited me on my return to Madison. You will be interested to know that we have had a very favorable reaction from Dr. Mark May at New Haven about participating in the study although a definite answer could not be given us until he gets clearance from the Army since he is still listed as a technical expert consultant subject to call. We will have word any day now, I trust, and I still hope that he may be with us in Chicago.

I am planning to be in Washington on the morning of Tuesday, the 16th, and in preparation for that I wish that you would ask two people to be prepared for me to call upon them for technical information and guidance. These are Miss Doris Porter, who is said to be still with UNRRA. I shall want to talk to her about soybean materials, chocolate milk drink and similar items which she worked on with Dr. Helen Mitchell. The other person is Don Payne who is with the Soya Products Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture and Miss Porter will undoubtedly know him. If he could have some of his material with him and be at Miss Porter's office first thing on the morning of the 16th it would greatly facilitate our discussion. I shall plan on just that one day in Washington, going up to New York for some further work on the sleeper that night, but possibly getting back to Washington for Thursday afternoon before returning to Madison on Thursday evening train. Of course, I shall expect to see you in Chicago before all this comes about but knowing my proposed schedule may help to organize time.

Cordially,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

518419



2 January 1945

Dr. Elmer Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am enclosing the list of personnel which you dictated during your stay in Washington. I trust that the few minor changes I have made meet with your approval and I am sending this list, together with your questions and other matters, to Dr. Reekie.

I feel that the visit you and Dr. Visscher made to Washington was very much worthwhile in consolidating our thought on this project.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

H  
BR Bryan

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

Sevringhaus

January 8, 1945

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
Health Division, UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

In reply to your letter of January 4 which reached me this morning, I have taken the matter up with the University authorities and the State Director of Budget Control and the enclosed carbon copy will show the action which we are requesting. I have every reason to believe that this will be accepted and that there will be a meeting of the Regents to act on it at the end of this current week. I have purposely made the amount large enough to include not only the Spectrophotometer but also the blood specific gravity apparatus of the Van Slyke type. This I did with the possibility in mind that you could arrange with Captain Corlette for the same type of release there as for the Spectrophotometer. We shall do nothing more about it until I have your advice as to whether this second step is also satisfactory. I think we need not use this mechanism for the blood volume apparatus since that is to come from the National Research Council rather than through the Surgeon-General. Please advise me about the matter of the blood specific gravity apparatus. I shall let you know just as soon as the purchase order numbers, etcetera, can be affixed so that we may proceed with the release of the equipment. This arrangement is entirely satisfactory so far as I can see.

Cordially,

Elmer L. Sevringhaus

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

518418



January 8, 1945

Mr. M. E. Mc Caffery  
Secretary, Board of Regents  
Administration Building

Dear Mr. Mc Caffery:

Let me express my appreciation of the generous attitude of the Regents in allowing me leave of absence for three months to carry out an extensive research program in nutrition in Italy. The date of this leave will have to be altered slightly from the original plan and will begin probably at the end of February in order to make the best use of my time abroad after food material can be placed in Italy for distribution.

A new problem has just arisen in connection with this work. We shall require some very specialized types of apparatus which have been developed largely for use by the laboratories of our Armed Forces. The Surgeon-General's office in Washington takes the position that this equipment is not on the market and therefore cannot be purchased under any priority. However, they have indicated their willingness to make specific release of this apparatus to the University of Wisconsin so that it may be assigned to me for this investigation. The cost for such apparatus can however be borne by the Service Committees of the Unitarian and the Congregational Christian Churches that are underwriting the equipment, material and certain of the personnel in this venture. I have conferred with Mr. Giessel of the budget control office in the State Capitol and have his approval of the following mechanism for the handling of this transaction.

I am authorized by the Service Committee of the Unitarian Church to extend to the Regents of the University of Wisconsin a gift of between \$275 and \$500 sufficient to defray the entire cost of purchasing special equipment for nutrition study during 1945 by a team under the direction of Elmer L. Sevringhaus, said study to be carried out abroad and presumably in Italy. This gift is made with the specific request that this apparatus be assigned to the care of Dr. Sevringhaus and that it is to be returned to the University of Wisconsin at the conclusion of the study.

If this action is acceptable to the Regents the Surgeon-General indicates that the apparatus will be released from the manufacturer's warehouse immediately upon receipt of the identifying data from the Purchase Order issued by the administration of the University of Wisconsin. I should be pleased to have your opinion on this matter at the earliest date possible.

1002 700 15 50  
Respectfully submitted,

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

518418

4 January 1945

Dr. Elmer Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I have had further conversations with Captain Corlette of Colonel Youman's office, and it has occurred to us that the Army would be willing to release a Coleman Junior Spectrophotometer to the University of Wisconsin. Captain Corlette investigated the matter and found that apparently such an arrangement would be agreeable to the Army.

If then, you can arrange with the purchasing agent of the University of Wisconsin to purchase this instrument for you and then release it to you for this study, I believe that we can very quickly get an Army release. It would only be necessary for you to send me a copy of the purchase order and the copy should contain the following information: name of purchaser, number of the purchase order and date on which the order was placed. This copy would be attached to a memorandum from Colonel Youman's division to the supplies officer of the Surgeon General's Office and the supplies officer would take steps to arrange for an Army release of one Coleman Spectrophotometer to the University of Wisconsin.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

AIR MAIL



*Sevringhaus*

8 January 1945

Dr. Elmer Sevringhaus  
Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

I am enclosing a summary of a report just received from Dr. Metcalf, which will interest you in indicating the amount of laboratory work which is at present being done in Rome.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

*air mail*

19 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

Your letters of 15 and 16 December have been received and since you and Dr. Visscher expect to be in Washington in the near future, I shall not describe in this letter the plans for UNRRA's feeding operations in Italy. We can get the files out and go over all of the correspondence and material referable to Italy together and I am sure in that way you and Dr. Visscher will obtain a picture of the present status of the Italian Mission and its plans.

At the same time, I will be very happy to hear the details of your plans and I believe that the conference will be very worthwhile.

I trust in the meantime, that you will have an opportunity to go carefully over your list of equipment and scientific apparatus in order to determine whether there are any other items on which you will require priorities.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

December 16, 1944

MEDICAL DIVISION

DEC 19 1944

H  
Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
Health Division, UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

In reply to your letter of December 13, let me thank you for the very careful exposition of the numerous difficulties which beset our path as we try to arrange to go to Italy. I realize that the political and military events in Italy are beyond our control. The news in the papers since your letter and up to this time suggests, however, that things may be clearing over there. We shall certainly hope so. In the meantime, I propose that we do all that we possibly can to have everything ready to go as soon as the clearance from the other side comes. Dr. Visscher and I are using our best offices to have the personnel applications and physical examinations in your hands at an early date. We will certainly proceed with getting all sorts of supplies ready as soon as we have information from you as to where they can be assembled and how they can be packed. There will be only a matter of the Spectrophotometer and the specific gravity apparatus plus the x-ray film to require any special arrangements in Washington. I think all the other materials and supplies we can be responsible for. We are having some difficulty with special cameras but I think that can be handled without asking your help.

Dr. Visscher and I are both planning to be in Washington together on the 29th and 30th and one of us at least may be staying on for a few days after that in case it is apparent that our presence in Washington would materially aid in getting these arrangements made. If it seems worthwhile to you to have us make any appearances before military or other officials on the 29th or 30th or shortly thereafter, you are certainly at liberty to make such appointments in our behalf.

Cordially,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*  
Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

522289

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

December 15, 1944

DEC 18 1944

MEDICAL DIVISION

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
Health Division, UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

In reply to your letter of December 12, which reached me on the afternoon of the 14th, let me explain that I know that the Spectrophotometer production is ahead of Army demands and that the manufacturer is expecting to be able to sell to civilians on ordinary priorities during January 1945. The manufacturer is so co-operative that I have his personal assurance that one could be made available to me immediately if the appropriate release is sent from the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army. This is of the utmost importance for the entire laboratory program of assay for vitamins A, B<sub>1</sub>, C, hemoglobin, blood sugar, nonprotein nitrogen and blood volume.

The portable kit for blood specific gravity will give us a quick and satisfactory measure of total protein, in the blood, plasma protein, therefore of hematocrit and will make possible the determination of blood volume. Without this the blood volume determination would become essentially impossible on this study. I cannot understand the devious methods which are apparently necessary in order to get this equipment but I assure you that I do believe it worthwhile using every effort to do so. I am totally unwilling to undertake any alternative plan which would mean trying to get a Spectrophotometer from somebody else since these are only available in military laboratories and since the photoelectric colorimeters to do the same things are more bulky, more difficult to transport, more breakable as well as more expensive. Similarly, the blood specific gravity kit is not too difficult to make but there is nobody here who can do this kind of work and who has time to do it. I am having a hard enough time to get my work done so that I can get away to do this job in Italy and it is my impression that if the appropriate officials in the office of the Surgeon General are sufficiently impressed with the importance of this nutrition mission, the apparatus can be released and will be released. In such a day as this it is absolute folly for one of us to try to build this kind of apparatus when it can be gotten easily.

Thank you for the sheets about the immunizations. We have everything done except that we had not been notified of the desirability of plague and the Army authorities here did not consider it necessary. We will proceed to have that done also and will have everything in order before we leave here.

Appreciating your helpful suggestions in these matters, I am

Cordially,

*Elmer L. Sevringhaus*

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M.D.

ELS:fv

522241



15 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sovringhaus  
University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sovringhaus:

Your two letters of 13 December arrived today, and the following points have occurred to me in reading them over carefully. I was very happy to get your list of personnel, but I imagine there may be some changes, inasmuch as I do not see, for instance, Dr. Keys' name. I very much hope Dr. Keys will be able to go, and I had an opportunity to talk to him on the telephone yesterday while he was in Washington.

The question comes up as to how soon after the first three members arrive in Italy, the other members of the team should be transported. The duties you outline for the co-director and the executive officer will, I imagine, take longer than four weeks, especially the arrangement of contacts of local personnel, medical, nursing, technological help and translators, make arrangements for the population sampling etc., since you will be working in a highly disorganized society.

In regard to priorities, I need to know definitely whether you are sure you can obtain sufficient priorities for the purchase of all of the scientific apparatus and equipment, reagents and supplies necessary for your work, except for the Spectrophotometer and blood specific gravity apparatus, which we have already discussed. I need to know this because our Bureau of Supplies wishes to have a complete list of items for which they must apply for priorities and it will confuse matters if you find, at a later date, that you are unable to obtain a sufficiently high priority for this or that film or chemical or instrument. We will not go about applying for priorities until we have such a complete list and until we have made arrangements satisfactory with our Bureau of Supplies and your sponsors for the payment for these articles, inasmuch as we will have to purchase them for our own account, in order to apply for priorities.

The question of X-ray equipment and X-ray films is a special matter. I will obtain word from Italy as rapidly as possible regarding the X-ray apparatus which may be available there. I am quite sure that you will have to furnish X-ray films and I will request information as to size of cassettes and film holders. You will find X-ray film under a very high priority. I am wondering whether you have included in your apparatus dark-room supplies and

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus

- 2 -

18 December 1944

chemicals for developing X-ray plates.

Concerning your second letter of 18 December, I note that the total population studied would be more than 1800 as outlined in your groups of 50 of different ages. It will, of course, take longer to set up a study of this size than a smaller one. The UNRRA feeding program will, I believe, be limited to children and pregnant and nursing women, and I believe that the organization will wish you to pay special attention to these priority groups as they constitute our charge. I am referring this question to Italy for final answer.

Copies of your letters and relevant correspondence will be dispatched to Italy by fast courier together with a letter from me asking for information on all the points raised. I will continue to keep you informed.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryn, M. D.  
Health Division



*Circulate* →

*Dr. Angelo*  
*Dr. Cantini*  
*Dr. Deatinger*  
*Dr. Poggio*  
*& Ritani*

16 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Savringhaus  
University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Savringhaus:

Your two letters of 13 December arrived today, and the following points have occurred to me in reading them over carefully. I was very happy to get your list of personnel, but I imagine there may be some changes, inasmuch as I do not see, for instance, Dr. Keys' name. I very much hope Dr. Keys will be able to go, and I had an opportunity to talk to him on the telephone yesterday while he was in Washington.

The question comes up as to how soon after the first three members arrive in Italy, the other members of the team should be transported. The duties you outline for the co-director and the executive officer will, I imagine, take longer than four weeks, especially the arrangement of contacts of local personnel, medical, nursing, technological help and translators, make arrangements for the population sampling etc., since you will be working in a highly disorganized society.

In regard to priorities, I need to know definitely whether you are sure you can obtain sufficient priorities for the purchase of all of the scientific apparatus and equipment, reagents and supplies necessary for your work, except for the Spectrophotometer and blood specific gravity apparatus, which we have already discussed. I need to know this because our Bureau of Supplies wishes to have a complete list of items for which they must apply for priorities and it will confuse matters if you find, at a later date, that you are unable to obtain a sufficiently high priority for this or that film or chemical or instrument. We will not go about applying for priorities until we have such a complete list and until we have made arrangements satisfactory with our Bureau of Supplies and your sponsors for the payment for these articles, inasmuch as we will have to purchase them for our own account, in order to apply for priorities.

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Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus

- 2 -

16 December 1944

chemicals for developing X-ray plates.

Concerning your second letter of 13 December, I note that the total population studied would be more than 1600 as outlined in your groups of 50 of different ages. It will, of course, take longer to set up a study of this size than a smaller one. The UNRRA feeding program will, I believe, be limited to children and pregnant and nursing women, and I believe that the organization will wish you to pay special attention to these priority groups as they constitute our charge. I am referring this question to Italy for final answer.

Copies of your letters and relevant correspondence will be dispatched to Italy by fast courier together with a letter from me asking for information on all the points raised. I will continue to keep you informed.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division



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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

Medical Division

December 13, 1944

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

In accordance with your letter of November 27th I should like to submit herewith an outline on the personnel and of the supplies and equipment necessary to take the special nutrition mission to Italy. The applications for appointment should be in your hands from all of the personnel listed during this current week. I think physical examinations on all of them are likewise in your hands and certainly those of us who are expecting to go in the first group have already under way our immunization program.

The personnel is as follows:

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus, Clinical Director and Internist  
Dr. Maurice B. Visscher, Co-Director and Physiological Nutritionist  
Mr. Raymond C. Bragg, Executive Officer  
Dr. Ernest L. Stebbins, Epidemiologist  
Dr. Lester Sontag, Pediatrician  
Dr. A. W. Stoesser, Associate Pediatrician  
Dr. Emma Kyhos, Associate Internist  
Dr. Otto Klineberg, Associate Internist  
Dr. Isaac Schour, Surgical Dentist  
Miss Dorothy Hagedorn, Technologist  
Miss Marjorie Knowlton, Technologist  
Miss Ruth Flumerfeld, Dietitian  
Dr. William Krogman, Anthropometrist

It is considered urgently necessary that the first three listed should go at the earliest possible date, in order to select type of operation, to arrange contacts with local personnel, medical, nursing, technological and for translator help, and to prepare the ground so that when the rest of the team arrives they may enter with the utmost speed into the actual task of studying individual Italians and distributing the vitally necessary food and supplements.

The food supplements are in the form of pure vitamins or highly concentrated vitamin preparations, which I estimate to weigh about 168 kilograms. This is exclusive of packing and it may be raised somewhat depending upon the weight of an actual tablet which contains only one to five milligrams of the pure vitamin. This will be in at least fourteen different kinds of material, obviously therefore packing each separately.

The next item of importance is a supply of wheat germ, corn germ sunflower seed meal, soybean flour, skim milk powder and purified plasma for treatment of emergencies. These materials will come to a total of 880 kilos, not including the special packing called for. Except for the plasma, these materials will probably come in barrels or large bags, unless you direct to the contrary.

Dr. Bryan--2

Special laboratory equipment which is considered essential for carrying out this program includes the following items:

Specific gravity of the blood,	25 pounds
Spectrophotometer	75 pounds
Special cameras and films	65 pounds
Medical diagnostic apparatus	10 pounds
Records	20 pounds
Dietitians hardware	20 pounds
Anthropometric equipment	10 pounds
Dentist's instruments	20 pounds
Laboratory glassware	145 pounds
Reagents	430 pounds

This total transformed into kilos is approximately 375 kilos.

No allotment has been made for x-ray equipment or films. If we must purchase and carry films with us from here, we ought to plan on 30,000 dental films, 3,500 10 x 12 films and 1000 14 x 17 films.

The x-ray problem may have to be decided by you in Washington. If we can be reasonably certain of finding in the civilian hospital or clinic in Italy in which the Mission will work an x-ray apparatus which will be sufficient to energize the 100 milliamperes tube and a table and equipment for taking chest stereo x-rays, then we should have nothing further to be concerned about. If any of this equipment needs to be taken from here that would have to be added to this list. We should certainly expect a dark room and x-ray staff would be available over there. If we are to depend on Italian films or films exported to Italy, we should need to know whether it is made in 10 x 12 and 14 x 17 sizes. If not the cassettes and holders would have to be obtained to fit the film available in Italy.

If any allowance should be made in accordance with the correspondence with Dr. Joy about automobile transportation then an addition should be made for a set of tires and rims or wheels, according to the final decision as to the preparation we should make.

The supply of all the vitamins and food supplements and minerals is assured and you need give no thought to that. Of the equipment I have listed I think we can be certain of everything except the blood specific gravity apparatus and the spectrophotometer. If you can secure releases from the Army for these the manufacturers have assured me that they can make prompt delivery.

As soon as you furnish us shipping directions and the place where these things can be assembled, we can begin to have the materials assembled so that they can be packed for shipment.

Awaiting your further instructions, I am,

Sincerely yours,

ELS:j/ab

/s/ E. L. Sevringhaus, M. D.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL

Madison 6

Medical Division

December 13, 1944

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Ave.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

In reply to your letter of December 6th, I should like to submit a very slightly revised copy of the second paragraph in my letter to you of October 17th stating our purpose and study plan.

We plan a team of at least thirteen members, not more than eight of whom would remain resident at a given station in an Italian zone of serious undernutrition for a period of probably one year. In addition, the other five of senior consulting staff members would be present at this theatre of operation for the first two to four months to assist in setting up the study, making some of the earlier examinations of the undernourished population and to prepare for the evaluation of results. By careful history taking and physical examination, supplemented with simple biochemical technique we shall attempt to determine what medical conditions may have arisen as a consequence of long continued undernutrition, then the nutrition is to be brought up as nearly to requirement as possible, maintained at that level for a matter of months and physical improvement noted case by case. Parallel to this the psychological changes produced by undernutrition and their improvement under treatment are to be observed and recorded. From these observations we expect to be able to determine which illness is reversible and which causes permanent disability. Also how soon the benefits of treatment may be expected. We want to find out what doses of vitamins, of grain supplements, etc. are worth using, in order to conserve vitally necessary materials in the future feeding of large populations.

For these purposes we hope to have access to a population in some city group where we can have at least five hundred individuals for the intensive study through the year. These are to be drawn from all ages, beginning with infancy and running into late adult years. It is hoped that we can have statistically significant numbers at each age group. For this purpose the members of the team would like to have as many as fifty at each half-year level from the first year through the sixth, each year level from the sixth to the twelfth, each half-year level to the sixteenth year, each year level to the twentieth and then probably in decade groups of fifty for the rest of life. This will obviously run above 500, therefore we shall probably have to make extensive studies on groups of this size with intensive studies on selected fractions of each of these groups of 50. This calls for statistical methods of sampling and of evaluation, but at least two of the members of the staff are trained and experienced in this matter of statistical selection and evaluation of data. It is hoped that most of our information can be based on family units rather than on institutionalized Italians. If we had adequate facilities, personnel and time, we should be glad to study both urban and rural, both home and institutionalized personnel. Lacking all of these facilities we believe it better to concentrate on home fed people in an urban community.

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I trust that this information will be helpful not only to you  
but to the officials of the Italian Mission now in Italy.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M. D.

RLS:j



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6 December 1944

Dr. Elmer L. Sevringhaus  
The University of Wisconsin  
State of Wisconsin General Hospital  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

For your information I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to Dr. Joy.

I am writing Dr. Reekie, Chief Medical Officer of the Italian Mission, at frequent intervals in order to keep him informed of our progress and to learn his reaction and needs in the field. For transmittal to him, I would very much like to receive from you and Dr. Visscher a statement of the sort of a population group you would like to study, and the sort of study you plan to make.

To a large degree, I believe Dr. Reekie and I understand your desires in these matters, but it might be wise, at this time, to have a written statement from you to avoid misunderstanding.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. Hughes Bryan, M. D.  
Health Division

Enclosure

Copy to Dr. Reekie

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
STATE OF WISCONSIN GENERAL HOSPITAL  
MADISON 6

October 17, 1944

Medical Division

Dr. A. Hughes Bryan  
UNRRA  
1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bryan:

Replying to your letter of October 11th, let me acknowledge with gratitude the mimeographed outlines of UNRRA nutrition approaches and assure you that if you send our team to Italy, there is no reason why we cannot follow these outlines in making reports for comparison purposes. Incidentally, I am still a bit puzzled about how to use the code with the numbers. Some of these numbers could not be merely circled or mentioned as showing the results for one would still have to say whether the particular finding was or was not present or make a quantitative observation about it. Ultimately, I shall expect to have a bit of further clarifying instruction about how the code is used. Otherwise, I have no particular comments or criticisms to submit.

May I suggest the following brief statement of our aims in this mission: We would expect that the team of not less than six nor more than eight would be resident at a given station in the European zone of serious undernutrition for a period of probably one year. In addition, from two to as many as six senior consulting and executive associates of the team might be on this same field for briefer periods to assist in setting up the studies and evaluating the results. By careful history and physical examination supplemented with simple biochemical techniques, we would attempt to determine what medical conditions may have arisen as a consequence of long continued undernutrition. Then, the nutrition would be brought up as nearly to requirements as possible, maintained at that level for a matter of months, and the physical improvements noted. Parallel to this the psychological changes produced by undernutrition and their improvement would also be observed and recorded. From these observations we expect to be able to determine which illness is reversible and which causes permanent disability; how soon benefits may be expected; what doses of vitamins, grain supplements, etc. are worth using. This sort of study should be helpful in developing the program for extensive planned nutrition of large populations in the immediate future.

Sincerely,

/s/ Elmer L. Sevringhaus, M. D.

EIS:fv