April 14, 1933

Major Cornelius B. Philip,
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Laboratory,
Hamilton, Montana.

Dear Major Philip:

I have not replied to any of your various previous communications because of the great uncertainty regarding date of departure that has prevailed all this time. Now, as you are already informed, only this morning everything has been changed, all over again, just as I thought we were ready to proceed on a definite plan.

I received your night letter this morning. If the new program of travel goes through, it is quite difficult to foresee at this time what we will do with our baggage. I have had everything neatly packed away in the two trunks you sent me for some days and the bolting cloth of which you spoke in the night letter would not be readily accessible. However, if our baggage should go one way and we another, you will, no doubt, let me know by telephone, which would probably be the best way, regarding your final instructions. Incidentally, I presume that the bolting cloth is packed away inside the mosquito cage.

Now, with regard to some special items you mentioned in your letter: 1) with regard to the sodium pentobarbital for anesthesia for experimental animals, I bought 300 c.c. bottles of veterinary nembutal which we have found very effective for this purpose; 2) we have an ample supply of needles and syringes as well as fine instruments.

I find it rather difficult to calculate the exact amount of baggage which we are permitted. My interpretation of the secret orders which we both have, is that in addition to the regular locker trunks which each of us is permitted as part of his personal baggage, that I am to be allowed 500 lbs. of excess baggage to carry the equipment for our expedition. If that is the case, then the two metal trunks which you sent me, fully packed, will weigh no more than about 350 lbs., and if it should be necessary, and time permits, we might still utilize the third trunk which is available in Washington for added equipment.

[Handwritten note: actually 316 lbs]
Major Cornelius B. Philip,
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Now this is a lot of talk, but the one thing that will require specific action on your part will be:

"As soon as you have definite instructions as to what we are doing and which way our extra baggage is going, please telephone or wire me in case you wish any of your equipment to be taken out of the trunk at present in my possession and transferred to your personal baggage".

With all good wishes and looking forward to seeing you soon,

Sincerely,

Albert B. Sabin,
Major, Medical Corps.

ABS: AHS.
Air Mail, Special Delivery.

cc: Dr. John R. Paul.