MEMORANDUM FOR: AFEB MEMBERS

SUBJECT: Malaria

1. After our Executive Session, I met with Dr. Albert Sabin and Dr. Keith Cannan at the National Academy of Sciences. Our meeting was concerned primarily with malaria and the possible actions which might be taken to accelerate work on the development of newer drugs and clinical testing facilities. In our analysis of the Board Memorandum on Malaria to the Surgeons General, dated 12 June, we agreed that the proposal could be interpreted as recommending two bodies, 1) a committee of workers in the various phases of malaria and 2) an advisory group, a role which the National Research Council might be asked to develop. I should add, that Dr. Deutschman participated in this meeting, and you may remember that he attended our Open Session. He gave me a historical summary of NRC activities in malaria work, copies of which I have given to Captain Britten for the AFEB files.

2. On Friday I met with Dr. MacLeod and Colonel Hartgering in the Office of Science and Technology. In addition to discussing personnel for military medical programs, and the relationship of the AFEB to other components of the Department of Defense, we also reviewed what might be done to speed work on those phases of malaria which required urgent attention. On the basis of information contributed by each of us, it was agreed that the greatest impetus to the development of additional clinical drug testing facilities and other much needed elements of a malaria program, would be the establishment of a Commission on Malaria. This Commission would carry forward the type of work expected of the committee mentioned above, and it would be larger and broader in its representation of malaria workers than the present committee on malaria. A "Commission on Malaria" would give malaria the important status it deserves today because of the newer problems of resistance of the plasmodia and the vectors.

3. As I look back on our discussions of malaria in both the Open Session and the Executive Session, I believe that it is now appropriate to consider establishing a Commission on Malaria. I would appreciate your thoughts on this proposal.

Gustave J. Dammin, M.D.
President, AFEB

cc: Capt. Britten