MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SURGEON GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Amantadine Hydrochloride

1. The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board by mail vote, approves the recommendation of the Commission on Influenza for the cautious use of Amantadine hydrochloride for prophylaxis of influenza due to the A2/Hong Kong/68 strain of virus when active immunization is either not possible or impractical.

2. It was unanimously agreed that this drug was not a substitute for active immunization; however, under certain circumstances, prophylactic administration of Amantadine might be considered. Such circumstances include:

   a. VIP travel to epidemic areas when vaccine is not available provided that adequate medical supervision is present at all times.

   b. At Recruit Training bases, if an epidemic exists and vaccine is not available or to protect personnel during the interval between immunization and development of "immunity". Strict supervision would be an essential component of this usage.

   c. After appropriate consultation and under strict supervision when special clinical, epidemiological, administrative and/or operational conditions indicate its use in populations that have not been immunized.

3. All affirmative votes stressed adequate medical supervision, with one dissenting vote which pointed out that there is no evidence of efficacy under natural conditions, and side effects are not negligible.

FOR THE ARMED FORCES EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD:

BRADLEY W. PRIOR
Colonel, USAF, MC
Executive Secretary