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(Via Air Mail)

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

OF THE

OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1530 P STREET NW.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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IRVIN STEWART, Executive Secretary

FSB-HBS

January 12, 1944
Dictated January 11

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Dr. Melvin Calvin
Department of Chemistry
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Dr. Calvin:

It is needless to say that we were pleased to hear of the real progress you are making on the preparation of the 50 lbs. fluoroaldehyde in spite of the difficulties you have encountered, and that you now have 10 lbs. on hand. It is also gratifying to know that 5 lbs. of the aldehyde are en route to Rumford for experimental work on its conversion to the chelate. We are looking forward to shipment of the balance of the aldehyde by the end of this month.

The present status of your work has been discussed with Mr. Stevenson, Dr. Geissman, and Dr. Holst, and it is agreed that you should use up the raw materials you now have on hand to make aldehyde. It is entirely possible that more than 50 lbs. of aldehyde will be necessary before 35 lbs. of satisfactory chelate is produced.

As work on the chelate progresses it might be of great assistance if you could spare Doctor-to-be Chandler Barkeley for a month or so, sending him East to assist Dr. Holst in setting up a rate determination apparatus and showing him and his associates the best technique for working with this very active compound. We would like to get your reaction to this suggestion.

In this connection some consideration should be given to the best method of taking care of Barkeley's salary. Should he be loaned by you to Rumford with his salary paid under the U. of Cal. contract, or should he be transferred to Rumford and his salary taken out of the Rumford contract? This point should be worked out between Mr. Marshall,

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President of Rumford, and yourself, provided it is deemed wise at a later date to have Barkelew come East. A copy of this letter is being sent to Mr. Marshall for his consideration of the suggestion.

With reference to future work, there is no desire to terminate your contract as of February 29, 1944, as your laboratory is the logical place for further fundamental work on new chelates, particularly other fluorine-containing derivatives of Salcomine. In this connection Mr. Stevenson would like you to submit a program of proposed work to carry you through June 30 and possibly August 31, 1944. At present there are no plans to carry any NDRC work beyond August 31, so no budget commitments can be made beyond that date.

When such a program, with estimate of expenditure, is received Mr. Stevenson can comment on it and then go before the NDRC much more intelligibly to request continuation and additional funds than would be possible in the dearth of present information.

I would suggest that you submit this tentative program promptly, so that action on it may not be too long deferred.

With regards from Mr. Stevenson and myself,

Cordially yours



F. S. Bacon
Assistant to E. P. Stevenson
Chief
Division 11

CC - Mr. D. Churchill, Jr.
Dr. T. A. Geissman
Mr. A. E. Marshall

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