



One World Link

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12.2.86

The Health Care Sub-Committee
Pat Carless

Since my return from a One month visit to Bo, in April 1985, I have been working on Three projects which were identified by M.O.H. Sierra Leone as being of major importance.

1. The preparation of a small Formulary to meet the needs prevailing in the Hospitals and the supply of the galenicals, chemicals and simple equipment, to be able to prepare the medicaments listed. The Formulary has been compiled after talks with the Dispensary staff at Bo Government Hospital (nurse/dispensers), various Senior Medical staff and the Gov't Chief Pharmacist at Medical Stores, M.O.H. Freetown. They had, in fact, drawn up a much smaller list of preparations and submitted it to the World Bank, who, in reply, had sent a huge document with many pre-conditions perhaps difficult to fulfil, Mr. Bundu-Kamara asked me to spend some time with his Pharmacist staff and a suggested list has now been compiled. I sent this out to Bo on 7.9.85 requesting that it be circulated throughout the Hospital for comment. The reply from Mr. Reffell is enclosed. Since then I have sent off a list of estimated quantities, for costing, and am awaiting replies. Particularly interesting was a recent talk with the Pharmacist at E.C.H.O.- a new appointment and very enthusiastic about our projects. I learned, too, that E.C.H.O. are now prepared to sell to Non-Charity Hospitals through S.T.C.F., but have no more details at present. E.C.H.O. also have a large Technical staff who can deal with the rehabilitation of used equipment and state that equipment purchased from them will be maintained with spare parts, as required, free-of-charge. Tremendous !

2. A training course for Dispensers was being discussed at M.O.H. Freetown whilst I was there and they were most interested to hear details of the Dispensing Technicians Course in Ghana, at Kumasi Polytechnic, where I had worked for 4½ years on a British Council contract. Although this does not directly concern O.W.L., as it would most probably be mounted in Freetown, and be for Dispensers throughout the country, I include it since it was a part of my visit to Sierra Leone. Again, the contact was through the Gov't Chief Pharmacist in Medical Stores, M.O.H. Freetown and this is now ready for despatch.

Dr. Ron McKechnie, a G.P. in Gt. Barr, Birmingham will be travelling to Sierra Leone in mid-February and will take along these documents to M.O.H. Freetown and to Bo Gov't Hospital. Perhaps Dr. Griffiths might follow-up with more letters when he travels (though I suspect he'll be inundated with problems as soon as he arrives.)

3. Small Scale Sterile Production Unit.

This has proved much more difficult for me as an individual as it requires the resources of Departments used to handling this type of project. However, with the help of a Ghanaian Pharmacist who was making a special study, for his MSc. at Aston University, of this very topic. I have compiled a short questionnaire which would indicate some of the pre-requisites which would have to be met before a project could begin e.g. water supply, power supply, land and building, air conditioning, experienced staff (or training proposed), availability of raw materials, containers, estimated needs of various I.V. Fluids etc. I would suggest then that a direct approach be made to one of the Aid Agencies, bearing these criteria in mind and request an expert team to conduct feasibility studies.