A/B, 1, 54/1

November 3, 1950

H-B/1

[redacted]

Washington 25, D. C.

B

Subject: Proposed supplement to [redacted] with [redacted] for studies of motion sickness.

Gentlemen:

[redacted] after conferences with representatives of [redacted] presents for the consideration and support of [redacted] a proposal for supplementation of its present program of research on motion sickness, to be carried out in the [redacted]

C

The proposed supplement requests an expansion of studies now in progress on the effects of certain drugs for prevention of motion sickness. The specific purpose of the proposed supplement is the development of methods for study of the side-effects of these drugs, and of related substances, or of other drugs or agents, with special attention to their actions on complex psychological functions and on behavior followed by the evaluation of particular drugs. The investigation will have three main aspects:

1. A survey of present knowledge of methods for assessment of the behavioral effects of chemical and environmental agents, such as drugs, toxins, alcohol, high altitude, endocrines including pituitary and adrenal cortical hormones, high temperature, sleep loss, noise or vibrations, environmental stress, social stress, etc.. The purpose will be the discovery of methods which will make it possible to measure the specific nature of the effects of drugs on perception, judgment, mood, impulsiveness, emotionality and other intellectual and personality traits.

2. The development and testing of a set of methods by which such drug actions may be validly measured. For this purpose human subjects will be used under the influence of such drugs as are now known to produce particular effects on intellectual, personality

and conative traits, in order to test the validity of the methods. The three major approaches will probably be: a) day-book and observational studies of the daily-life activities of subjects under minimal dosages, b) laboratory investigations by physiological and psychological tests under a variety of dosage levels, and c) situational and interview procedures at various dosage levels. Each of these three methods will be applied to subjects who differ widely in intellectual, personality and character traits, so as to find the interaction of the human factor and the drug factor.

3. The testing, by means of whatever valid methods have been developed by the study, of such drugs as seem likely to be in most widespread use.

It is hoped that the results of these studies may make possible decisions on the limits of proper use of drugs in military operations. Particularly, it is hoped to find which drugs may safely be administered to officers and other critical personnel whose perception, judgment, discretion and decisions are vitally important.

But the significance of such work, if it has a successful outcome, may go far beyond such specific questions. It may make contributions to each of the areas of investigation of the effects of chemical and environmental agents mentioned in (1) above, to problems of interest to the mental health authorities working on the effects of endocrines or on the use of drugs as an aid in the psychotherapeutic process, and to fundamental behavior theory.

It is obvious that this task is a difficult one, having been the objective of many scientific workers for sixty years. Because of its scope it will require the cooperative thinking and efforts of a number of sciences. Furthermore, it is not now possible to foresee all of the specific needs for equipment, consultation or personnel. For these reasons the budget must be relatively large and the plans here presented and budget categories shown should be regarded as subject to later revisions.