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3 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Committee on Alcohol

SUBJECT : Proposals of Committee on Alcohol

1. Recently I have reviewed the activities and proposals of your Committee on Alcohol. Your proposal to present a one-hour lecture and discussion to Career Trainees in the Operations Familiarization Course is most welcome. Your suggestion in regard instituting educative seminars is also to be encouraged. The idea that such seminars might be initiated within the DD/S offices seems like a good one. It would be most helpful if you and your Committee would take the necessary action to accomplish these objectives.

2. As you also suggest, the Navy publication, "Alcoholism, A Supervisory Guide", might be of value to the Agency in some modified form. If your Committee believes that some such printed material is desirable and if a modified version of the Navy document is regarded as the best we can do, it would be most helpful if you and your Committee would meet with appropriate representatives of the Office of Personnel to discuss modification and implementation. I would be happy to obtain the identity of such representatives from the Director of Personnel if you so request.

3. Although no formal Agency program has yet been recognized and approved, our Office of Medical Services must continue to deal with the problem of alcoholism. While an Agency program would undoubtedly affect our internal procedures, we must modify and develop our activities to cope more adequately with the problem as a matter of basic responsibility. During the past year, we have increased our recognition of the illness features of problem drinking. We have more easily dealt with the relationships of problem drinking to disability retirement and fitness for duty. We are presently instituting a "conditional status" in administrative disposition that may assist in identification and, hopefully, rehabilitation of problem cases.

It would seem consistent to describe further dimensions of effectiveness. Your suggestion that we establish a defined program of procedure and a counseling service is regarded as a logical and timely development. I would like to suggest that we proceed quietly and experimentally to get some experience in these matters. Such experience will better equip us to serve a more formal program in the future.

SIGNED

JOHN R. TIERNEN M.D.

JOHN R. TIERNEN, M. D.
Director of Medical Services

OMS/JRT:mam

Disbution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee (C/PS)

2 - O-D/MS Files