

12260 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

groups to categorize the drugs and medical devices, and to explore or consider all possible ways of valid reasons for grouping these items. Col. Trimble agreed another task group meeting was necessary to determine a compatible work plan. The committee, after discussing and comparing "families" of items and other groups considered as medical items, agreed to Col. Trimble's plan. The task group will report on its progress at the next meeting, December 17, 1974.

3. DOD/VA approach to procurement of NPS for Government hospitals.

DOD and VA agreed jointly to develop data on the sources of supply of nonperishable subsistence items for Government hospitals, as a preliminary effort.

4. FDA Liaison. Mr. Sorett noted that correspondence from Dr. Charles C. Edwards, HEW, had been received designating Mr. Thomas W. Brown, Director, Compliance Coordination and Policy Staff, as FDA's official liaison to the committee. Mr. Sorett stated Mr. Brown would be invited to attend one of the next meetings to bring the committee up-to-date on FDA's progress in their efforts to develop and implement a Government-wide Quality Assurance Program.