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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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November 5, 1991

Mr. Donald L. Sundell
Technical Assistance for Sensory
Impaired Programs (TASIP)
150 S. Progress Ave.
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Dear Mr. Sundell:

Your letter of September 24, 1991 was referred to my office for review and response.

I sincerely apologize for this long delay in responding to your inquiry regarding Mr. Thomas Martin's Braille project. While the administration is supportive of Mr. Martin's Braille project, we are not in a position to expand this program at this time.

At the present time, Mr. Martin's Braille computer is located in the Correctional Industries Administrative area and this area is only supervised by staff during a limited number of work hours during the work week. At the present time, we are not in a position to permit Mr. Martin to have a computer and disk drive unit in his cell. This is because we are currently reviewing our security procedures for computers used throughout this institution. We are concerned because of the proliferation of computers by various agencies and groups within the institution and we need to develop a more comprehensive security system to insure that these computers are not abused.

At the present time, Graterford is experiencing a severe usable space problem. We have a number of departments that have been dislocated because of the demolition and stalled reconstruction of our treatment facility. Likewise, Correctional Industries does not appear to have additional work space available for an expanded Braille program.

Please be assured that we will continue to support Mr. Martin's efforts as our space and supervisory resources permit. We would be most interested in expanding this program at some point in the future when appropriate space and supervisory services are available. We appreciate the fact that this could be an exceptional program for inmates to participate in as it would give them an opportunity to provide a very valuable community service while confined. We shall continue to monitor this program and when possible, consider expanding it. As always, we thank you for your sincere interest in Mr. Martin's work.

Sincerely,

Donald T. Vaughn
Superintendent


BY: Thomas D. Stachelek
Deputy Superintendent for Treatment

DTV:TDS:dsm

cc: Mr. Mader
Mr. Cunningham
Dr. Couturier
File