



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Refer to:

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Dear Mr. Fogarty:

I have been very pleased to learn that you have been nominated to serve as Congressional Advisor to the United States Delegation to the Twelfth World Health Assembly which convenes in Geneva on May 12. As you know, the Assembly is the legislative body of the World Health Organization at which the 88 member states of the Organization are represented.

The World Health Organization is without question one of the most effective agencies on the world scene. It is providing leadership and support to coordinated programs for the control and, in some cases, the eradication of such widespread diseases as malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, yaws and smallpox. At the same time, it is giving forceful and clear-sighted leadership to the development of international cooperation in medical research, increasing our expectancy of resolving fundamental problems in such difficult fields as cancer and heart disease.

The United States, by virtue of the unique position it holds in the forefront of world medicine, plays a significant role in the deliberations and decisions of the World Health Assembly. This year the Assembly will be dealing with a number of issues that will have a profound effect on world health and which will raise questions as to the degree and level of support that each member, including the United States, will be able to give to the Organization in ensuing years. These issues include the role of WHO in intensified medical research on a world basis; the successful prosecution of the malaria eradication campaign; and the design of an International Health and Medical Research Year.

In view of your profound understanding of the importance of health in the social and economic structure, and your broad knowledge in this field, your counsel will be invaluable to the Delegation. I

recall very clearly your constructive participation two years ago.

Apart from the World Health Organization, the Public Health Service has other important interests in Europe. Chief among these are the European offices of our foreign quarantine service, and our relations with European scientists and research institutions. These interests have come into the foreground recently. An outbreak of smallpox in Germany last winter, which was successfully blocked from entry into the United States, underlined the importance of the maintenance of effective quarantine operations abroad. The significance of international cooperation in medical research has been highlighted by the consideration in the Congress of the farsighted legislation, which you have introduced in the House of Representatives, that would enable the United States to provide greater support to research on a world basis.

I hope that it will be possible for you to find time while in Europe to study the quarantine service and give us the value of your counsel in regard to it. Also, I hope that you will be able to visit some of the great research institutes of Europe and meet scientists with whom we are working through joint research, grants and training programs. I know that you would find this to be of the greatest interest and a visit from you would do much to stimulate and advance the effective relations between the scientists of these institutes and our own scientists. I know such visits would be welcomed by the health authorities of the countries as an evidence of the interest and sincerity of the United States in promoting the progress of medicine on a world basis.

We in the Public Health Service will be delighted to assist you in planning your visit to Europe in order to make it as productive of international good will and medical progress as I know you wish it to be.

Sincerely yours,



Surgeon General

Hon. John E. Fogarty  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.