

COPY

299 West 12 Street
New York 14, N.Y.

16 April 1953

Mr. Albert F. Bender, Jr.
Special Assistant to the
Secretary-General
United States Mission to the
United Nations
2 Park Avenue
New York 16, New York

My dear Mr. Bender,

I have received your registered letter of 2 April 1953 in which you request me to submit Civil Service Identification and Personnel Data forms to you "in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 10422 dated January 9, 1953".

I have read this Executive Order carefully and find no provisions in it which give any official of the United States Mission the authority to make such a request as is contained in your letter of 2 April 1953. The Executive Order, Part III, provides for an arrangement between the executive heads of the specialized agencies concerned and the appropriate officials of the United States Government for the submittal of information on United States Citizens. However, I have not been requested by my Director-General to complete any questionnaires nor to comply with any other procedures such as fingerprinting.

Therefore, I feel that your request has no legitimate basis and represents an unwarranted invasion of my privacy. In consequence, as a matter of principle, I find myself unable to comply with your request. Should I be called to testify by any congressional committee or other duly constituted body, I am entirely willing to do so and I would not invoke the Fifth Amendment, since there is nothing in my private or professional life which I fear to expose to scrutiny.

Yours very truly,

Sylvia Meagher

OATH OF OFFICE

I solemnly swear (undertake, affirm, promise) to exercise in all loyalty, discretion, and conscience the functions entrusted to me as an international civil servant of the World Health Organization, to discharge those functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the World Health Organization only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any government or other authority external to the Organization.

—Staff Regulations of the
World Health Organization
Article 1.10