

New York, N.Y.

5 February 1953.

Personal and
Confidential

Dear Dr. Chisholm,

I have received Information Circular No. 8 dated 28 January 1953 and should be grateful if you would clarify certain questions regarding my personal status which come to my mind after a careful scrutiny of your informational statement.

1. I should be grateful for clarification of why, after six years of service with WHO, during which period I have received three promotions, it is necessary for information about me to be obtained from a Member State to supplement the information I submitted as a condition to my initial appointment and such other information regarding my character and integrity as is implicit in my six-year record of service.
2. I should be grateful for clarification of why the Organization wishes to avail itself of information from one Member State regarding a special and distinct group of the secretariat. This would appear to be discriminatory, as there seem to be no provisions at this time for the investigation of or reporting on non-USA members of the staff. The Staff Rules and the Staff Regulations do not provide for such extraordinary investigation of particular groups of staff members. Furthermore, such a policy appears to be in contradiction to the provisions of

Article 37 of the Constitution of WHO, and of the policies and principles which have always governed the relationships among the Organization, the staff, and the Member States. Will the Executive Board or the World Health Assembly give consideration to this matter, as it relates to Article 37 of the Constitution?

3.

My third question, and perhaps the most urgent one, concerns the policy which will be followed in the event that a staff member refuses to complete the forms and fingerprinting which, in the case of the United Nations staff, have been the first requirement of compliance with the Executive Order which is annexed to Information Circular No. 8. Would such refusal on the part of a staff member result in suspension, dismissal, or other disciplinary action by the Director-General? I should be grateful if you felt able to indicate your policy in this connexion as soon as possible, as that would influence strongly my personal decision as to whether or not to submit to the indignity of interrogation and fingerprinting which form a part of the "FBI full field investigation" which is prescribed by the Executive Order for persons in my grade.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Orenstein Meagher