

25 March 1954

I have accepted the invitation to appear at this Hearing out of a spirit of courtesy to an official organ of a Member State of the World Health Organization, on whose staff I am employed, and in order that I may clarify further the views expressed in my letter of 17 February 1954 to the Chairman of this Board. As indicated in the letter inviting me to appear at this hearing, I was addressed in my capacity as an international civil servant and am appearing here in that capacity. Therefore, I hope it will be understood that any statements I may make are necessarily limited by the proper and normal restrictions imposed by that status.

In the final paragraph of my letter of 17 February 1954 to the Chairman of this Board, I assured him that I have never departed in letter or in spirit from the obligations imposed by the Oath ~~of~~ ~~office~~ to which I swore when I assumed my post in the World Health Organization in January 1947. That Oath obligates me to perform my duties and to regulate my conduct with the interests of the World Health Organization only in view. This I have done scrupulously and faithfully during the entire period of my employment.

A corollary to this obligation, as I have always understood it, is that an international civil servant subscribing to this Oath shall not take any action at any time which is against the interests of the duly constituted government of any Member State of the World Health Organization or in violation of the laws of the country in which he is stationed. Likewise, I assert that I have never, in any way, committed any such improper act or acted against the interests of any Member State.

I cannot but be aware that under Executive Order 10422, as amended, a full field investigation of me has been carried out by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States Government. I am absolutely certain that the findings of any reasonable investigation cannot fail to corroborate my statement that I have at all times strictly respected my obligations to all Member States, and that I have never committed any action whatsoever which is capable of any interpretation other than that I am and have been at all times a completely loyal and faithful international civil servant, in respect both to my Organization and to its Member States.

I note that the standard established by the Executive Order, to quote from it, is "whether or not on all the evidence there is a reasonable doubt as to the loyalty of the person involved to the Government of the United States". I submit that the results of the field investigation in my case, as communicated to me in your letter of 5 February 1954, ^{must} demonstrate unequivocally that there can be no reasonable doubt whatsoever on this score.

I have been guided at all times by entirely proper motives and especially by respect for the principle of the independence of the international secretariat of the World Health Organization. This principle is enunciated not only in the Oath ~~of the WHO~~ to which I have referred but also in Article 37 of the Constitution of the WHO. In ratifying this Constitution, all Member States have also undertaken to respect the independence of the secretariat, and subsequently, at the First World Health Assembly, further reaffirmed this principle

by defeating a proposal by the delegate of Bulgaria that the Director-General and all members of the staff should be approved by their respective governments. The delegate of the United States voted with the majority to defeat this Bulgarian proposal. Therefore, my position with regard to the independence of the secretariat is based upon the recorded decision of the World Health Organization and its Member States, including the United States, as reflected in the founding document and the official proceedings--in short, my position is based upon the greatest possible degree of unanimity by which I can be guided.

of the independence of the international secretariat
This principle is recognized not only in the forms which I have already mentioned but in the terminology of the Executive Order, as amended, which provides for the transmittal to the executive heads of public international organizations of an advisory opinion regarding staff members of United States nationality, as to their loyalty to the United States of America. My loyalty and my suitability for employment by the World Health Organization have never been questioned by my Director-General. In fact, my suitability is best demonstrated by my long record of service, and has been recognized by my Organization, which has offered me promotions three times in succession and has requested me, on one occasion, to remain on the staff rather than accept another position which had been offered to me. ^{IT IS} ~~It is~~ ^{IT SEEMS TO ME} conceivable that such promotions and recognition would have been offered to me if there had ever been one iota of doubt about my loyalty!

Thus, I do not consider it appropriate for me, at this late stage, to have to protest my innocence of any wrongdoing or to have to prove what is already clearly established--my suitability for employment on the staff of the World Health Organization. So much for my record as an international civil servant.

As regards my personal life, I need hardly add that the World Health Organization has always accorded me--and, indeed, all other members of the staff--respect and privacy with regard to personal opinion. The sanctity of private opinion of international civil servants has, in fact, been reiterated repeatedly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Directors-General of the specialized agencies in public pronouncements. But the Interrogatory/^{to}which I have been invited to submit completely contradicts, in form and substance, these repeated guarantees of the sanctity of private opinion of members of the international secretariats. Such a guarantee cannot be lightly surrendered by any of the parties involved. I doubt whether my surrender of this right, for whatever reason, would be consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

However, even if one accepts the basic premises of the Interrogatory, nothing questionable is shown in my private life or in my relationships, in my opinion and/the one flimsy and frivolous allegation communicated to me clearly does not warrant further pursuit.

As for my political views, about which the Interrogatory contained a number of questions, I have always expressed myself freely on political issues, although I have been mindful at all times of my position as an international civil servant and the obligations thereof. I maintain, however, that such expression of views is not proper under circumstances of compulsion, particularly when such compulsion is exerted on an international civil servant. I sincerely hope that it is not the object of this hearing to exert such pressure on me on this point as would be tantamount to

compulsion. If this was actually the case, I would deem it my clear duty, both as a matter of conscience and as an employee of the World Health Organization, not to comply with such an effort.

Finally, I wish to emphasize to the Board that the position I have enunciated is taken after a sincere and solemn appraisal of my ^{duties and} rights, and has been my consistent position at all stages of my experience with the Board. I doubt whether my ^{stand} ~~position~~ will be altered and I can only express the hope that the Board will respect my position and find it altogether consistent with the aims and objectives which have inspired the Executive Order.