

UNITED NATIONS

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WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA SANTÉ

Office of the Director General
Bureau du Directeur Général

Palais des Nations, GENÈVE
Télégr.: UNISANTÉ, GENÈVE

Ref.: PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Geneva, 11 February 1953

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

In your letter of 5 February you ask me for clarification of why you should be required to supply certain information to the government of the country of which you are a citizen. I am sure you will agree that it is not within my competence or responsibility to clarify why any government takes a certain course of action. Article 37 of the Constitution is not involved. This is clearly a matter between the government of the country and its nationals who happen to be employed by WHO. All that the government concerned has requested me to do is to supply them with the names, date and place of birth, of the nationals of their country. Other countries have requested the same information and it has been supplied.

Regarding your question as to whether disciplinary action would be taken against a staff member who refuses to complete the forms, etc., all I can reply is that I have not requested any staff member to fill out any form for any government. Nationals of a country, when employed by WHO, would, I trust, give the most careful consideration to any request for information which their government requests them to give. It is not my right or intention to intervene between a government and its nationals. In my opinion no rights of an international civil servant have been abrogated by any action taken to date towards any employee of WHO by any government.

Yours sincerely,

Brock Chisholm, M.D.
Director-General

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
World Health Organization
Liaison Office with the United Nations
United Nations
New York