

D R A F T

Private and Confidential

Dear Dr. Chisholm,

For some weeks now I have wanted to seek your guidance on an important matter but have hesitated to take up your time, knowing what a burden of additional work is created by the Health Assembly. I still feel very reluctant to impose upon you, and I am doing so only because it seems to me that the circumstances truly provide justification.

In your letter of 11 February 1953, and in conversation while you were in New York during March, you said that the World Health Organization was not requesting its staff members who were U.S. citizens to fill out any forms or comply with other procedures mentioned in Presidential Executive Order 10422. I believe that you said in the course of conversation that you were not interesting yourself in whether or not such staff members complied with the procedures, because in your view this was a matter between a Government and its citizens and did not involve the World Health Organization. During that conversation, I told you of my <sup>in a dilemma</sup> personal reluctance to comply with a procedure that appeared to violate my rights as a citizen and that if I did decide to comply, I should do so only under protest and to avoid any embarrassment to the Organization.

<sup>(I have)</sup> Subsequently, I thought about this question very long and thoroughly, <sup>rights of the citizen</sup> and tried to resolve the conflict between what seemed to me to be the duty of the citizen, on the one hand, and the consequences of what I believe you termed "useless martyrdom", on the other. ~~I can assure you, Dr. Chisholm, that I found it very, very difficult to come to any decision.~~ However, after considering all the implications as well and as earnestly as possible, one conviction was insistent and urgent--that to acquiesce ~~readily~~, for whatever reason, was to contribute indirectly to a sinister and <sup>shameful</sup> process which, if unchallenged, would in the end obliterate all <sup>in answer to the Health Assembly of the WHO?</sup> reasonable judgment and the very guarantees of the Constitution of my country. As a matter of principle, and although

*of interest to me as a member of the assembly and R. (over)*

It seems to me that there is present  
here a question which naturally concerns  
the WHO and not another one concerning my own

conscience. I am convinced that the  
no matter what  
United States has no right to require the Committee

of the WHO to determine my qualifications  
for employment. This is an attack upon  
the international independence of the organization

of the WHO. Moreover, it is a serious invasion  
of my rights as a citizen of the country.

I have nothing to conceal in my private, political, or professional life, it seemed to me imperative to take a position which, ~~even if ineffectual or futile,~~ would be compatible with my conscience ~~and convictions.~~ *the results of the A/SC are* I therefore replied on 16 April 1953 to a request from the U.S. Mission to the United Nations that I comply with certain procedures, expressing my belief that their request was unauthorized and unwarranted.

At the time that I sent that letter, I was not sure whether it was proper for me to send a copy to you, in view of the ~~detachment~~ *detachment of WHO from this question which* you had expressed in conversation. But in the six weeks that have passed since I sent the letter, I have been troubled about the possible consequences so far as they might affect the World Health Organization and my post. There is no need for me to express my feelings about WHO, I am sure, nor my sense of responsibility as a staff member. Because of this concern, I am taking the liberty of sending you now, belatedly ~~perhaps,~~ a copy of my letter of 16 April 1953 to Mr. A. F. Bender of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. I am presuming to do this, Dr. Chisholm, not because the matter is a personal problem but also because it involves a serious question of principle which may result in embarrassment or difficulties for the World Health Organization. *specifically if compromised*

Because of my reluctance to contribute to difficulties for WHO, I hope that you will not consider it improper if I ask you, at this stage, whether you feel that my action as reflected in my letter to Mr. Bender is incompatible with the duties and obligations of my post. I have not received any reply from the U.S. Mission nor has there been any other form of acknowledgment of my letter. As there would still seem to be opportunity for me to reconsider the question, I should value very much any indication which you feel able to give me which might guide me in this unhappy situation.

*I must add what is perhaps unnecessary: that ~~as a result of my action~~, I am asking your opinion as Director-General in good faith, with the intention of acting on the basis of your views if they reflect that my action thus far, which is not irrevocable, will ~~tend to~~ *which the acceptance* ~~embarrass~~ the ~~relationship~~ *relationship* between WHO and a Member State.*

6/10 in all relations were a Member/State