

October 30, 1967

Professor F.S.P. van Buchem
Duinroosplantsoen 15
Haarlem, Netherlands

My dear van Buchem:

Finally I am back in my office in Minnesota. My return from Italy on October 15 was followed, by one day, by departure for San Francisco (American Heart Association meeting) and Miami (American Public Health Association meeting). So only now have I seen your letter dated 27 September 1967.

Of course we did not have time enough on the last day of our Minnelea conference to discuss in detail the rather complicated data from Zutphen summarized in the slides. Perhaps I should have scheduled more time for such discussions; Fidanza was very cross because he was not called on to discuss some of his detailed dietary studies.

As to your data and the various correlations, I should have to study the material carefully and at leisure to be ready to comment properly. However, I would point out that correlation analysis with many inter-related variables does not always provide ultimate "truth" but is always subject to a variety of interpretations in regard to biological meaning. And I should emphasize, again, the large intra-individual error and variance in regard to the two major variables of the diet and the level of physical activity.

I hope soon to be able to send you draft copies of materials that came out of the Minnelea conference. Drs. Blackburn and Menotti are mailing some practical trials of classification and within a month should be able to report to us all. I still think that a target schedule of having reports on mortality reports ready to assemble for publication by next spring is reasonable. But I shall send a more detailed memorandum soon.

Kind regards to you and your wife.

Sincerely yours,

Ancel Keys, Director

AK:mb

cc: Dr. Blackburn