

October 3, 1967

Prof. F. S. P. van Buchem  
Duijroosplantsoen 15  
Haarlem  
NETHERLANDS

Dear Prof. van Buchem:

Thank you for your letter of September 27. I'm impressed in my daily work and in my travels how important, and how difficult, is true communication and understanding between persons.

On the other hand, Dr. Keys and I are both noted for speaking our minds in evaluating data. In this country we have a very free and critical exchange with colleagues. This intellectual exchange and critique is completely separate from personal regard, affection or cooperation, and in no way suggests a lack of personal regard.

I have only a remark on those risk data you showed me in Noordwyk and at Minnelea. You might be a little more secure in the cholesterol-risk results if you also analyzed the data for each decade according to criteria based on relative standing in the distribution for each decade, rather than only on absolute values of cholesterol. We spoke of this in Noordwyk. It is useful to do the analyses both ways, by a man's rank in his group and by absolute cut-off values, preferably also determined from the distribution in his own age group.

In regard to your slide of the complex intercorrelations, I simply don't understand it, except that small levels of statistically significant correlations do not necessarily always mean biologically significant relationships. On the other hand I'm delighted if Prof. Tremoliere finds the relationships of interest. I am enclosing a summary of recent energy balance studies by Dr. Grande of this laboratory which may interest you.

Dr. A. Menotti is systematically reviewing all incidence data by the criteria we drew up in Minnelea. Would you be good enough to

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provide him with narrative forms 10, at least for those with cardio-vascular deaths and deaths of unclear cause, on the Zutphen deaths through the 5-year follow-up. I hope we can have those to him by November 1.

I will be writing you and your wife again shortly, concerning my most pleasant stay in Noordwyk.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB/rk