

ATHENS HOME FOR THE AGED

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Dunce

18th December 1987

Dr. Ancel Keys,
Minneapolis, Minnesota,
USA.

Dear Ancel,

This letter is written to you with some delay because of a postal strike in Greece which ended only yesterday. Further, I am addressing this to you in Minneapolis, so it can reach you before the end of the year.

I wish to thank you both wholeheartedly for your hospitality during my stay in Minnelea which gave me the opportunity to view at first hand the significant improvements made to your estate during the last 20 years. You have both been very effective in transforming the ground into a very fertile area of southern Italy.

It was useful to have met Nissinen, Menotti and Kromhant and discuss possibilities for further study of the survivors of the mitral cohorts in northern and southern Europe. A lot of groundwork has to be completed in Greece before such a decision can be transformed into action and you are well aware by now of the obstacles encountered locally.

With regard to the vital capacity paper it would be most helpful if you could: a) look up whether tables for age and height have been constructed by Rose, Peter or Bruce on the basis of the entry data of Corfu and Crete, b) look up at persons dead from all causes (and from C.H.D. separately) at 5,10,15 and 20 years (1980 and 1981 respectively for Crete and Corfu) to see whether there is any correlation with their entry V.C. and F.E.V. - 3/4. With this information one

may be able to state whether or not a low V.C. is a risk factor for death from C.H.D. or all-causes death in these two areas and after which follow-up period does this effect appear. Since the year of death appears in every death record, the information requested is available at Rose's desk.

I suspect that if a trend between low V.C. and total deaths or C.H.D. deaths is present this probably requires more than 5 years to become obvious, since as indicated in the Nov.1972 paper in the Am. Journal of Public Health a 5-year interval does not show V.C. to be an independent risk factor for C.H.D. except perhaps in US railroad men. Do you think that such a task can be done in Minneapolis without my presence or would a trip for this purpose be necessary sometime next summer?

I am mailing to Pioppi under separate cover by surface mail the Italian review on the Sostanze Grasse, parts of which I read with great interest.

Jenny joins me in wishing to you and Margaret as well as your extended family the best for the season and 1988.

See you soon, either in the U.S. or Italy.

As ever,

Audy
A.S.Dontas, MD

ASD/SW