

Parco Grifeo 30 (1)
Naples, Italy
July 8, 1964

Dr. Paul Dudley White
264 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass.
U. S. A.

Dear Paul:

Thanks for the information about Dr. Ivor Obeyesekere of Ceylon and the suggestion about Fred Hatch re nutritional studies.

Something of the sort of story given by Dr. Obeyesekere comes out of India from time to time -- fairly common C.H.D. in low-fat diet people -- but I have never heard or seen anything like acceptable evidence. What is needed to establish the true facts is either a big follow-up study or a still bigger cross-section survey with the E.C.G. on a proper sample. The analysis of our findings on over 12000 men leads to statistical conclusions about numbers needed.

More and more I am convinced that a crying need to advance knowledge on the epidemiology of coronary heart disease is a program of much bigger surveys than we have been able to attempt--thousands rather than hundreds of men in each sample and computer processing of the E.C.G. records on tape.

All this is technically feasible and the contacts and good will are established in enough places to cover the world-wide possibilities of combinations of variables that should be exploited. But it would cost something, perhaps several million dollars a year for some years. More important, a good staff would be needed who would be more or less full time for the years involved. But all this smells of the opium pipe and I, at least, have enough trouble with my little projects.

I find that I cannot reach Prague before late on August 18th and it may even be that I cannot be there at all and will have to go direct from the States to Helsinki. My schedule is awfully tight for the next couple of months. But we shall certainly meet in Helsinki.

Best wishes,
As ever,

Ancel Keys, Chairman.