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Corresp- Dontas

November 13, 1987

Andy Dontas, M.D.
1, Stesichorou Street
10674 Athens, Greece

Dear Andy:

Apparently a letter I dictated to you several weeks ago has been lost here. I hasten to get this one off with my abject apologies for not stopping down in Athens. As you know from Katia, we tried unsuccessfully to reach you in our rushed visit. I had told Cookie or Cleo, I'm not sure which, that we were staying in the Hotel Xenia in Iraklion and had given her a time that I might be reached there. Apparently she didn't catch it. That's the only hotel I've ever stayed in, and the only one I knew to go to.

As you also know from Katia, our decision to go to Crete was an extremely last minute situation and our flight arrangements and limited time were such that Stacy and I had no time at all for Athens. Katia had only the one fateful night there. It is my fault that she didn't take your advice on the Plaka hotel. I had talked to her a few hours before we decided we could leave from Heidelberg and meet her in Iraklion, and suggested that the best way for us to meet was for her to meet our plane as it came through Athens, and that she could do that better and more conveniently by staying on the beach near the airport, rather than going to downtown Athens. We came through in the late morning and I knew she wasn't getting to Athens until very late at night. It turned out that she did arrive indeed at midnight.

At any rate, we're very sorry to have missed contact with you and are grateful for your efforts (if you are out any expense for the hotel, I'd like to repay you).

I hope you will give my best regards to the group meeting in Minnelea. I despair of setting up a Seven Countries editorial committee that would share decision making with Ancel on who uses the data for what purpose. But any progress you can make in that regard would be marvelous. It's time now that others have a shot at the data with the updated tapes, and that we establish some sort of centralized but collegial policy of submitting analyses and article titles to a central body for general agreement. And I am also very anxious to use the data base in graduate and post doctoral training. If you should get that far in your negotiations, and I know that Menotti and Kromhout would certainly support such an editorial group, please be sure that I'm on it. I will continue to be relatively "non-interfering".

George Christakis had asked me to stop in and chat with Tony Kafatos on my visit

to Crete, and I did have a one-half hour visit with him. He seems to be quite competent to pursue the issues he wants to. I'm sorry that my '79 attempt to rejuvenate the 7 Countries died along with the illness of my son John. But I'm very admiring of the work that you and Christ have done and that Kromhout and Menotti and others are doing. Ancel, of course, remains remarkable in his productivity.

As for next summer, it's fine as far as I know. I think it would be better if you related directly to a programmer and I will ask Dave Jacobs to appoint one. As usual, I will be out of the Division much of the summer. I plan to be here, actually, only the first 2 weeks of July and the last 2 weeks of August.

We had a ball in Crete and climbed Samaria from bottom to top, rather than the other way around. I was disappointed to see how touristy Crete has become, but I suppose it was inevitable with their otherwise limited resources. It is still a captivating land. I am, of course, particularly sad not to have been able to meet George and thought about him on many occasions when we were in the wilds in Crete. It would have been great to see him and introduce my family to him. I hope there will be a next time. Again, my profound apologies to you and Christ for not stopping down.

Regards,

Henry (nt)

Henry

blind copy: Katia