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8/16/79

August 6, 1979

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World Health Organization  
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Geneva 27, Switzerland

*p.c. J. Snopcew  
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Dear Zbenek:

I was pleased to get your May 28th letter and the section report of 1978. I wonder if we are not ready, sometime in the next two years, for a major international conference on community prevention and health promotion programs. We would like to tentatively think about it on this side, but I think it is crucial that it be international and that it have WHO sponsorship. I believe, however, that it should be a scientific meeting of people involved with design and evaluation of prevention programs in the community, rather than the whole field of loosely knit, unevaluated public health efforts along these lines. It would add to your pilot areas reports some of the more tightly developed programs such as Stanford and our new Minnesota Community program. The American demonstrations are not notable for involving existing systems of public health in this county (such as they are) but do have other important things to contribute.

I would be very grateful to you for reports of your working group in Troms and your CVD 79.2 on your Edmonton meeting. I would also be most grateful to you for your WHO European Series No. 6 on habitual physical activity and health, and No. 568 on smoking and its effect on health.

I am enclosing for your interest the report of my section of the Surgeon General's workshop for 1990 Goals for Prevention in the United States. This is the first major and obviously significant attempt to set prevention policy and goals for the U.S. The enclosed statement is being circulated widely for comments about the country and will appear in published form in the fall, presumably with a major announcement by the President, the Secretary of HEW and the Surgeon General.

I am also sending you under separate cover a preprint - not for reproduction - copy of the Epidemiology Section report from a recent meeting on Optimal Lipid Levels for Populations. Though it has some important omissions and errors, it is, I think, a generally helpful and thoughtful document as well as having much archival value for collecting and discussing the material in one place.