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Bldg. 10, 9N-307

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

May 11, 1979

Dr. H. Mahler, Director-General
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Mahler:

I have just heard about the reckless and rather frightening decision by the Republic of Iraq and the bloc of nations with which it is associated. As you know, they intend to introduce a resolution in the General Assembly of the United Nations that would request the suspension of Israel from membership in the World Health Organization. Having visited Israel frequently over the past years, I have had the opportunity to observe the excellent handling of general medical care for all the inhabitants of this nation, Arab and Jew alike. This is certainly true in the West Bank area as well as the rest of Israel and the construction and operation of hospitals, clinics and medical supply centers in the West Bank area is particularly impressive.

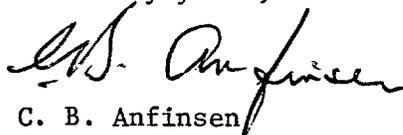
It is well documented that the levels of health, life expectancy and infant mortality are almost exactly the same for the Arab and non-Arab inhabitants and, furthermore, that these levels are an order of magnitude higher than the situation that exists in the neighboring Arab nations. The intended resolution is clearly of a purely political nature, very reminiscent of a similar proposal made with regard to UNESCO several years ago. My colleagues here at the NIH, Dr. Julius Axelrod and Dr. Marshall Nirenberg, both of whom are Nobel Laureates, are fully in accord with my own point of view and our position is completely adhered to by all those associates with whom we have discussed this matter.

We strongly urge you to take into consideration the extremely negative effects that such an action would have, not only on the population within Israel but also on the usefulness, worldwide, of the highly successful World Health Organization. Expulsion of Israel from WHO would make it impossible for many of us to consider cooperation with

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those nations that go along with the senseless stand that has been taken by Iraq. We would be extremely grateful to you if you could take into consideration, and publicize, the attitude that I am conveying to you which I am sure would be taken by everyone truly interested in the maintenance and improvement of health throughout the world.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. B. Anfinsen".

C. B. Anfinsen
Chief, Laboratory of Chemical
Biology, NIAMDD
Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, 1972