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October 27, 1971

Mr. Harrington:
Mr. McAllister:

Re: Special Projects - Dr. Theodor Sterling
Dr. Scloff
Dr. Eleanor Macdonald

You will recall that you approved our participating in a Special Project for Dr. Theodor Sterling to make a critical analysis of statistical studies linking smoking to lung cancer. I now have in hand such a study entitled "A Critical Reassessment of the Evidence Bearing on Smoking as the Cause of Lung Cancer." While I have not yet completed reading it, it appears to me to be extremely well done and forceful.

You may have noticed that the American Cancer Society has decided to reactivate Cuyler Hammond's earlier large-scale study by having volunteers recanvas the thousands of persons initially interviewed in 1959. Hammond has stated that since so many people have switched to filter cigarettes, the statistical relationship between smoking and lung cancer may have diminished and he will also test the association of other environmental agents to various forms of cancer.

So far Dr. Sterling has been unable to get the American Statistical Association to move in support of his position that Hammond should "ventilate" his underlying data, but since the ACS may be expected to move rather quickly, he would like very much to reconvene the expert panel he assembled once before in an effort to set guidelines which should be used in developing large-scale population studies. These include Dr. Farber of the University of Illinois, Lucas of North Carolina State, Eleanor Macdonald of Houston, Mancuso of the University of Pittsburgh, Pollack of Washington University, Schulte of Ohio State and others.

There is a sum of approximately $20,000 left over from the grant we previously approved for Dr. Sterling and he would like to utilize a portion or all of that sum in order to reconvene the panel. I personally think this would be a wise move and would appreciate your approval. By the way, Dr. Sterling's study is available if you wish to examine it, but for the time being the Ad Hoc would like to have its

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distribution rather limited.

You also previously approved an initial commitment to Dr. Soloff, a Heart Specialist, of $11,000 total and this will advise you that the Scientific Advisory Board of CTR has accepted that grant so that we no longer share our portion of that commitment.

We had also recently been asked to underwrite a small grant to Dr. Eleanor Macdonald but this too has been approved by the SAB so that I need not pursue it further with you.

I would appreciate, however, your early response with respect to Dr. Sterling.

F. P. H.