

APPENDIX 8

Dear Kai

Many thanks for accepting to report on my behalf at the IMIA General Meeting in Washington on 24 October 1986. The following points would be of relevance to the meeting:

0. Apologies from Dr Mandil for not being able to be present; will arrive later on today. WHO/ISS is satisfied by the fruitful collaboration with IMIA and IFIP in the past year with and looks forward to the continuation of such collaboration.
1. In January 1985, the Executive Board of the WHO requested a report on the present and potential uses of informatics and telematics in health, to be written for the national health authorities decision-makers as a target audience. Through two international consultations and many institutional and individual contributions, the report is now in near-final draft form and scheduled to be issued in February 1987. The collaboration of many individuals associated with IMIA, in one form or another, has been much appreciated and will be acknowledged in the report.
2. If approved by the IMIA General Meeting, we plan to co-sponsor the proposed Conference on "Computing tools for medical encoding with special emphasis on patient histories", organized by the IMIA Working Group 6. Consultations between Dr Scherrer and his colleagues at the Hopital Cantonal and Dr Mandil, on behalf of WHO, have been conducted and are reflected in the proposal to this meeting.
3. The 4th WHO/ISS International Seminar on the Uses of Microcomputers in the Management of Health Services will be held this year in Milan, Italy in November 1986. It is generously hosted by the Italian authorities. This event continues to be quite popular even though it has been hit by the financial austerity affecting the UN system this last year. Consultations on the 5th seminar in 1987 are already underway. Furthermore, some regional seminars might be organized, starting in 1988, on the same subject.
4. Through the good offices of IMIA, and its collaborating national societies, WHO/ISS would welcome proposals for the inclusion of individuals in a Roster of potential advisers/consultants for Health Informatics assignments in different parts of the world. Such assignments usually range from 2-week to 3-month. The problem that continues to face us is the rather short notice which cannot be avoided. The topics for consultants/advisers cover the entire gamut of health informatics and telematics. The IMIA Working Groups' Chairmen may wish to consider sending nominations, with brief CV's and minimum and maximum potential assignments, to Dr Mandil, WHO/ISS, Geneva.
5. WHO is quite pleased with the arrangements made so far for MEDINFO 86. The organizational aspects appear to be of a high quality and the scientific content of the programme is comprehensive. It still lacks more substance on the applications of informatics and telematics in community and public health. WHO plans to co-sponsor Medinfo 89 following the evaluation of MEDINFO 86.

Dr Salah H. Mandil,
WHO/GENEVA