

C O P Y

April 4, 1963

A. Roy Tyrer, Jr., M. D.
220 South Claybrook
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Roy:

I just returned from Peru a short time ago, having done most of my service after the ship left in Piura in the northern part of Peru. There was a young neurosurgeon there about whom my activity revolved who enlarged my perspective further regarding problems in which we are mutually interested that concern foreign physicians' service and training. My wife and I were sorry we could not attend your daughter's wedding but do offer you our best wishes on this happy occasion.

Upon my arrival I found a copy of your letter to Doctor Nunnemaker and I think that it states the case as forcefully and clearly as possible. I am naturally quite anxious to know any response that you may hear in this matter. I also received copies of the correspondence between Doctor Chandy and Mr. LaRocca as well as a copy of the letter the latter has written to you. I believe these were probably sent to me from Mr. LaRocca's office. I was sorry to hear that the possibility of a rotating program through Indonesia does not seem promising at this time. Doctor Chandy's letter, in which he requests that counterpart funds not be used, is also somewhat disappointing, but possibly when you get there on your trip this summer, you may be able to alter his perspective on this score unless Mr. LaRocca's return letter to him has already accomplished that.

I am wondering, as long as we are investigating this whole problem of the use of counterpart funds, whether we should not cover as many of the other countries as utilize these funds as is possible. As I recall, Mr. LaRocca said that there were nine such countries. I jotted down eight of them and in addition to India, Pakistan, Egypt, and Indonesia, I have reference here also to Yugoslavia, Poland, Burma, and Israel. We did not discuss at any great length the other countries, but it would seem to me that if the Congress of Neurological Surgeons is going to get into this aspect of it that we ought to consider all of the available countries. Since you may be going to Pakistan and India, might it not be wise for you also to visit Burma at the same time? As far as myself, it now appears that my wife and I will be in Europe during the month of August this summer, and there might be some chance that I could investigate the situation in Poland, Yugoslavia, Israel, and whatever the ninth country is that I don't recall. If we could establish programs of this kind in several countries, a choice might then be offered to members of the society. Personally, I think there would be many takers, and a man on the second time out might want to give a service in a different country. If you think there is merit in exploring the situation in these other countries, I would appreciate hearing from you about it and perhaps it would involve further communication, personally or by telephone or by mail, with Mr. LaRocca to work out the details.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

H. Harvey Gass, M. D.

HHG:aj

C O P Y

July 9, 1963

A. Roy Tyrer, Jr., M. D.
220 South Claybrook
Memphis 4, Tennessee

Dear Roy:

I wanted to bring you up to date about our Training Program. While you were away I made another visit to Washington and I met with Mr. Hallam again. He seems to be most interested in helping us to get started in any way that he can. However there is a potential bottleneck which must be passed before we can really get under way. On or about July 24th he is going to have to appear before a Congressional Committee to answer charges made against his office based on abuses some foreign physicians have experienced in this country. This is based on the record of his office over the past several years even before he was in charge of it. He does not know what the outcome will be and he has every reason to hope that programs as carefully considered as ours will still be able to be developed. He does feel although that we should wait until this meeting is completed before we make any definite steps. We shall make contact after that meeting to find out its outcome. If favorable he wants me to come to Washington to meet with a Doctor Lee of AID (Agency for International Development) who he feels is just the man to help us with the selection of foreign people. Unfortunately he was out of town when I was there in Washington, but he should be back by the end of July. He believes that this man has his finger on the pulse of the problem concerning needs in less developed countries and is a most enthusiastic person. From his description it sounded as though he could be an important coordinator for us through whom we could reach the proper applicants.

I hope then to get to Washington the end of July if I hear a favorable report from Mr. Hallam about his meeting "on the hill".

I am most anxious to hear results of your trip, but I know that you must be so busy upon your return and with the Executive Committee meeting in July that you have not had time yet to let me know. I have made some overtures to potential contacts in Poland and Israel regarding Mr. LaRocca's plan but have heard nothing in response yet. I am dubious that anything will develop in these countries.

As you may have heard I have notified both Doctor Walker and Doctor Bucy who had supported our program of the approval of the State Department for our Pilot Program. They were both grateful for being notified and very interested in its progress. Doctor Walker may have mentioned this to you in Europe where I presume the subject came up.

I plan to be on vacation the last few weeks in August until past Labor Day and probably will be abroad. I hope that we can feel that the program is definitely off the ground before I leave.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

H. Harvey Gass, M. D.

HHG/ch

cc: Edward C. Weiford, M. D.
John R. Russell, M. D.