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Aug. 17, 1986

Dr Charles Johnson,
Chpsn, NMA Board of Trustees
Director, NMA's African Health Project
P O Box 3217
Duke Medical Ctr
Durham, NC 27710

Re: A proposed idea for the African Health Project

Dear Dr Johnson,

I recently read of your election to the first above position in my weekly copy of the local (Norfolk) Journal & Guide newspaper. Congratulations on this prestigious accomplishment. But let me explain my main reason for writing to you. I am a 45-y.-o. white native of S.Africa who is a member of the Health Dept of the ANC (African National Congress of S.Africa, the premier and largest and most effective of the liberation movements). I have just returned from a visit to its 3rd Health Council, in Lusaka, Zambia, where it has its headquarters. One of the pressing needs that were identified there was for material assistance in the form of pharmaceuticals, equipment and other supplies for the Health Dept, which ministers to the health needs of the thousands of refugees and freedom-fighters in the ANC camps in Tanzania, Angola, Zambia and, to a much lesser extent, in other African countries. When I read about your 'African Health Project', it occurred to me that, if it is not yet fully subscribed, the needs and aspirations of the ANC Health Dept could be just the kind of cause your group would like to support!

On several occasions, over the past few years, I have made enquiries of local members of the NMA, such as Dr John D Hopkins of Norfolk and Dr Joseph Isaac of Portsmouth, about potential membership for myself in the NMA, and I think I or they have even contacted the head office, but so far to no avail. Because I have steadfastly refused to join the AMA, even when the Medical Society of Virginia recently opted for combined membership (I resigned from MSV), because of the AMA's shameful role, of which you may or may not be aware, in supporting the Medical Association of S.Africa - whose very apt acronym is MASA! - in its readmission to the World Medical Association, and beyond. Therefore, and because I identify so strongly with the cause of my black countrymen in S.Africa, membership in NMA would, perhaps you'll agree, be appropriate for me.

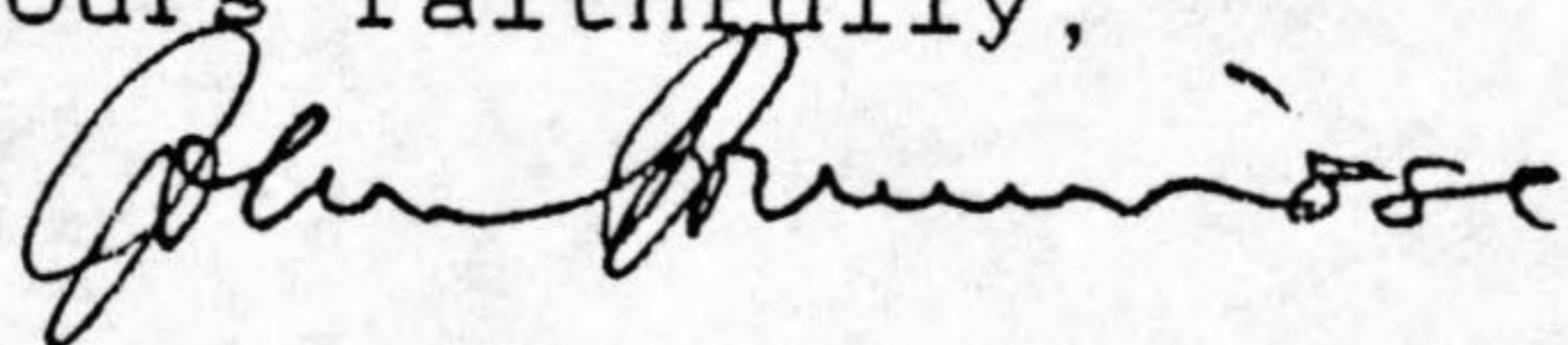
Whether that be so or not, would you please consider my

request of NMA, on behalf of the ANC Health Dept, very seriously. The ANC's Secretary for Health, Dr Peter Mfelang, wrote to me earlier this year, asking me to assist him in setting up a support-group of expatriate S.African physicians and other health-professionals around the world, for the express purpose of: (1) unifying them/us; (2) co-operating with NAMDA (the National 'alternative' Medical and Dental Association 'back home'); (3) supporting the ANC Health Dept materially; and (4) collecting info on the health situation inside S.Africa, exposing the inequities in it, opposing physicians and other health personnel collaborating with it, and liaising with other progressive medical and health personnel around the world in an attempt to help bring about the downfall of the Apartheid health services and the coming to fruition of a non-racial and truly democratic people's health service for our native land. This support-group is currently in the process of being consolidated and launched in its aims. Obviously, it is in aims no. 2, 3, and 4 that NMA, if it chose to do so, could be extremely helpful, pending good communication of the more-exact needs and aspirations of the ANC Health Dept, not so?

If needed, I would be happy to either supply more written info, or give testimony in person, or elicit the help of a black ANC member, in order to supply you with sufficient knowledge about the ANC and where it stands politically and in the life of S.Africans and in relation to Black America, for NMA to make a decision on whether to give its support to this venture which I am suggesting/requesting, or not. Suffice it to say, for the time being tho', that the ANC is the oldest liberation movement in Africa, dating back to 1912, that it is now multi-racial with all population-groups represented but with African-dominated membership and leadership, as in the composition of the country as a whole. Its famous Freedom Charter envisions a mixed economy, with some features of socialism and some of capitalism, and I believe its leadership has indicated that its government, after attaining power in the not-too-distant future, would be non-aligned, in East-West terms/relations. But more later, if you and your Board and Project are sufficiently interested to get back to me about this. I certainly hope you will be, as must be obvious.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue - and potential project for NMA.

Yours faithfully,



cc.: ANC Secretary for Health, Lusaka, Zambia
ANC Chief Rep. to the U.S and the U.N., NewYork 10017
CHISA (the Committee for Health in Southern Africa), NewYork
Mr David Ndaba, ANC medical student, Emory U., Atlanta, GA
Dr John D Hopkins, Norfolk
Dr Joseph Isaac, Portsmouth