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# NUTRITIONAL & GENERAL PSYCHIATRY

JOHN DOMMISSE, MD, FRCPC  
BOARDâ\200\224CERTIFIED IN Psvcum  
BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF HAMS OF CANADA

November 4, 1989

The Editor, The Lancet  
7 Adam Street, Adelphi  
London WC2N 6AD

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Re: 'WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND SOUTH AFRICA'

Sir,  
As a South African native physician who regards health as a  
human right, I must protest strongly against the shameful continu-  
ing defence of the Medical Association of South Africa (NASA) by  
the secretary-general of the so-called 'World Medical Association  
(WMA), who is also the chairperson of the Belgian Medical Associ-  
ation (Oct 7, p 866).

Dr Andre' Wyneh seems to judge people and groups by

rhetoric (in the case of MASA)\_and by their previous circumstantial experience (in the case of his own internment in Buchenwald), rather than by the thrust of what they are currently actually standing for and doing. enigmas is that even many leaders of the state of Israel are how, and have for decades been, in bed with the neo-Nazi government of SouthAfrica.

e.g., One of the world's incomprehensible

At the same time, he tries to discredit a group which is

actually making a human rights statement (in the case of the German Verein Demokratischer Arztinneh und Arzte (VDAA) criticism of MASA ~ June,24, p 1441) by baiting' it.

Even if MASA was 'a cofounder of the WMA, hae closely cbooper

ated in formulation of the Aseociation's philosophy and code of ethics' (Wynen, Oct 7) and 'opposes discrimination on grounds of race, religion, eoeial erigh er pelitical persuasioh' {taken from MASA'S own officiallywstated position), it has been grossly negliâ in carrying out those very ethical codes in relation to political prisoners. and has been silent on the massive health~deprivation of the black population, especially in the rural African areas (which the government hag attempted to avoid social and health responsibility for by declaring them indepehdeht nation~etates').

Therefore? a medical mrganization which is really interested

in these mattere ~ and not just in hypocritical claims of intentions ~ has had to be formed in SouthAfrioa, the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA). from the world community than NASA deee; and the American Medical Association, German Medical Association,

It hag far more support  
Dr Wyneh and the WMA ~

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Belgian Medical Association and certain other white Western medical associations ~ are actually the ones who are isolated in their elitism and support of the modern version of Naziism.

The British, Canadian, all the African, all the Scandinavian and numerous other medical associations have resigned from WMA in the past 10~15 years, and the constitution of WMA bars the communist bloc medical associations from membership by excluding government~controlled or â\200\224influenced associations.

Dr Wyneh is also only aware, apparently, of the capitalist

human rights such as freedom of speech, association, religion, etc., but not of the socialist ones such as free medical care, housing and education, which the VDAA physicians he canâ\200\231t quite get himself to acknowledge as colleagues obviously are aware of.

He and several of his WMA colleagues have given constant

comfort and support to NASA over the past decade, which has done nothing to change the way medicine and the health system are act~ually practised in SouthAfrica.

In contrast to which: the sportÂ»

boycott and economic sanctions are widely acknowledged as having started to bring about some grudging concessions and talk of a negotiated settlement to the constitutional and democratic problem in that conflicted land.

His letter, in a nut~shell, pretty well summarizes many of the

reasons why 'WMA' was disaffiliated by the World Health Organiza~tion and now is merely a small, narrow White/ Western Medical Association rather than a true World Medical Association.

Yours faithfully,

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CHISA. NewYotk  
HealthWatch SouthAfrica, Toronto  
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