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In reply please refer to:
Prière de rappeler la référence: DPR

Your reference:
Votre référence:

His Excellency Mr Benedikt Jónsson
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Iceland
to the United Nations and other
International Organizations at Geneva
Rue de Varembe 9-11
Case postale 86
1211 Genève 20

11 November 1999

Dear Ambassador,

I refer to our ongoing correspondence on the subject of spinal cord injuries and most recently your letter of 8 October 1999.

I wish first of all to apologize for any miscommunication that may have occurred. The Organization is certainly most interested in working with you on the establishment of a centre in Iceland on the issue of spinal cord injuries. The proposed first step, to collect worldwide pertinent information on spinal cord injuries - with regard to incidence, outcome and health care implications - is also fully in line with our plans. Similarly, we shall be pleased to collaborate with the centre to organize an international meeting, subsequent to their collection of global data.

As there is growing awareness and concern about the health care consequences of spinal cord injuries, in particular for rehabilitation services, we feel, as mentioned in Dr Romer's letter of 11 August to Mrs Guðjónsdóttir, that it will in the future be more appropriate for the WHO focal point to be located within the team on Disability and Rehabilitation; the team Coordinator, Dr Enrico Pupulin, has already contacted the International Medical Society of Paraplegia (IMSOP) on this matter. It should be emphasized, however, that this mainly administrative move should in no way hamper the future development of preventive strategies for spinal cord injuries, which are still, of course, of essence.

I trust the above comments have clarified our plans in this important field, and I look forward to our future collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Gro Harlem Brundtland, MD, MPH
Director-General

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