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In reply please refer to: NMH-R4-370-6EU
 Prière de rappeler la référence:

Your reference: 990 301 80 / 811 1E / --
 Votre référence:

Mr Jon Kristjansson
 Minister of Health and Social Security
 Ministry of Health and Social Security
 Laugavegur 116
 IS-150 Reykjavik

HEILBRIGÐIS- OG TRYGGINGAMÁL	
Bl. 811	Afg. Svarfr.
18 DES. 2001	
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Málsnr. R	9903018

12 December 2001

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 11 July 2001 regarding the International Conference on Human Spinal Cord Injury held in Reykjavik from 31 May to June 2001.

Before answering your letter I requested Dr Derek Yach, Executive Director, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health to meet with your Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Geneva, Mr Stefán Johannesson, in order to discuss possible future collaboration between WHO and Iceland. I am pleased to inform you that we are working with Mr Johannesson to establish a WHO Collaborating Centre on Human Spinal Cord Injuries in Reykjavik.

The Collaborating Centre will support WHO global activities. The terms of reference will be the establishment of a database and to act as focal point for international research on spinal cord injury.

As you might know, Mrs Lara Margrét Ragnarsdóttir, Chair of the Social Health and Family Affairs Committee, has included on the next Committee agenda "The treatment and cure of spinal cord injuries", in order to get recommendations for member states of the Council of Europe. A WHO representative will participate in the next meeting in Paris on 14 December.

Thank you for your interest in and support for the work of the World Health Organization.

Yours sincerely,

Gro Harlem Brundtland, MD, MPH
 Director-General

cc: H.E. Mr Stefán Haukur Johannesson, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva