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OCT 23 1985

USCG Air Station
 Traverse City, Michigan
 49684



October 18, 1985

Dr. Joseph P. Ornato, MD
 Medical College of Virginia
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Section of Emergency Medical Services
 P.O. Box 525
 Richmond, Virginia 23298-0001

Dear Dr. Ornato,

Please let me first state my appreciation for your inclusion of my thoughts in your panel discussion even though I was unable to attend the public meeting in Dallas last July. As you know I had a myocardial infarction and was in the latter stages of recuperation which did not allow me to accept the invitation of the American Heart Association and publicly present my views and research on your panel. Dr. Steinman was my personal choice to represent my views as we are in agreement and he is intimately aware of my research findings in the area of near-drowning research and cold-water survival.

I have participated in the post presentation discussion and conference telephone calls with Drs. Modell, Steinman, Mr. Dail, I believe and yourself. I have reviewed subsequent drafts of the panels' statement, and contributed my personal field experience in over 750 drowned and nearly drowned individuals. I must say the contributions from all the participants were carefully noted, differing views discussed, compromises arrived at, and a consensus opinion drafted very fairly by yourself. At each step in this process I received written statements to review, and follow up telephone calls from panel members, and was confident that the resulting document fairly represented the "state of the scientific literature" on the subject to date. Therefore I am surprised by the nature of Dr. Heimlich's letter to you of September 24, 1985.

Dr. Heimlich's letter appears to be a personal attack accusing you of withholding information, altering conclusions, omitting recommendations, condemning people to die, obscuring facts, concealing scientific information, downplaying scientific information not supporting your views, citing non-existent authorities, discrediting bona fide researchers, demeaning the work of others, making errors in interpretation, citing hidden members of "the group"



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(is it me he is referring to?), citing future research falsely, not knowing the medical literature on the subject of drowning, contradicting the panel's conclusions, inaccurately quoting Dr. Heimlich's opinion, quoting "secret majorities," and preparing inaccurate and incomplete reports.

Throughout our discussions all I heard were honest efforts to bring disparate medical and scientific views into one cogent statement. Dr. Heimlich by his actions of accusation, writing letters to a multitude of superiors, and threats to go to the press, is moving from the orderly accepted manner of scientific evaluation, observation, and reporting, to personality conflict, acclimation or defamation to have his views prevail. I wish that could be avoided.

The most recent statement I believe reflects his views.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Nemiroff MD
Captain USPHS USCG

