Dr. MARCUS M. KEY
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Dear Doctor Key,

I have just today received your letter of June 28th, with enclosures. As a scientist, I find it difficult to understand the turn of events.

Since vinyl chloride has been an important sector of the work of our Institute in the last few years, I am of course aware of the facts and of the sequence in which they occurred. Moreover, I am profoundly concerned that the sad story of VC carcinogenicity should indicate the need for predictive experimental bioassays on any new and widespread compounds, as well as on any compounds which are already being produced, but whose effects are not yet known: in my opinion, this is the only effective way of protecting both the workers involved, and human society in general.

In the light of the correspondence between yourself and the Editor of "American Medical News", it seems to me that any further statement on my would be superfluous. In fact, the value of predictive testing is substantiated by many of the facts in Mr. Rowlands' letter.

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As far as your specific enquiry is concerned, may I point out that I never stated that NIOSH knew of experimental evidence because a representative came to Bologna on any occasion. It appears that there may have been some misapprehension arising from confusion between information received, and an actual visit to Bologna. I am sorry if my limited knowledge of the English language has given rise to any misunderstanding on this point.

In relation to the reference in Mr. Rowlands' letter to the report by MCA that it had begun to sponsor VC-PVC research in Europe in March 1972, I wish to avoid any possible confusion by making it clear that MCA has at no time promoted or supported our own research.

I hope that you will agree that my reply to your letter has sufficiently clarified the position,

My best regards,

(Prof. Cesare Maltoni)

CM/mlr