

73SB-777AP

16 November 1973

Alberto DiMascio, Ph.D.
Boston State Hospital
591 Morton Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02124

Dear Al:

After I received your letter of October 24 indicating that "We cannot extend your invitation to Dr. Henk Van Riezen," I called Jon Cole and then Dick Wittenborn to discuss the content of your letter. You must be aware that I became concerned about two separate issues: first, whether the Secretary of the ACNP or the Council of the ACNP have the privilege of rejecting an invitation by a Fellow and, second, the manner in which you notified me.

As to the second point, I understand you called my office, and perhaps it was to discuss this matter with me. I trust that was the reason.

I have read the Bylaws of the Association as well as the memorandum of August 8, 1973. Nowhere in the Bylaws nor in the August 8 memorandum does it state the guidelines to be used by the Secretariat in rejecting invitations by Fellows. I believe that your letter--even on behalf of Council--may be an arrogation of authority which may be unjustified. I say "may be" because in yesterday's mail I received a memorandum from Dr. Wittenborn which may explain the attitude of Council but does not justify the action of the Secretary. I need not remind you that the ACNP is a fellowship of men interested in a common goal, and the invitation of a guest usually reflects serious consideration and should be given unusual weight by the Fellows and especially by the Secretary, who, after all, acts to serve the Fellowship. I understand that there will be an opportunity to discuss the question of invited guests at the forthcoming meeting, and I intend to participate in that discussion.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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