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April 5, 1973

Costas Stefanis, M.D.
University of Athens
Athens, Greece

Dear Costas,

March has passed and despite many communications between my office and NIMH, I believe we are in the same position we were in a year ago, I am writing to acquaint you with the facts and to ask your guidance as to what should be done, if anything.

Our summary report was sent at the end of January. Dr. Szara apparently read it and asked some questions, which we answered. He also enquired about the budget, which we answered. We next heard that the request would be reviewed by a committee, and then last week we heard that the committee had given its qualified approval, with a weak endorsement.

When I called the contracting officer to get his advice, he answered that no further negotiation was possible until he received a detailed contract proposal from 'program'. He expected such a proposal in a few weeks, and then he would consider when he could get to this negotiation, "there being more than 800 contracts to be negotiated".

I believe the staff at NIMH are as little interested now as before, and that the only movement will occur near the end of the year, in June.

You have two options: to assume the contract will be extended, and that you will be assured only about June 25; or to indicate that extension is not requested and plan to end in June. I hesitate to recommend since either course may be painful. But I believe you should advise me as to what is in your best interests, and if possible, I will try to work with you and NIMH toward that goal.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.

P.S. If I fail to hear from you by mid April, I will allow time to pass without my intervention with NIMH