

Handwritten:
Middle East
Situations

August 11, 1958

Dear Mr. President:

In your State of the Union Address to the Congress, calling for action toward works of peace and speaking for the people of the United States to all other peoples, you gave concrete examples of how the world might turn the corner that would start our steps firmly on the path toward lasting peace.

You cited "our power to eradicate from the face of the earth that age-old scourge of mankind: malaria" and said, "We are embarking with other nations in an all-out 5-year campaign to blot out this curse forever. We invite the Soviets to join with us in this great work of humanity."

"Indeed, we would be willing to pool our efforts with the Soviets in other campaigns against the diseases that are the common enemy of all mortals -- such as cancer and heart disease."

The response to your call for action, both in this country and abroad, was both enthusiastic and gratifying. One step toward your objective has already been taken by our United States Representative at the World Health Assembly in offering United States support for a program of international health research.

There are many other problems of disease in which fully effective methods of control already exist and many areas of the world in which these controls need only to be applied. With the approach of the United Nations General Assembly you have another opportunity for taking a further step in health work for peace. The present Middle East crisis presents a tremendous opportunity for action. The widespread prevalence of such diseases as tuberculosis, trachoma, and yaws in this area, readily susceptible to

modern methods of control, constitutes a problem and an opportunity similar to the malaria eradication campaign.

I would therefore urge upon you, Mr. President, that, at the meetings of the United Nations General Assembly which begin tomorrow, you invite all of the nations of the world, including the Soviet Union, to join the United States in an effort to intensify, through existing international mechanisms, disease control in the Middle East, thus taking another step in your program for works of peace.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

John E. Fogarty
Member of Congress

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.