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AMERICAN HOME PRODUCTS CORPORATION

31 JAN 1983

685 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
986-1000

January 25, 1983

Davis

Dr. Carlton E. Turner
Director, Drug Abuse Policy
Office
Old Executive Office Building
Room 220
17th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Dr. Turner:

In the perspective of the forthcoming 13th session of the U. N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, we commissioned Health Management Institute (HMI) to make an independent evaluation of the assessment provided by the WHO in support of its recommendation for the addition of 26 benzodiazepines to Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. HMI is an independent research organization based in Geneva which represents a wide variety of clients, e.g., public sector (Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research), international organizations (Council of Europe), and private sector (Wyeth).

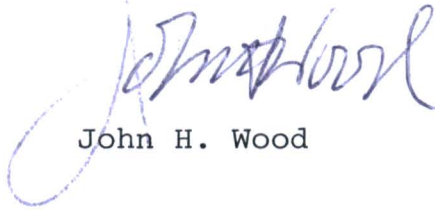
Enclosed for your information is one copy of the HMI evaluation, titled "Benzodiazepines: A scientific and legal critique of the assessment of benzodiazepines by the 5th and 6th WHO review groups on psychoactive substances for international control under the Vienna Convention 1971".

As you will see, the analysis of the reports of WHO's 5th and 6th review groups leads to the conclusion that they are scientifically and legally inadequate as a determinative basis for blanket scheduling of benzodiazepines. These inadequacies are detailed in the enclosed evaluation.

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In view of the immediacy of this situation -- the Vienna meeting, as you know, is scheduled to begin on February 7 -- we would appreciate it if we could meet you to discuss this Report and the general topic before the Vienna meeting. By the time you receive this material, I probably will have been in touch with your office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John H. Wood", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom left.

John H. Wood

JHW:km

Enc. (1)

Benzodiazepines

A scientific and legal critique of the assessment
of benzodiazepines by the 5th and 6th WHO review groups
on psychoactive substances for international control under
the Vienna Convention 1971



HEALTH MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
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