

Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2010 7:23 PM

Subject: Worldwide condemnation of Petersen Paper and undue FDI influence at WHO

To

David Piper, Ph.D, C.Geol
Acting Head, Chemicals Branch,
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
United Nations Environment Programme

Dear Dr. Piper:

NGOs on every continent are condemning a thinly-disguised propaganda piece by WHO's in-house dentist to block the world's transition out of mercury-based dentistry. Dr. Paul Pedersen assembled three dentists from the pro-mercury faction, shut out input from anyone else, and produced a paper with WHO's name on it that absolves dentists of any duty to convert out of mercury, blames families for getting cavities, fatuously opposes a variety of proven techniques that have been used to phase down and phase out amalgam, repeatedly makes claims that are unscientific and provably false, and shrugs off the major role of dentists in the illegal diversion of mercury for gold mining. The timing of the paper shows its political motives, as it was unveiled immediately before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration hearings so the U.S. chapter of the World Dental Federation could misleadingly cite it as a "WHO report."

We commend the Director-General of WHO and Assistant Director-General Ala Alwan for opening an investigation into the Petersen Paper, and we wish to cooperate by sending Dr. Alwan relevant information. Accordingly, at least seven NGOs and many individuals have written the Assistant Director-General in just the past 48 hours; letters are ATTACHED.

Each of these NGOs have a record of major achievements in their nation and our planet in working to phase out amalgam. Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Côte d'Ivoire, launched a nationwide campaign for mercury reduction and education, and is working with West African nations on an amalgam conference. IndyAct convened a mercury workshop for Arab nations and NGOs, and sponsored and saw approved a resolution calling for "the scheduled phase-out of dental amalgam and the phase-in of alternatives in the Mercury treaty." Californians for Green Dentistry has garnered city-based resolutions calling for an immediate end to amalgam in the United States. Associazione Malattie da Intossicazione Cronica e/o Ambientale (AMICA) has pioneered toxic reduction strategies emulated by nations everywhere. Moms Against Mercury successfully sued the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's for that agency's illegal refusal to classify amalgam. Mercuriados has led the way to amalgam becoming off-limits to children in key areas of Spain, and has gained governmental recognition that mercury toxicity from amalgam is a real human condition. The Canadian chapter of the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry is part of a world team of consumers who offer realistic, mainstream, and concrete specifics that point the world toward the phase-out of amalgam.

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement says the Petersen Paper "is contemptuous of Africans; it seeks to protect the dentist monopoly such that rural children will receive no dental care; and it is so protective of the amalgam makers that it will not challenge the profiteering in gold mining." IndyAct claims the Petersen Paper "disregards the goals of the Arab region, is generated from staff and not from WHO member nations, and should be withdrawn." Californians for Green Dentistry is "shocked that the Petersen Paper has no interest in environmental health." It criticizes the "four pro-mercury dentist, all from developed nations" for "pointing the finger at children for getting cavities" instead of switching, and calls on WHO to ask the dentists "still profiteering off mercury to get training and stop using amalgam. AMICA points to the Petersen Paper's "partiality" to the pro-mercury faction of dentistry, and its self-evident "conflict of interest"; AMICA further calls for "transparency" in the re-drafting of the report.

Moms Against Mercury says these pro-mercury dentists are "wrong" to claim they are "powerless to reduce amalgam substantially," then demonstrates that the phasedown strategies of consumers disclosure of the mercury and insurance reform (as called for by UNEP) will cause a "precipitous decline" in amalgam use. Mercuriados raises three key questions about the integrity of the Petersen

Paper which, so far, WHO staff has ducked answering: (1) Were the three outside dentists paid consultants of either WHO or FDI; (2) is the Petersen Paper officially approved by WHO; and (3) is WHO going to try to take amalgam off Annex C of the draft treaty elements. Mats Hanson says the Pederson Paper's claim that Sweden's amalgam usage is 74% is "an astounding falsehood," and queries this false information was "planted to advance the thesis" of the paper. The Canadian chapter of the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry urges the Assistant Director General to put "the integrity of WHO over protecting a colleague who has put first the economic agenda of a trade group - a trade group that has decided dentists' profits come before children's needs, a trade group which has turned its back to the need to decrease mercury use in this world."

Lars Hylander, who attended the meeting that the Pedersen Paper wrongly claimed to be addressing, said he was "thrilled" at the meeting to learn how ART has such great potential for developing countries, then found the idea, as well as others, "distorted or ignored in the report." He says the Petersen Paper has caused "severely damaged confidence in WHO." Ulf Bengtsson provides plenary evidence that the World Dental Federation is for hire to lobby for protecting amalgam at the world treaty, which takes us back to Mr. Bally's letter at the very top: The World Dental Federation is aiding and abetting the illegal sales of mercury for gold mining in developing nations.

Sincerely,

Charlie Brown

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