Whereas authority for the existence of incorporation of a ASD flows from its capital Articles of Association granted by the State of Vermont, which articles cannot and do not authorize legally as a corporate purpose the practice of diagnosis or healing or their promotion for sponsorship, and whereas under Vermont statute, “Medicine and Surgery,” Chapter 23, T. 26, Sec. 1311 - 12 and 1314, anyone who practices medicine “by any system or method” including those of “faith cure,” ” laying on of hands” and “mind healing” (excepting practice of the religious tenets of one's church) “shall be deemed a physician or practitioner of medicine or surgery” and shall require licensing by the State of Vermont, or be subject to prosecution, the following policy has been adopted by your Board of Trustees:

Members of the Society wishing to diagnose or heal are notified they do so, not as members of ASD, but personally, and at their own risk, and subject to the interpretation of the laws of their own State and the Pure Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, passed by the U.S. Congress which makes it a felony to diagnose or heal without a license, and with the interstate use of an instrument or device.

Defense against prosecution by a state or the Federal Government could be a consuming, costly affair, and members cannot be entitled to legal or financial support from ASD for what may be an illegal act.

Members who wish to write or talk on bodily diagnosis or treatment, on the other hand, are entitled to do so under the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, which guarantees them freedom of speech, in view of ASD’s position, however, they may not hold themselves out, in so doing, as representing ASD in any way, but rather as presenting a personal position.

Requests coming from a licensed medical doctor in this country should be considered in the context of applicable law, and at the member’s own risk. It is pointed out that requests originating with a doctor outside the country, who is not duly licensed in the U. S. constitutes such a risk.

The question of the legality of discussion or treatment of radiation detrimental to health turns on whether one is holding oneself out as curing disease; it is noted that it would be attempted by a prosecuting attorney to show that this was done by a system or method that was prohibited.

Your Trustees have directed the ASD staff to reject all requests of a medical nature, either directly or for referral, to a Member or Chapter, noting to the petitioner that such requests may not be processed under the Society's interpretation of the terms of State and Federal law.