

Dr. RICHARDSON: Yes it is. But our responsibility is mainly to determine its relationship to service, as far as the Commission is concerned. Beyond that, it is a treatment problem.

Mr. MARTIN: I was wondering if that was maybe a hint or an indication that there have not been as close a liaison in the past as is desirable?

Dr. RICHARDSON: I would not like to put it that way.

Mr. CARTER: I take it, Dr. Richardson then, that you envisage different phases of this study being carried on for some time yet in the future, is that correct?

Dr. RICHARDSON: That is correct.

The CHAIRMAN: Now shall I proceed with the reading of the recommendations on peptic ulcers? The first recommendation:

That the Commission take cognizance of the evidence relating to the prevalence of peptic ulcer in the Hong Kong group, and undertake to review, with due regard to all available evidence, claims for entitlement for peptic ulcers which have been previously considered and not granted, and similarly, for other claims which may be made in the future.

Mr. CARTER: I take it that this group referred to in this recommendation are veterans who have submitted claims for peptic ulcers and have been rejected on the grounds "not attributable to service". Is that right?

Dr. RICHARDSON: That is right.

Mr. CARTER: And now the effect of this recommendation will be to re-consider that as being related to their service?

Dr. RICHARDSON: That is right.

The CHAIRMAN:

2. That, when indicated, the Commission facilitate the processing of claims which may be made following an Appeal Board Hearing, by granting leave under Section 65-4 to make a fresh application, with a minimum of delay and without requiring the applicant to adduce new evidence or argument in support of his claim.

3. That the Commission examine each such claim in the face of the possibility that longstanding atypical gastro-intestinal symptoms may in some cases have been due to an unrecognized peptic ulcer.

Mr. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, you went a little too fast on 2.

The CHAIRMAN: You may come back to it.

Mr. CARTER: This one, I take it, deals with the claims by Appeal Board Hearings. Claims that have been dealt with by Appeal Boards and rejected by the Appeal Boards. Now does this recommendation that they be automatically granted leave to re-open?