CHAS. PFIZER & CO., INC.,
New York, N.Y., May 18, 1966.

DEAR DOCTOR: The purpose of this letter is to call to your attention in the contraindication and precaution sections of the package inserts for our drugs which contain hydroxyzine or meclizine, revisions which pertain to use during .pregnancy. These revisions have been requested by the Food and Drug Administration.

The package inserts for products containing hydroxyzine have been revised to include the following statement:

"Contraindication: Hydroxyzine, when administered to the pregnant mouse, rat, and rabbit induced fetal abnormalities in the rat at doses substantially above the human therapeutic range. Clinical data in human beings are inadequate to establish safety in early pregnancy. Until such data are available, hydroxyzine is contraindicated in early pregnancy."

The clinical use of hydroxyzine as an adjunct to the management of labor has been extensively reported in the literature without evidence of harm to the mother or fetus.

PRODUCTS CONTAINING HYDROXYZINE

Pfizer Laboratories	*J. B. Roerig*
Vistaril Capsules	Atarax Tablets and Syrup
Vistaril Oral Suspension	Atarax Parenteral Solution
Vistaril Parenteral	Cartrax Tablets
Ataraxoid Tablets	Marax Tablets and Syrup
	Enarax Tablets
	Amplus Capsules

The package inserts for products containing meclizine have been revised to include the following statement:

"Use in Pregnancy: The following information should be taken into account in determining whether the potential benefits of meclizine outweigh the risks of its use in women of childbearing age and particularly during pregnancy. A review of available animal data reveals that this drug exerts a tertogenic response in the rat. While available clinical data are inconclusive, scientific experts are of the opinion that this drug may possess a potential for adverse effects on the human fetus. Consequently, consideration should be given to initial use of a nonphenothiazine agent that is not suspected of having a teratogenic potential. In any case, the dosage and duration of treatment should be kept to a minimum."

PRODUCTS CONTAINING MECLIZINE

Pfizer Laboratories	*J. B. Roerig*
Bonine Tablets	Bonadoxin Tablets and Drops
	Antivert Tablets and Syrup

Meclizine when administered to the pregnant rat, mouse and rabbit induced fetal abnormalities in the rat only at doses substantially above the human therapeutic range. (For details of animal studies please see enclosed package insert.)

An estimated billion doses of meclizine-containing drugs have been consumed in this country alone since 1953, including an estimated one million prescriptions annually for pregnant women in recent years. While there have been a number of malformations associated with the use of meclizine, the evidence is inconclusive as to causation since malformations also occur among the offspring of mothers who take other drugs or no drugs at all.

As you no doubt are aware, as increasing scientific attention is being focused on the subject of teratology, studies are demonstrating that a fairly impressive number of drugs, when administered to laboratory animals, generally at doses substantially exceeding the comparable human dose, produce malformations among the offspring. Regrettably, the end point of scientific knowledge in the field of teratology is not at hand.