

6 August 1993

TO: DAVID BARDIN  
ART DOLE  
HAROLD GOLDSTEIN  
CYNTHIA KISSER ✓  
ED LOTTICK  
HERB ROSEDALE  
MARGARET SINGER  
CUDORE SNELL  
JOLLY WEST

FR: MICHAEL LANGONE

RE: PROGRESS REPORT ON DAVID BARDIN'S ATTEMPTS TO SECURE RESEARCH SUPPORT

As you may know, David has been meeting with people in the D.C. area to try to drum up support for research concerning cults. He and Cudore Snell of Howard University met on Friday, July 30th with representatives of NIMH. He has also been talking to other persons and working closely with me in the development of mini-proposals designed to assess interest in certain ideas.

Thus far, we have focused on two possibilities: survey research and the writing of a comprehensive report on the state of knowledge concerning the psychological and health needs of cultists (see enclosures). Some of you have offered helpful advice in the preparation of these documents, for which I am grateful.

If interest is expressed in one or both of these projects, we will have to provide more details. I would appreciate your advice, comments, or suggestions regarding how to expand these mini-proposals into projects that would indeed have a useful outcome -- or any other advice or help you wish to give.

An unexpected benefit of our discussions with Ron Kessler of the University of Michigan was being put in contact with a survey firm, the ICR Survey Research Group of AUS Consultants, that offered to do a free test run of a screening question and several followups on their national survey for this week (see enclosed "Cult Screening Survey"). We hope to have the results next week. I was told on the phone this afternoon that so far about 1.6% appear to be answering "yes" with six out of 8 respondents identifying the group in question as a cult. These results are consistent with Ed Lottick's survey of physicians, but we must wait to get details before we can begin to draw any conclusions, even tentative, or make plans for revising the question.

Thank you for your help. Please call me at 813-495-3136 or write the Florida address below with your comments, suggestions, or advice. Also, please keep this information confidential, at least until we have an idea of whether or not support is forthcoming. Thank you.