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Received

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Valencia, 13 July 2005

Dear Sirs,

Recommendation to close the AFIP

I have recently been informed of the US Department of Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) recommendation to include the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) in the list of organizations to be 'disestablished' in the future.

I hereby wish to express my deep disappointment at this decision, as well as my strong support for the continuity of this world-renowned institution. As a former president of both the European Society of Pathologists and the International Academy of Pathologists I have been in a position to witness and appreciate the great contribution made by the AFIP over recent years.

There is no doubt that the AFIP is a most well-known institution and their contribution to the field of pathology is recognized throughout the world, not only by pathologists, but also by all members of the medical community.

The many humanitarian, academic and scientific activities of the AFIP extend throughout the world, for this reason the name of the US Department of Defense is recognized, not only as part of the Armed Forces, but also as a civil, sanitary organization.

Economic factors should be no reason to close this institution, which is a symbol for the USA all over the world, and, in some way mitigates the very confusing and contradictory policies carried out in many foreign countries. The disestablishment of the AFIP would only provide further argument to those citizens who express deep criticism of the present policies of the USA.

I hope as a good friend of the institution, and as a scientist who greatly admires the important work they perform, that the recommendation to disestablish the AFIP will be reconsidered and that no further action will be taken to that end in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Antonio Llobart-Bosch MD

