

TBILISI TRIP REPORT

Sunday April 14--Tuesday April 30, 1996

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Student Reports

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<p>(1) <u>National Information Learning Center</u>: a "baby" National Library of Medicine in Tbilisi with satellite libraries in health facilities in Tbilisi and throughout Georgia. Internet access, teleconferencing, core print material, CD ROMs and software, facility for teaching Georgians how to produce their own multimedia programs. Carol Burns worked intensively on this project during this visit. Space (9,000 sq.ft.) ready; library operations director chosen; Georgian co-director just Houpt and Jack Shulman have spent time in Tbilisi. about chosen; computer operations director chosen & in Atlanta now; contract for telephone lines and Internet access ready to be let; hardware being programmed now in Atlanta; generator on the high seas; opening date probably July, grand opening September.</p>	<p>(2) <u>Health care reform</u>: program well on the way, aided by Public Health School of Emory: Deb McFarland, Jim Setzer, David DeLozier. Law inaugurating first phase began one and one-half years ago. Central insurance fund, guaranteed benefits package, privatization, shrinkage of facilities and personnel, planned accreditation of medical schools and licensure of physicians. Big conference to be held May 7 on results so far, and plans for the future. <u>World Bank Loan</u> of about \$20 million coming on line July 1996, will fund much of this. We are beginning now to work with Minister of Health to plan for second loan, larger, for about 1998.</p>
<p>(3) <u>EMS Training Center</u>: the brainchild of Jim Smith, the Director of AIHA, we opening this in January. now train about 100 policemen, firemen and other first responders per month. Over time this program has the potential of having a profound impact on Georgia, given its high level of vehicle trauma and cardiovascular disease.</p>	<p>(4) <u>Maternal and Child Health</u>: programs aimed at women's and children's health, devised by Susie Buchter of Pediatrics and Jack Huddleston and his wife of GYN-OB, and Al Brann of Pediatrics. Now have programs of neonatal resuscitation and breast-feeding. World Bank using plan devised by Al for more comprehensive nationwide program. Susie and the Huddlestons will be in Tbilisi for continuation of this program in a week.</p>
<p>(5) <u>Nursing</u>: Judy Wold of Georgia State University and Laura Hurt of Grady have come up with a comprehensive program aimed at retraining current nurses in Georgia, and at establishing a new nursing school at Tbilisi State University. Nurses have just spent several weeks at Grady in a "train the trainer" program, where Laura has given them a complete curriculum she has written, in Georgian with slides in Georgian. They are arriving in Georgia the day I leave to work with the nurses and begin planning in earnest for the new school.</p>	<p>(6) <u>Tbilisi State Medical University</u>: we have now brought 14 Georgian medical students to Emory for six months, and sent 6 Emory students to Tbilisi for one month's elective. Four Tbilisi faculty course directors have spent two months at Emory, and Deans Jeff Houpt and Jack Shulman have been to Tbilisi. We are now considering expanding this program slightly. The Emory students each have done a project aimed at benefitting Georgia-- see their reports at the end of this diary. Exploring starting <u>Public Health School/Health Care Admin. School</u> with them.</p>
<p>(7) <u>Tbilisi State University</u>: comparable to Univ. of Ga., with 30,000 students, founded 1917. Beginning to work with the to bring together several separate units into a new medical school, modeled after Emory and other Western medical schools. See my talk in this report.</p>	<p>(8) <u>City Hospital #2</u>: we began our partnership in 1992 with the goal of making this 400 bed general hospital into a model Western hospital. We have brought over some physicians and nurses, worked with the clinical laboratory, and given some equipment, but the project has been stymied for lack of funds. World Bank project now injecting \$5 million for renovation. Bill Casarella of radiology has just gotten GE to donate a CT scanner. Ultimately we see this hospital as being a focal point of medical education and training in Georgia.</p>
<p>(9) <u>Preventive Medicine & Health Promotion</u>: Virgil Brown of our department has been working with Archil Kobaladze on this project, which will have a significant impact. World Bank funds will support it in the future, adding women's initiatives.</p>	<p>(10) <u>Mental Health</u>: the Director of the Institute of Psychiatry spent several weeks with our psychiatrists. Drug Addiction is a severe problem in young people. We haven't identified any funding sources, but are slowly proceeding along the assessment and planning line.</p>
<p>(11) <u>Tuberculosis</u>: a severe and increasing problem. Hank Blumberg of our department is entering a project with Stan Music, the CDC's person in Tbilisi, to work with the Georgians.</p>	<p>(12) <u>Rehabilitation</u>: a pressing problem, given the ethnic warfare in Abkhazia over the last several years. We are planning an initiative this year with a joint project of Emory and the Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta.</p>
<p>(13) <u>Leaders in Georgian Medicine</u>: we have now brought over several leaders, such as the psychiatrist, the Director of the Institute of Neurology and the chief of the National Health Planning & Management Center. Collaborative research projects are beginning to emerge.</p>	<p>(14) <u>Georgian Medical Journal</u>: we have published several issues of a journal out of our partnership office in which articles from leading U.S. medical journals are translated into Georgian and widely disseminated.</p>
<p>(15) <u>Outreach projects</u>: we have been working with LaGrange, Ga., on several projects involving their sister city in Poti, Georgia. We are now contemplating some plans for other outreach projects.</p>	<p>(16) <u>Future plans</u>: exploring setting up our partnership as a Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) in Tbilisi, and having a Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) in Atlanta feeding into it.</p>

Summary of Projects

TBILISI TRIP

Sunday April 14--Tuesday April 30, 1996

Sunday April 14

Worked hard yesterday and today doing the last minute preparations for this trip. Yesterday was residency day for the junior students. Fierce games of racquetball in the afternoon. Andro Kacharava, an intern from Georgia, moved into my house last night. His wife and two children have just gone back to Tbilisi for the summer, and Andro will live with me until they return in September. Got up at 6 a.m. this morning, cleared my desk for two hours, then packed. Airport for 1:30 p.m. departure to Kennedy in New York, then 5:50 p.m. flight for Moscow.

There is an indescribable emotion I have when the plane lifts off from the U.S. Perhaps it is because the first time that happened was when I left Travis Air Force Base for Vietnam in 1965. Can't put a finger on it: not exultation, not sadness, not even anticipation. But very definite.

A surfeit of wine and food, starting trip off as usual with that deep-seated guilty feeling of having violated the "I'm not going to gain weight on this trip by God!" resolution.

Monday April 15

Arrived in Moscow at 11:15 a.m., 8 hours ahead of Atlanta time. I will stay here overnight with Levan Vasadze. Levan lived with me while getting his MBA for two years at Emory. He is from Tbilisi, where I met him. He now has a fantastic job with Sector Capital, an American investment bank in Moscow. I last spent time with him on my last visit to Tbilisi, in October 1995. Since then he has moved to a new apartment near the center of Moscow. Much improved over the last one, but still one bedroom, a living room and kitchen, and unbelievably expensive--\$1500/mo. Security like going into Fort Knox. I had lunch at his office, then went to his apartment for the required shower and nap.

In the evening Levan and I went for a long walk through the streets of downtown Moscow. The very beginning of spring. All the cars are caked with mud--didn't see a single clean one entire time. People don't wear colorful clothes. But the young women all wear very stylish and quite form-fitting clothes with a lot of leather. Fetching. Dinner at the Patio Grill, followed by a drink at the Radisson Moscow. Home at 1 a.m., me to bed, Levan to work all night on a proposal for buying a company that he had to send to London tomorrow. Levan works as hard as an intern, which is saying a lot. He told me at length about the deal he had worked on today. Selling a Russian concrete factory (concrete is a big deal here; extensively used) to a big French construction firm. Entails all sorts of high class finance: contracts for the current managers, stock issuance, etc. Levan is working now on five such deals, quite an accomplishment for someone just out of his MBA.

Tuesday, April 16

Up early, one of the company drivers took me out to Sheremetyevo-1 airport. A large airport with a lot of domestic flights, as opposed to the international one (Sheremetyevo-2) I arrived at. Hundreds of Aeroflot planes. The driver, who spoke no English, shepherded me through all the formalities. Most of the airport personnel speak enough English for them and me to get by, but I always have anxieties about getting to the right gate, understanding what customs wants, etc. Two and one-half hour flight to Tbilisi, in a Tupelov. Very similar to Lockheed 1011. I have learned to fly business class, or else be one inch away from the seat in front, not to mention vicariously participating in convivial drinking, smoking and ceaseless talking by the large Georgian contingents always on the planes.

Arrived in Tbilisi 2 p.m. Met at the airport by Archil Kobaladze, Professor of Medicine, and our collaborator over here, and the Minister of Health, Avto Jorbenadze. Then to look at the progress on our National Information Learning Center, which I call our "baby National Library of Medicine." It looks fabulous. Carpet on the floors, steel bars on the windows, freshly painted, beautiful signs on the door fashioned by the leading designer in Tbilisi (who happens to be the father-in-law of Andro Kacharava, one of the Georgian interns at Emory). Even a sign in Georgian saying "buffet" for where the kitchen and dining room are. Two types of restrooms. One for the Americans, complete with "sit-down" facilities (specifically requested by Fred Westbrook, from

the Emory Medical Library)¹, and the other with the usual Georgian “stand-up” features. Also visited the Emergency Medical Service training center that we have set up, which is just across the hall. Immensely popular, I am told. The former Soviet Union did not have on-the-scene resuscitation, so we have set up a course turning out 100 people a month, training policemen, firemen and paramedics in resuscitation. Then Amiran, who is director of strategic and policy planning for the Ministry of Health, showed us his set-up, which is in the same building. The building is an old “Traumatology” hospital, built around the early part of the century. Marble, sturdy as the Rock of Gibraltar, huge ceilings, large windows. Ultimately it will contain: our library, EMS training center and partnership offices; the World Bank continuing education center; Amiran’s think tank, which is also where all the statistics will be kept. E.g., Amiran showed us his data bank of all the research and papers published in health by scientists in the Georgian equivalent of the National Institutes of Health over the past two years.

Carol Burns, Directory of the Medical Library at Emory and the person in charge of our library over here, and Bernice Bennett, who is the representative of the American International Health Alliance, were both at the Library. All of us then went to our current partnership office in the Ministry of Health Building to discuss our plans for the week. A principal goal is to come up with our budget and plan for the coming year, which begins in June. We discussed the separate projects at some length.

At 7 p.m. we had a meeting with the Minister of Health. He is sending a letter to US AID later this week outlining what the Republic of Georgia wishes our partnership to accomplish next year. He is also preparing a gigantic report for President Shevardnadze outlining the accomplishments and plans of the health sector. We had a good discussion of all the separate components of our partnership. He agreed to give \$10,000 for furniture for the Library. We have had a great deal of trouble about the furniture. We initially were going to get the furniture from the Herman Miller company, which has its main plant in Atlanta and produces world class furniture. We were offered a 65% discount, through the good offices of a friend in Atlanta. Then we discovered

¹Carol Burns, Director of the Woodruff Medical Library of Emory, is also here on this visit, since the Learning Center is her project. Carol is an avid outdoorsperson, and tells me a favorite gift of hers to her friends is a book *How to S--- in the Forest*.

that US AID as a matter of policy would not ship furniture. So we decided to get it over here, only to discover: furniture was cheaply built; expensive; and takes a long time to make. The decision was made to go back to Atlanta, and one way or the other find the money needed for shipping. I called Paul Klever and our administrator Toby tonight and asked them to look into what needed to be done--cost, etc. We will ask the Georgia National Guard about the possibility of taking it over in a National Guard plane.

Back to Betsy's for dinner with Carol Burns and Bernice Bennett. Really tired and exhausted.

Wednesday April 17

Awakened before six a.m. I share a bathroom with two other guest rooms, and one of them spent an hour. Finally gave up and went to another one in a distant part of the house. Went down and renewed warm acquaintances with the wonderful people who work in the kitchen.

Breakfast with the four Emory senior medical students and their counterparts with whom they were staying. They arrived last week, just before Easter, which is a big holiday here. Apparently had a memorable party, with countless toasts and a lot of dancing. A videotape was said to have been made and being kept for the senior banquet in two weeks.

Meeting at 9 a.m. with Amiran, head of the think tank (National Health Management Center). First we discussed a problem that has been really difficult to solve, that of providing instruction in health system management for the administrators and others working in the area. Of course the system here has been the former Soviet system, and current Western financial systems are totally unknown. But the health care reform is on the basis of Western systems, so the infrastructure has to be built. What is really needed is a health care management school. There is one for public administration, set up by John Stewart from the University of Tennessee. Visiting U. S. teachers come for a month at a time. But we haven't been able to find anyone or any school interested in setting up one for health care management. So Amiran has put together a course lasting two weeks, headed by Professor Gerzmaza, who is a leading public health faculty member in the national medical school. A number of people will be on the faculty, basically ev-

everyone who has any knowledge of Western health financial systems. We were quite impressed by the curriculum: description of the mechanisms of the health insurance fund that will cover the costs (like Medicare); legal issues; costing services; and the like. First one begins May 10, and we are eagerly awaiting its outcome. If successful, then there will be a series of them.

Then we talked about the nurses. Judy Wold of Georgia State University and Laura Hurt of Grady have done a truly magnificent job of beginning to bring the nurses up to western practices. The nurse here is basically a handmaiden to physicians, with very little education. Judy and Laura at this moment have four nurses in Atlanta. Laura has developed a detailed curriculum, which we have had translated into Georgian (complete with slides in Georgian). A "train the trainers" exercise. Judy, Laura and the nurses will come over here next week, and begin working in earnest on setting up continuing education, etc. A second part of this is for Judy and Laura to work with the officials of Tbilisi State University and set up a new nursing school. We have had several discussions, and this looks like a done deal.

We discussed the crying need for a national association of nurses, as well as of librarians and hospital administrators. We all see these associations as crucial in the development of modern managers, nurses and librarians.

Then a long discussion of our National Information Resource Center. All of us see this as one of the centerpieces in the development of all aspects of health care in Georgia. A key issue is finding a Georgian co-director and about four Georgian staff members. There is a National Medical Library, described in my last report, that has some possibilities. We agreed that on Friday we will invite about four key staff members to come over and tour our empty center, talk it up, have lunch with them, and see what comes up during the conversation. Not to make any statements about potential jobs, but just have a free-ranging conversation. There are also about twenty "institutes" (similar to NIH), each of which has a library and an informatics staff.² On Monday we will repeat the performance with about twenty informaticists from the institutes. From that group we hope to get some candidates. We

²Informatics was a big deal in the former Soviet Union. Everyone who aspired to being a serious scholar had to research the literature minutely, and write a long dissertation citing all the literature. So a large group of informaticists arose to take care of this need.

see the Georgian co-director as the crucial person, one who must have drive, energy, insight and vision, not to mention ambition for the center.

I then brought up the issue of connection to the Internet. We need it, if the library is to fulfill its function. A 64 kilobyte connection costs \$10 to \$15,000 per year³. Not only do we not have these funds, but donor agencies simply won't give money for this sort of recurrent fee. We have scrounged up enough money (about \$3,000 a year) for a 14.4 baud modem connection a few hours a day. We have devoted enormous time and energy to seeking either funds for a connection, or bartering services (training librarians for universities and the like in using the Internet) for a connection, all to no avail⁴. To the enormous surprise of all of us, Amiran promptly said the government would pay the connection fee. This was very gratifying, and illustrates a principle I have learned in my experience over here: no matter how insuperably difficult a problem may seem, just keep on plugging away and suddenly and often unexpectedly it is solved.

We discussed ways in which the library can become involved in the National Health Management Center, Amiran's place. We will perhaps set up resources by topics, with all the information presented, whether on CD ROMs, print, software, or websites. We will develop them for all the topics so vital to developing the health infrastructure, and perhaps appoint small groups of people to keep each topic current. We will also have gophers that will continuously search the Web for new information.

Then to our partnership office for a meeting with George Shakarashvili.

³It turned out later this was not true. A serious underestimate. Really about \$7,000 per month.

⁴Last week I was in Washington, and visited the office of General Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. His family comes from Georgia. He visited here last fall, and the Georgian government made a big deal of giving his family land to him and his brother. He had heard of what we are doing in Georgia, and so his staff gave me an appointment. I met with three colonels (the General was hunting in Wyoming), and later I perceived I was viewed with some wariness. I told them I wanted to let them and the General know all our efforts in Georgia, and perhaps there might be areas we could work together. They wanted to know about the internet and telemedicine. They said "your name keeps coming up with respect to Georgia and the Internet." I assured them I was not coming hat in hand, but merely wanted to touch base. This was obviously a fishing expedition, and I hope later to benefit from it, but not with the internet.

George was at our conference in Atlanta last month. He graduated from medical school two years ago, and spent one postgraduate year in Oklahoma. His father is Director of the Institute of Neurology here, and spent several weeks with our neurology department at Emory a month ago. George is head of the World Bank unit that will administer the \$20 million health system loan the Bank is giving to Georgia. Our partnership participated extensively in the preparations for getting this loan, and the Minister wants Emory to participate in the preplanning phase of getting a second and larger loan, to begin in 1997. This will involve a careful assessment of where reformation of the system has come so far, and developing a vision for the future. We agreed we need to talk to the Minister at length in order to discern exactly how to go about doing this. One of the problems, so to speak, is that the Bank has an inflexible rule that the people who do the assessment and planning cannot then do the implementation. This discourages assessment, but means you have to take the results of someone else's planning if you wish to do the implementation. The reason for this is clear, but in some ways it is a Catch 22.

Archil, Bernice, the Minister and I had a 2 o'clock appointment with Mrs. Shevardnadze in her home⁵. I was hungry, and did not want to meet with her for a couple of hours on an empty stomach, so we went and had a hearty lunch. Then off to their home, which was built in the thirties for the head of the Communist party in Georgia⁶. To my horror I discovered we had been invited for an enormous lunch. Since there were just six of us, there was no escape but to eat another huge meal, since Mrs. Shevardnadze kept plying me with delicacies. When she was in Atlanta she had gone to Washington and had a long meeting with Mrs. Clinton. Tamuna, her granddaughter who

⁵One month ago she spent three weeks with us in Atlanta, getting an executive type physical. I spent quite a lot of time with her as we went through this, and I developed enormous affection and respect for her.

⁶When I was in Washington last week I prowled around a Borders book store and came across a new book about Lavrenti Beria, the Georgian who was head of the Communist party here before becoming the dreaded head of the KGB for the Soviet Union. The book was based on archival material recently opened to the public in Moscow, and painted a horrible picture of Beria overseeing the purges in Georgia in 1936-37. Everyone here now in their fifties and sixties had grandparents killed then. E.g., Mrs. Shevardnadze's grandfather was killed. It turned out the house was built just after he went to Moscow. I was disappointed not to be sitting in his house.

works with us in our office (and going to Emory law school in September), had gone along and translated for her. Bernice brought her a framed picture of the meeting sent over by the White House. She was delighted, and talked at length about her early career as a journalist before marrying Mr. Shevardnadze. Talk then turned to women's health initiatives. She has a foundation here devoted to that. We discussed initiatives that we might get involved in through our parent organization, the American International Health Association (AIHA)⁷. Mrs. Shevardnadze had just been on television, and interviewed also by the newspapers here, and had described at great length her stay at Emory and how involved we were helping Georgia. A filling afternoon.

I then went to Betsy's guest house⁸ and rested a couple of hours. Turned out I was getting an explosive case of the GI's. I usually take one Cipro a day when over here, and don't have any GI problems. This time I had decided to do without the Cipro, to my regret.

Over to Archil's for dinner (I ate as little as possible) and a long discussion amongst him, me, Bernice and Carol about events of the day. We are having to walk very carefully among some U.S. political minefields having to do with some conflict in Washington amongst some of our funding partners.

Had a hard time sleeping. Still not adjusted to the time--usually takes 4-5 days. Awakened at 2:30 a.m. and couldn't go back to sleep.

Thursday April 18

Up and facing the world at 6 a.m. Made a long list of all the things I want to accomplish here and in U.S. with respect to Georgia--all the result of much

⁷Our funding, which is about \$850,000 this year, comes from the U.S. Agency for International Development to AIHA, which then contracts with us. AIHA has about twenty other partnerships in the former Soviet Union, most of which have individual hospitals as their focus. We are the only one that has an entire country.

⁸Betsy, who is from Washington, has been here since 1992, and has become a close friend. She has a "Highlands North Carolina" style inn, which is a fabulous to stay. I even saw mention of it on the Internet recently as the only place to stay when in Tbilisi. Prices are about \$80 or so a day, compared with \$175 in the Metechi Palace Hotel, the only other place worth staying in.

inescapable thinking during the sleepless night, which has its advantages!

Went to our office and worked some more on the budget for next year. We are going to try to tackle the question of mental health, especially drug addiction. The Director of the Institute of Psychiatry spent two weeks in Atlanta with us recently, guest of the Department of Psychiatry. We are going to add a couple of trips, if the money holds out, for an assessment of what might be done.

Another giant problem is tuberculosis. Cases are rising, diagnosis not good, people and physicians don't report the cases because treatment often not available. Government just set up about \$2 million for it. I am working on getting Hank Blumberg of our infectious disease division, Charles Wells (EIS officer at CDC, former house officer) and Stan Music (CDC person in Tbilisi) together. Am going to try to get a trip for Hank to come over here. Hank is he epidemiologist at Grady, and has done a lot of work with all the patients we have with tb there. He could become quite involved over here. I figure we could get money from various sources for him to come over and help plus do clinical research projects that might be very helpful.

Another additional project is Rehabilitation Medicine. There are enormous numbers of patients who lost limbs in the ethnic fratricide of two years ago. Prostheses, training are not readily available. And there is little or nothing for people who have really severe problems, such as quadriplegia. During my last visit I was asked to see the young ex-minister of defence, who is quadriplegic as a result of an assassination attempt in Moscow. Severe C₄ injury. Closest friend of the Minister of Health. I arranged for Don Leslie of the Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta to come over and evaluate whether a stay in the Center would be helpful for him. Don came over in November, and decided the Minister would be helped greatly by a two month session⁹. The Minister hasn't come over yet; I will see him later during this visit. I hope then, to have two trips over here by Don and someone from Emory Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation to begin to do some planning.

⁹When the Minister of Health was in Atlanta with us several weeks ago I took him over to Shepherd. It was an amazing experience, even for me. We saw where they train quadriplegics to scuba dive! Also saw them training dogs to be helpful to their charges, much in the manner of seeing-eye dogs. They open doors, fetch the paper, even get the clothes. And there are all sorts of little things that people experienced in helping quadriplegics know that the rest of us don't.

We had lunch at my favorite fast-food place. An apartment, run by two wonderful ladies. We had a kind of kebab that is unique to Georgia. Beef fixed up in a long roll, with fabulous spices in it, and tasty onions and other unidentifiable herbs and greenery decorating the outside. Then Bernice went off to the airport to go to Moscow and back to Washington in two days. Next week she and Paul Klever, our project administrator in Atlanta, will paste together the budget for next year. This present year the money to AIHA from US AID was \$850,000. We hear this next year, beginning next month, it will be closer to \$600,000.

Back to Betsy's to recuperate in the afternoon. That morning at breakfast a gentleman by name of Keith Norman, clearly of British extraction¹⁰, had given me his card. He showed me some information he had about "RapidDiagnostics." This is a project of our Washington partners and some people over here to produce here in Georgia various bedside diagnostic aids (like glucose measurement in diabetics). I happened to run into him again, since he and his wife Claire share a room on the same floor here at Betsy's. He invited me in and told me about himself and his project. About my age, engineering degree in London, M.S. and M.A. and PhD at Cornell and Harvard. Worked as director of nuclear engineering for England, later joined what I take to be an investment bank, left about 10-15 years ago set up his own venture capital outfit. Worked for some years in Africa, then Russia, then Georgia. Liked Georgians more than the Russians, stopped in Russia, but then couldn't get any sources of money interested in Georgia two years ago during the Abkhazia ethnic conflict. Now back, with anticipated \$40 million to be raised from various sources (European Redevelopment Corporation and other similar organizations devoted to helping recovery in Eastern Europe). Plans to fund about 60 projects here, ranging in size from \$100,000 to \$800,000 or so. E.g., he is funding Betsy for a new 30 room hotel just down from this one (Betsy's is always full, and as noted earlier is getting an international reputation). Also funding the Chalice winery, which at the moment is turning out the only really excellent wines in Georgia. Gave me various fascinating insights into what he does and how he goes about it. Pointed out that one never invests in a single business. E.g., you invest in a winery. Then you have to set up companies to produce the corks, to produce the labels, etc.

¹⁰I have often wondered how the word "extraction" came to be used in this fashion.

We shared our mutual perceptions of Georgians¹¹. I arranged for him to meet Archil later in the afternoon. He did, and they clearly are well on their way to doing business.

Dinner at Irina Chanturishvili's. Irina is the mother of Levan, who spent two years living with me getting his MBA at Emory, and whom I had visited in Moscow. Irina spent four months a year ago at Emory when Levan was there. She is a librarian, and she worked with the medical librarians at Emory and learned about electronic data bases, etc., while there. She is therefore one of the rare librarians over here who know this. She is head of the US Information Agency library here.¹² She and her husband Shio have a new flat in downtown Tbilisi, and Carol Burns and I went down to have dinner. Seventh floor, no electricity, had to walk up. Carol remarked how the outside of the apartment houses look abominable. Although new, this one had crumbling concrete stairsteps, unfinished crude walls, and was quite unprepossessing. But open the door, and you enter another world. Beautifully done parquet floors, walls finished to perfection and lined with beautiful pictures, beautiful rugs, etc., etc. An exquisite place. They have a room for me that they would like for me to stay in whenever I am over here. I will do this soon. At the moment I am usually with others in our partnership, and Betsy's is more convenient.

They had a young physician also as a guest at dinner, a cardiologist here. He wants to come to US as a house officer. Told me his USMLE score on Part I,

¹¹Peoples of various nations obviously have various shared characteristics that set them apart from other nations, just as ethnic groups do, and just as southern rednecks do, to give one example most people can probably understand without any effort. I have been fascinated by the number of people I meet--a band that I obviously belong to--who have a passion for all things and people Georgian (with the notable exception of Georgians like Joseph Stalin and L. Beria). I think of John Stewart at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, who spent almost a year over here on sabbatical setting up a Public Administration Institute (to teach public administration to Georgians and develop that currently nonexistent infra-structure). He came to Atlanta during our recent conference, and at lunch remarked "You know, it's so nice to hear Georgian being spoken all about me again." And Kent Brown, previously U.S. Ambassador here, now head of ambassadorial personnel for the State Department, and clearly one of this group.

¹²Something I had not known about before my visit a couple of times ago. In every place we have an Embassy we have a library that basically is filled with resources about the U.S. form of government, history, etc. Just outstanding.

and it was outstanding. Just taken Part II. I was much impressed with him as a person, and invited him to visit me next week and we will talk more.

All of us have been trying to get Irina's husband Shio to stop smoking. He has diabetes, is about 50, and clearly has a lot of risk for heart disease and stroke. The discussions at times have been quite passionate, especially between him and Levan over this subject. I told him I had a gift for him, and lead up to it by reminding him of Cinderella, who turned into a pumpkin at midnight. Then I gave him what I characterized as a "magic" cigarette lighter. One which ran on an AA battery that I had come across at an Ace Hardware just before leaving Atlanta¹³. I told him when the battery gave out there would be no more smoking! A wide smile split his face and he did not seem perturbed. He got up, ran to a closet, and brought out a charger for A type batteries! I had to admit defeat.

Back at Betsy's Salome was awaiting me. Salome is Andro Kacharava's wife. Andro is an MD/PhD who I got to know three years ago. Came to Emory and did outstanding work in basic science with Marschal Runge in Cardiology, passed the USMLEs and now is an intern with us. Salome and their two children left Atlanta two weeks ago to spend the summer over here. Andro is living with me until they return in September. I had brought over a giant suitcase for her. She is settled in with Andro's mother and doing well. Just then Levan, Andro's brother, arrived. Levan is an entrepreneur and a fellow horse fancier. We went out to the stable and admired his four Arabians. He wants to come to Atlanta for several months, and I wrote him a letter of invitation. He took me by the headquarters he and his friends have. There are about seven of them. Each one has a large office with sexy Norwegian leather desk/chair/table, sitting starkly in a room with little else.

Friday, April 19

Went to our office and met with Amiran. He showed me two documents that are being readied to pass as laws. One on credentialing medical schools, and the other on licensing physicians. They are in general terms and don't specify detailed procedures. I made some suggestions, then sent

¹³As everyone who has ever been over here knows, at every turn gifts are showered upon you. Bringing ones to give in turn taxes the imagination beyond belief.

them by E mail to Don Kassebaum AAMC for comment (Amiran had met with him recently in Washington, at the suggestion of our Dean, Jeffrey Houpt), to Andy Watry, head of the Georgia State Board of Medical Examiners, and to various people at our school. They will be submitted to Parliament in about a week.

We also reviewed the law relating to medical education and the training of physicians. There will be medical school (five years currently), followed by two years of house staff training similar to our transitional internships. Everyone will go through this. Then and only then will they be licensed to practice, and the ones who choose to practice then will be general practitioners. Individuals who wish to become specialists will then enter their specialty for training. We discussed doing it differently, by having Family Practice as a specialty, as in effect we do in the U.S., and letting individuals enter their specialty, whatever it is, as soon as they leave medical school. We agreed Amiran's way was better, since with this method everyone will be trained in general medicine, and even as specialists can take care of all aspects of the patient.

Then I met with Alex Aladashvili, Chairman of Internal Medicine at the proposed new medical school at Tbilisi State University. He had drawn up a proposed curriculum. When I was here in October I had told the Rector of Tbilisi State University that we would help him with the new medical school if and only if the curriculum was the U.S. curriculum: college, test, admission to medical school, etc., rather than their high school, then five years of medical school. The Rector had said he wanted his medical school modeled after Emory, and agreed to follow our curriculum. To my dismay I saw the curriculum Alex had devised was the usual high school then five years of medical school.

He and I and Archil discussed this at some length. I ascertained only two people--Alex and Roman Shakarashvili, the neurologist--had actually come up with the curriculum. This relieved me greatly. I feared a huge committee of twenty-plus might have come up with the plan, and in that case I felt my chances of effecting a change would be minimal. Turned out that Alex and Roman had come up with the traditional five year plan only because they

didn't think the U.S. one would fly with the Rector¹⁴. Alex said that, in fact, he felt the U.S. scheme would be much better. (When I presented my idea to Metrevelli on the earlier visit, I had said there were two choices he had: go the high school--medical school route, in which case physicians were basically tradespeople, or do the U.S. route, which turned out physicians with a good general education, and who could contribute more to the world, etc.

Now that we had cleared the ground and had seen why the plan was still traditional, I told Alex there was no way we would participate in yet another traditional high school/medical school curriculum. I proposed he use my adamancy as the lever to present the plan to the Rector. He agreed, and left to work on the weekend on a new curriculum just like the U.S. I sent an E mail off to Atlanta to get the GEMENAC report on the general education of physicians on its way over here, for him to use as ammunition. I was impressed by Alex. He has been the one designated to come up with the plan for the new medical school, and obviously will either be the Dean, or as Chairman of Internal Medicine will be one of the powers of the school. I had already proposed, and the Rector agreed, that the primary individual responsible for the school come to Emory and spend about two months, learning in detail about our curriculum. We will also send him to some other schools in the U.S., as well as help him make contact with the AAMC, AMA and organizations such as the National Board of Medical Examiners. We will have a meeting later in the week with Rector Metrevelli.

I went to a meeting with the Tbilisi State Medical University. We have had a relationship with them since the beginning of our partnership in 1992. We have brought 14 of their junior medical students over for six months each, and have sent over six of ours, four of whom are here now. The Rector, Dr. Khetsouriani, and I have had meetings of various emotional intensities over the years, as we have agreed or disagreed on various items. E.g., we had a big disagreement over whether the learning center would be in the medical school (Dr. K.), or be independent (me). Etc. A smart, determined, ambitious man.

He and I exchanged pleasantries, and agreed I would address the Executive

¹⁴Tbilisi State University is *the* university in Georgia, and while the Rector (Roin Metrevelli) is not exactly God, his exalted place is somewhere up there.

Board of the Medical School after our meeting. I asked him what points he would like for me to make. So armed, we had the meeting. About ten or twelve people, a number of whom I have gotten to know quite well over the years. I began, as he requested, with my opinion of his students and faculty, four of whom have spent two months with us. I started out by saying I had some comments first about the students from their school and the four of our seniors who were here now. I said I wanted to begin with one of our students, who had formed a very close relationship with one of their students who spent six months with us two years ago. Our student, I said, was at the top of his class, and would go next year to Harvard for an MBA combined with residency training (at Brigham and Women's) in internal medicine. I said he had formed an exceedingly close relationship with their student two years ago, and was here now, staying with his friend, and doing work on a project for the World Bank. I said his relationship with Georgia would clearly continue the rest of his life, and I pointed out he had the potential to achieve a lot in the U.S.

I said another student had his PhD in nuclear magnetic resonance, and this morning at breakfast he and I had met with some people from the Railway Hospital, and had begun to plan to have four to five of them over to Emory in Radiology. In this fashion, I said, the relationships forged between their students and our students would lead to long lasting relationships that benefited the individuals, Georgia and the U.S.

I went to the topic of his faculty (as requested by him). I started with Professor Gerzmava, to my immediate left, and talked about how Amiran had told earlier about the course in health care management he was beginning. I spoke of the director of the pathophysiology course, and talked at length about the excellence of this course, as described to me at great length on an earlier visit. I talked about the chief of infectious disease, a woman that Jack Shulman said "can sit at a table with the leading infectious disease chiefs of the world." I said his faculty clearly had individuals on it that were of equal quality to any faculty in the world.

I said that in the future we would be looking forward to continuing the relationship we had with his faculty, his students and our students. I discussed our National Learning Center, once again as requested. In the past this has been something of a sore point, as the Rector had wanted it located in his

medical school, and we had decided it would best be totally independent and beholden to no particular institution. I described at length its functions, and said the medical school would be the first remote site that we connected.

They had questions. One faculty member went on at length about how the Learning Center would not be beneficial to them, but would be very selective in its choices of whom to help. This fairly strident comment echoed opinions of the Rector last year, and I merely looked peaceful and said nothing. Several others, to my relief, had very specific questions about when the library would open, how much the charges to the Internet would be for them, and how they could gain access to it.

We agreed I would give a lecture to the faculty and students next week. We agreed I would come next Wednesday and interview about twenty students, and choose two of them to come to Emory for six months. I said we would be happy to contribute \$250 to the ticket for each student, and the Rector said the school would contribute money also.¹⁵ and I left happy. A good meeting, and one that had gone exactly as I had wanted it to go.

I went to a conference and luncheon we had with the National Medical Library. Carol, Amiran and I had discussed this at length. One of our big problems about the Learning Center is staff. We need four staff and a Georgian Co-director. The National Medical Library has been visited by both Carol and me

¹⁵The ticket costs \$1000-1500. I know from the past that the students have an extreme amount of difficulty raising this money, having often to borrow it at high rates of interest, or having to sell family heirlooms. They do this because coming to Emory for six months is viewed very highly. We pay for their room, board and give them an allowance, which comes to a fair amount of money. With planning, most of the tickets can be obtained for just under \$1000, and if we and the Rector kick in \$500, I hope this will make it much easier for the students.

There is an upside to this. I have told all of the students who come that they can have a transitional internship whenever they pass the USMLE parts I and II. This is no small commitment, given the fact that "FMGs" have an extraordinarily difficult time finding US slots and, to be biased, we have one of the very best house staff programs in the world(!).

Every time I come over here I have dinner with all the students who have come to Emory, now numbering fourteen. This time I plan to have dinner with them and the four Emory students who are here. I have also asked Mrs. Shevarnadze if she will try to arrange a meeting with her and the students, and with her husband depending upon his schedule. Hopefully this will occur next week.

in the past, and potentially forms a rich source of staff members. We agreed to the following strategy: Carol would invite them to our Center and show them what would occur in each room, although they are now empty. Then we would have lunch, and ask each to talk about what they did in their library. At no point would we say anything about potential jobs, for a couple of reasons: it would be rude, to say the least, for us to have them over for this purpose; we felt we could get more information in this sort of informal setting. If any of them seemed promising, we could take that up later in more appropriate circumstances. All of this went off beautifully, and there were two individuals that seemed promising. Carol and I agreed to think about this. A delicate proposition. We don't want to rape the National Medical Library, we want to have a warm and cordial relationship with them, and at the same time we have to have an excellent staff in the National Learning Center. (No different from many other problems in life, this balancing.)

Then to Zurab Nadareishvili's for dinner. Zurab is an MDPH neurologist who does research in multiple sclerosis neuroimmunology. I have been working with a former house officer, Mike Racke, now on the faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, for Zurab to have a post-doc there. This seems to be going well. Zurab's father-in-law is a famous literary critic who I like very much; dinner is at his house. I have asked Zurab to invite the four Emory student over here now, plus their Georgian counterparts with whom they are staying.

As usual there was a plethora of toasting. When my turn came to offer a toast, I said my toast had two parts, like book ends. The first part was related to the young people, the students. I asked each Emory student and each Georgian student to stand and give a short description of themselves. I started with Janet Moore, one of our students, who is a bit shy. I said I would start with our Georgian, a woman who had black hair, black eyes and black clothes, just like the Georgian women (all of which is true)¹⁶. All the students rose to the occasion splendidly. Then the second part of my toast, I said, related to those of us who were older. I said I wanted to start with a tale about my father. When he was 90 years or so old, he went to Hawaii. When he re-

¹⁶Several days later we had a meeting with Mrs. Shevarnadze and all the students. She looked at Janet, and said you couldn't tell who was Georgian and who was American. Janet was a typical Georgian woman, and sitting next to her was a Georgian stomatology student (dentistry) who was as typical an American (blonde hair, blue eyes) as one could ever find.

turned, I went to the airport to meet him. He had a lot of problems with arthritis of the knees, and I saw him coming off the plane with a beautiful young stewardess on each arm. As the trio came near, I could hear him telling them: "Now I want to tell you, that above the knees I am still a young man!" So, I said, the second part of my toast was to all of us "who above the knees are still young."

Saturday April 20

I began today with the usual shower. Betsy's has the European style, where you take this hand-held thing and let water run over you. I am proud of the fact that I have finally reached the stage of accomplishment that I don't spill tons of water on the floor when showering. Then dressing. I have had an enormous problem getting them to put enough starch in my shirts. This time I even went to the extent of bring over a bottle of liquid starch. To no avail. Still not enough starch. But I had the same problem with my maid for ten years before I got her to where she did it to my satisfaction, and I suppose I shouldn't be unhappy with failing to achieve that with only eight visits over here so far.

The coffee is abysmal here, and I have been successful with that. I bring over my own coffee, Espresso blend from the Coffee Plantation in Toco Hills in Atlanta. I consequently start off the day splendidly.

At 10 a.m. Vakhtang picked me up. He first came to Grady in 1992, and I am very fond of him. He is the engineer for the Ministry of Health, and as such is responsible for all their facilities. Very smart. Professor Nodar Kekelidze and his daughter were along also. Nodar's daughter Thea is a PhD from Emory who works in neuroscience with Mario Saltibelli in the Department of Neurology at Emory. We went to the east, to Ananuri, a famous old church about 2-3 hours from Tbilisi, along roads notable for their pot-holes. We visited about five old churches, several dating from around the fourth century. Vakhtang carefully inspected a roadside eatery, and pronounced it fit. We had a wonderful meal of kebab, khatchapouri (a cheese bread that is a national staple) and plenty of vodka/wine, and returned to Tbilisi.

Dinner with Roman Melia, former Mayor of Poti, the western port city of Georgia. Previous reports by me detailed my experiences there. Roman fell

afoul of politics, and now has returned to business. His son and daughter are in Atlanta, and I visited them a few weeks ago. We discussed his perceptions and experiences growing up in the time of Stalin. We focused upon Stalin and Beria (recent book about him that I have read), both of whom are Georgians. Carol went to dinner with us, and we had a good discussion.

Sunday, April 21

Awakened today to another cold, wet, drab gray day. The second one. I had thought it was early summer, and so didn't bring an overcoat, to my regret.

Walked into the kitchen for coffee, and saw Jeffrey Steele sleeping on the couch. Jeff is from Washington, D.C., and is the project officer who set up Internet for the Congressional Human Relations Foundation. They make Internet free to all members of Parliament, under the philosophy that providing them with access to Western information will help stabilize democracy. They do this all over the world in countries such as Haiti. We worked closely together when he was one year ago. While over here for one month then he met a Georgian woman and they were married last month. Jeffrey is a fast man. We will do business later in the week when the Chairman of his Board comes.

At breakfast I met Keith Fitzgerald. From Tufts, working with conflict resolution with Tufts, Harvard Law School and the Carter Center of Emory. Flew in last night from Vienna. Delta lost his bags, and he was bereft of clothes. American Embassy supplied him with the essentials. Leaving this morning for Ossetia.

Went to the Minister of Health's office. Carol and I went with Avto (Minister of Health) and George Shakarashvili to Pasanuri, a town about two and one-half hours west of Tbilisi. Actually just beyond where I had gone yesterday. Half-way there we picked up the Governor of the Province, the Chief of Police and the special counselor to President Shevarnadze for the provinces.

On the way up we had a very profitable talk with Avto. The ride turned out to be equivalent of golf games back in the U.S. with respect to "doing business." Talked at length about the Learning Center and the requirements for the Georgian co-director: smart, knowledgeable, ambitious, workaholic with

vision for what the Center needs to become for Georgia. We all agreed that at the moment none of us had such an individual in mind. The Minister will think at length and see if he can come up with candidates. We told him about our interviews with people from the National Medical Library, and how we will meet with other librarians next week. All agreed we might not be looking in the right pool, and that there might not in fact be a recognizable pool we could look in for the director.

I told the Minister I had a good friend from Vietnam days, a general surgeon, who I think would come over for a month and work with the general surgeons here. Avto said City Hospital #4 would be the place for him to work. I have not heard much about this hospital in the past. Avto said it was being "rehabilitated," and soon would be quite good. I decided I needed to visit it next week. (I later found out I have visited it two times ago; run by George Chekelidze, a young anaesthesiology who spent a month at Emory.) I also said I thought there was a good possibility I could get a cardiac cath lab donated to Georgia, through the good offices of the cardiology division at Emory and their contacts. He was excited about this prospect.

We arrived at Pasanuri. Town of about 7,000 or so. Hospital built in 1977. Met with chief doctor and her staff of 40. Toured the hospital. 100 beds. No heat. No patients. Very primitive circumstances. Chief doctor spoke at length to Minister, with Governor of Province and Counselor to President listening, about the severe needs of the hospital. Staff haven't been paid for three months. No electricity. No medications. She said ten years ago the Minister of Health for the entire Soviet Union had toured the hospital, and pronounced it one of the best provincial hospitals he had ever seen. And in all fairness I could see that this could have been the case.

Avto said, in front of everyone, it was probably too big for the area it served, and needed fewer beds and staff. They took this stoically--perhaps not believing this would actually happen. I asked to take a picture of the entire staff. Afterwards I asked each to tell me about themselves. About four physicians, ranging from an infectious disease specialist who graduated three years ago from medical school to a surgeon who graduated in the sixties. I asked all which languages could they read. About two could read English out of the forty total staff members.

Then to the hotel in the city, now deserted as a hotel, for a Georgian meal. Many long toasts and political speeches by the provincial governor (aimed at the Minister of Health and Presidential counselor), the chief of police, and the chief medical officer of the region, who was a dentist. I asked about the resources of the province. One of the poorer provinces. 12% of the land was agricultural use (mountainous). Mostly hardwood. They had set up a joint venture with Italians to produce furniture, but they were getting the wood from southern Russia, since they wanted to keep their timber growing. When I asked about this, they said in their climate it took too long for hardwoods to grow, and they wanted to preserve them. Presumably the Russians either didn't know about this or didn't care--probably latter, I was told.

Three hours of dining, and back on the road again. Stopped by the provincial capital, and to my horror discovered another Georgian table set for us! But Avto was called to the phone and told an emergency in Tbilisi required him to come back immediately. We passed the emergency: two buses had collided, with twenty people killed. One bus driver, a tour bus from Turkey, said to be drunk and had crossed the median.

Avto back to his office to survey whether the survivors were being taken care of in Tbilisi, and Carol and I to Betsy's. Met John Keyes at dinner. Friend of former house officer (Steve Johnson), now State Department medical officer in charge of Eastern Europe. Passing through here on his semiannual tour. University of Tennessee graduate, family practitioner as post-graduate. Enjoyed talking with him.

Monday, April 22

Awakened feeling really good today. Finally completely adjusted to time, wine, Georgian tables, etc. A good index of adjustment was that I remembered to put on my money belt before getting completely dressed and having to undress. Usually takes about a week for this to become a Pavlovian reflex.

Breakfast with Keith and Claire Norman. I began by having an enormous appreciation of them as human beings as well as of their abilities, and this has increased with each contact. Lot of wisdom, all of it eminently practical. Today is his sixty-ninth birthday. Father ninety-one. He suggested I make contact with the Germans and see if they might be interested in contributing

to any of our projects. He said they like to be seen as being involved, and that at the moment they are either a close second or ahead of the U.S. in terms of total aid to Tbilisi--a great surprise to me. He said they are undoubtedly ahead with technical assistance. The German ambassador according to Keith is a perfect example of the old school diplomat: exquisitely dressed, mannered, courteous. I will do so.

Then out to see my horse, Peplum, a five year old Arabian stallion given to me by the grateful family of a patient a year ago. In a large park-like area, complete with hippodrome, in the middle of Tbilisi. Lasha, who together with a couple of other young men run and own the establishment, met me. My friend Doris had given me as a Christmas present a bridle for Peplum, with his name engraved on it. She had also helped me get a big bundle of tack for them, since leather goods for horses are difficult to get and quite expensive over here. Made an enormous hit. Also brought the catalogue so they can tell me what they really need. After admiring Peplum, who as usual was an exploding atomic bomb, they showed me their efforts to make their place a paying venture. Working on a restaurant, remodeling a lodge. They have a 1,000 hectare (something over 2,000 acres, I think) farm outside Tbilisi, and we agreed I would visit it when I returned. They are hunting American investors, and the ones who have appeared so far are apparently not desirable sorts. We arranged for me and the students to come out on Wednesday, go riding and have a Georgian feast.

Then to Amiran's establishment, where I met with Alexander Aladashvili and Roman Shakarashvili, respectively chair of internal medicine and director of the Institute of Neurology. We planned the speech I will give on Thursday to the Board of Trustees of Tbilisi State University (30,000 students; the national university, quite similar to Univ. Georgia) and the members of the parliamentary committee overseeing higher education. We agreed on our strategy, and what each of us would say. Said goodbye to Amiran, who is leaving for Geneva for a week. He asked me to communicate with Ted Lee, an allergist in Atlanta (former house officer and faculty member), who spent time with Amiran when he was in Atlanta a few weeks ago. They have planned a joint research project.

A visit to Stan Music, the CDC's man in Tbilisi. Has been here over a year, his enterprise runs out in August. He has trained a number of people as

epidemiologists, collecting vital statistics about selected diseases (certain infectious diseases, heart disease, etc.). Every time I go to his house there are about seven or so of them, earnestly working with computers. Stan is exceptional in his ability to teach and motivate, and has shared with me highly perceptive insights into the circumstances and environment here.

One of our collective projects has to do with getting one of our faculty members, Hank Blumberg, over here to work with tuberculosis. Hank is the hospital epidemiologist at Grady, and has done an outstanding job there working with tuberculosis. Published an important paper in the *Annals* about tuberculosis in hospital personnel, especially house staff. To my delight Hank and Stan have really hit it off on E mail, and Stan is bringing Hank over to work on whether or not there are any resistant strains of TB over here. Totally not known now. We had been planning on putting Hank into our budget for an assessment trip. Now we will try to add a second trip for him. I anticipate he will not only be quite helpful to Georgia, but will find fertile ground for research over here. I have some ideas about how we can get funding for him to do that.

Then back to our library. Carol Burns has invited the librarians for each of the institutes to come for a tour of the library and a discussion of how it can be helpful to them. Networking. About twenty of them came. A covert plan was to discern if any of them might be suitable for staff. None came through at least in that setting. We had a long discussion with Amiran earlier about selecting staff, especially the director. We are all agreed on the nature of the director: young, vision, excited, etc. Also agree about the other four. Now the job is to find them!

Back at the ministry a brief meeting with Lado, the Deputy Minister. One of my favorites. Smokes a lot, chronic ulcer sufferer. Suggested to him he treat himself for *H. pylori*.

Lunch with Levan Kechuashvili and Dato Shengrelia. Levan is head of a health sector in Tbilisi, spent two months with us, and very much wants to get back and get his MPH. Struggling with the English test over here now. Dato was married to Tamuna who works with us, divorced, came back here and is setting up a joint Georgian-US law firm.

A visit to the Railroad Hospital Diagnostic Center, so called because it took care of the railway workers in Soviet times. About four years ago a highly entrepreneurial radiologist, Dr. Todua, took charge of it and made it private. Now has an MRI that is being installed, and all the high tech equipment from the west (but about two generations earlier, generally). Has 25 beds, sees 35,000 patients annually, and is clearly very successful financially. About 80% of his patients are cancer patients, and they mostly do diagnostic work from what I could see. He has found and is successfully exploiting a niche of patients who can pay. He has about 30 physicians who work with him, and sends them off all over the world to congresses to present papers and to keep up. Wants to send several to our radiology department for a few months to learn how to interpret MRIs; will pay all expenses. Srinikandan, the senior student who is going into radiology with Bill Casarella next year, was with me and will get all the details. We will then pass it by the Minister of Health and then Bill. A very impressive setup. Todua said much of the information was on computer: lab and x-ray reports; discharge summaries, etc. On 4/8/68, he said. The electricity was off while I was there, so couldn't inspect all this myself. He was quite interested in our library, and I invited him over in two days for a tour.

Dinner with the twelve of the fourteen Georgian students who have been to Emory and the four Emory students. At the home of Eka Asatiani. Met her father, who invited me to visit his office and meet with his colleague tomorrow. I was instructed by Mrs. Asatiani to be the *tamadan*. I wished to sit in the middle of the table so everyone would be equidistant, but she firmly placed me in the tamadan's fixed place, at the head of the table. I knew when I had a commander, and obeyed. The usual wonderful Georgian dinner, with outstanding food, a lot of wine and superb company and conversation. Each of the students told of what they are now doing: all are studying for the USMLEs, which they will be taking during the course of the next eight months. Costs \$500; they have to go to Turkey. Hard to get there. Tests are on Tuesday, and only plane from Tbilisi gets there late Monday night--one flight a week. Driving is quite difficult, taking two days. Same true of bus. I told them they would have special privileges at the library when it was established.

Tuesday April 23

Leisurely breakfast here. Met a man who is an agricultural expert from England. Has been dealing with helping Georgian agriculture for several years. Said there was a remarkable change since the elections in November. Parliament now full of young people who are highly supportive of reform and President Shevarnadze. The age of the Ministers and members of Parliament is younger, they are aggressive about reform, and the economy is stable. No crime on streets. Remarkable change, which I have noticed also. About 50% of their arable land has been privatized, except the grazing for livestock, which is still communal (but each family apparently has a plot that it is understood is theirs to use). Of their perennial land, such as land suitable for grapes, about 35% is privatized. Said tea was in a big problem. Formerly Georgia had a monopoly to supply all the tea of the former Soviet Union (wine and vegetables and fruits, too), but now other nations--India, e.g.--had taken that over. So they have 70% more land for tea than they need.

Talked at length with Archil and Carol at breakfast about our starting an NGO (non-governmental organization). We must do it to avoid having 30% tax on all items we ship in. We have just put a \$30,000 generator, donated by Pat McGahan, President of the Cummings engine distributorship for the southeast (and father of Tom, who was a student and house officer with us), on a container and it should be on the high seas. Now negotiating for \$20,000 of furniture from the Herman Miller Company, and will send that with \$100,000 worth of computer hardware. So of necessity we must have an NGO. Trouble is, every time I look into it I feel as though I am dealing with quicksand. I can get no clearcut answers from anyone over here or in Atlanta about how to do it. Archil thinks we need to do the following:

1. Establish the by-laws. Talk to Georgian lawyer plus Claudia Adkisson at Emory
2. Decide who the founding people/organizations is/are. Set up legal address.
3. Decide if our Partnership is going to mutate into the NGO.
4. Decide the physical parts: Partnership office, EMS center, Learning Center??
5. Establish the goals and purpose
6. Set up a Board of Trustees. Develop marketing programs.

The goal would be to set up an NGO that existed for the purpose of develop-

ing projects and funnelling money into health care in Georgia. The Minister of Health has told me repeatedly how much he would like for us to do this. Archil and I decided to talk to a Georgian lawyer, and then I would go back to Atlanta and talk to Claudia Adkisson, our Executive Dean who is a lawyer.

Jeff Steele joined us at breakfast. Jeff is here to look into how their AID funded Internet project is going. Said the Chairman of his Board will be here Thursday. Said we could get 28.8 baud line for \$10-15,000 a year from Mimosi Hard, the company that accesses the Internet. We have had a lot of problems negotiating with Mimosi in the past, and don't anticipate any change now. Carol will see them later.

To our office, where the Minister's secretary met us on the stairs and said the Minister wanted to go with me to see General Karkashvili, the ex-Minister of Defense who is quadriplegic. On the way I asked why the General had not already gone to Shepherd Spinal Center in Atlanta (had called the day before and discovered the hang-up was in Tbilisi, and not Atlanta). The Minister said there were problems with the visa from the U.S., that were inexplicable. The Ambassador to the U.S. from Georgia is to take the matter up with Secretary of State Christopher when Mr. Shevarnadze visits Washington in a few days. The General was in bed, distressed about severe problems with continuing urinary tract infections that were exacerbating his already severe spasticity. I told him about the visit of myself and the Minister to Shepherd Spinal Center a few weeks ago, where we had seen them training quadriplegics to scuba dive. After some similar conversation he brightened up, and I stressed how we were looking forward to seeing him in Atlanta.

On the drive back it turned out the Minister did not know of the proposal to set up a U.S. style medical school at TSU, with an undergraduate college education then admission to medical school. He was clearly disturbed, saying the World Bank had specified they needed to follow the European system of high school to medical school. He and Archil had a spirited conversation in Georgian, which Archil later recounted. I asked Archil what this meant about the support of TSU for this model? Archil said he thought the TSU elders would use their own highly independent judgement. This would leave a problem for us, however, since we like to have the Minister's support in all the things we do. Tonight we are having a dinner with the Minister, and he said we would discuss it further then. Life continues to be interesting.

Back at our office I interviewed ten mostly young Georgian physicians who have taken and passed Part I of the USMLE, and took part II in March. They don't know their scores yet, but will very shortly. They all wanted to be transitional interns with us, so I interviewed them individually. I was quite impressed by two of them. One could start immediately if we turn out to have a spot when we review our schedule for next year in a few days, and the other wants to come next July. Both made in the 90th percentile on Part I, and are quite impressive. I made no commitment to anyone, but said I would get back with them after we got their last scores and reviewed our situation.

I went to the Board of Control of Georgia, in accordance with David Assatiani's invitation the night before, and met with him and the Chairman, Ramaz Shavishvili. Huge old Tsar-time building¹⁷. I worked hard at trying to figure out exactly what this Board does. Archil said they have many workers, and are widely feared by all the bureaucrats. As nearly as I could figure they are something like the Inspector General. The Chairman is widely said to be impeccably honest, which undoubtedly explains the fear of the bureaucrats.

We had lunch with Ulana Trylowsky and Sandro Karumidze, who are the Soros Foundation people here. We have worked closely with them before. Highly able and very personable. They gave us \$10,000 for heat and steel bars for the library, and we have put in for \$50,000 grant to fund a U.S. co-director for the center. After lunch we showed them the progress of the renovation, and promised to keep in touch. We anticipate doing a lot of business together in the next few years, since we share a lot of common goals for Georgia.

We went to the tuberculosis center and Dr. Gia Khechinashvili, the director. He also is responsible for all of TB in Georgia. He told me they have 13,000 active cases, and this is probably less than the actual figure. Over 800 are in young children. Fifty cases of TB meningitis last year. Diagnosis on AFB smear. They cannot do cultures due to lack of materials, lack of consistent

¹⁷These buildings are magnificent, the best example of which is the Youth Palace (see later). Marble, beautiful ornamentation, Grecian architecture. Stark contrast to the hospital at Pasanuri, which although built in 1978 is crumbling to pieces. George Shakarashvili told me there are three phases of Georgian architecture: Tsar; Stalin; post-Stalin. Of these, he said, post-Stalin is by far the worst.

electricity for the incubators and lack of training of the technicians. They don't have enough first line drugs to treat everyone the recommended period. No second line drugs. They don't know whether or not they have resistant organisms. In the center they have 180 cases of active complicated TB: Potts disease, pneumothorax, abscesses, hemoptysis, etc. All of them have had chest x-rays, to my surprise. I visited the radiology department. About 1950 U.S. technology. They do not test for AIDS, because they cannot afford the reagents. Do have some drug addicts here with TB. He has 55 physicians, most of them around 65 years of age.

He wants Hank Blumberg to work with them on specific research projects that will be helpful, beginning with looking to see if they have resistant organisms. He would like for Hank to see what can be done about training the laboratory personnel.

I went to the Ruras house and had a Georgian table, even though I had been promised specifically this would be the equivalent of "tea." He is the father of a former patient of mine, and an archeologist. An exceptionally bright and erudite person, of whom I am quite fond. His toasts are exemplary. He made a gift to me of a first edition (1912) of *Deda Ena*, the three volume book used to teach all Georgian kids the language. I instantly recognized where my Georgian teacher at Emory got the major construct of her workbook. It begins with the word "ae" which in Georgian means "violet," and goes on from there with simple words that slowly build the alphabet and vocabulary. By the end of the third volume, of course, very complex. A jewel of a gift, and one which will be immensely useful to me as I continue to learn Georgian. I do know the alphabet now, and can transpose into English all the words I see when riding around. Absolutely wonderful to be able to do this, and not wonder what the devil those odd squiggles are. A secondary gain is that I can recognize what many of the signs say, since there are so many American products and concepts (such as buffets) have been adopted.

The formal scheduled dinner that evening was at Roman Shakarashvili's home. He is the Director of the Institute of Neurology, and father of George who runs the World Bank loan project, and he visited us at Emory during February. An exceptionally able neurologist with a droll sense of humor to which I

am much addicted¹⁸. Alex Aladashvili, the chair of internal medicine at the proposed new university was there, George, one of George's associates (a young physician named Bacuti), George's sister who is getting her PhD in Biology (and whose husband was tonight in Brussels with Shevarnadze; he is an economist), Carol Burns, Roman and his wife, the Minister of Health and his wife and myself. Archil was supposed to come, but had suffered all day from a severe low back spasm and was bedridden. The evening started as is so often the case with the electricity off and the sound of a small generator in the background. Roman began showing us pictures of the ancestors of him and his wife, all famous intellectuals of one sort or another, several of them physicians.¹⁹

The Minister was an hour late. An explosion had occurred in the market across from the railroad hospital we had visited the previous day, and several people had been killed.

The talk ranged widely, from health care reform to Shevarnadze's visit to Brussels to the proposed new medical school to the outstanding food. Carol asked for and later got the recipe for a dish of beef surrounding eggs. The predominant spice was curry, but not quite.

Wednesday, April 24

¹⁸E.g., at a meeting early in the process of health reform a year or so ago, he remarked in a toast that he worried considerably about the fate of health reform, because he saw so many of his patients in the room planning it.

¹⁹The "interwovenness" of Georgian families is fascinating to me. The top layer of intellectuals who run things and produce science and literature--probably like most cultures--is small and all know each other. The sense of family in Georgia is as strong as anywhere I have ever encountered. In fact, as strong as it is in the little rural Southern community in which I grew up. In Washington, Georgia, just as in Tbilisi, Georgia, the first question about someone is always "Who are his/her parents?" They are immediately positioned in their proper place in the firmament when the answer is known.

Another interesting facet is there is an unbroken succession of physicians, teachers and the like in every family. I have been struck by this when interviewing medical students and residency applicants here. I always ask "What do your family do?" The answer is usually that both mother and father and siblings are professional, and all members of the family have been for generations. There are almost no people in families who fall outside this in my experience.

Began the day by working on the speech I am to give tomorrow to the elders of Tbilisi State. I wanted very much to get a particular quotation from King David the Builder that I remember from my visit to his academy and grave at Gelati, and Natia promised to find it for me. Keith Norman was at breakfast, and we talked about setting up a Nongovernmental Organization. I continue to be impressed with him and look forward to a long and productive relationship.

All the Emory students came to breakfast, along with their Tbilisi friends. The Emory students have been having a wonderful time over here. I am including their comments along with this report.

Prydon Todua of the Railroad Diagnostic Center visited the Learning Center at our request today. He was his usual elegantly dressed self. Absolutely full of energy ("energetic" is a favorite English word of Georgians, and is a high accolade). He was much impressed with the Center, even though it is now empty: "I hear of a lot that never comes to pass. But I can see you people are *real*." He instantly saw the possibilities with respect to his hospital. I just as promptly remarked Centers such as this cost a lot of money to keep up. He said he would not only be willing to pay for access, but would gladly organize ("organize" is another favorite English word, and I suspect in Georgian also; perhaps a relic of Soviet days) others who would do the same. We had a really good meeting, and left with the agreement he would work closely with us. He is the sort who is a capitalist from the word go, and I am sure that he was under the Soviet system also.

Went down the hall from our Center²⁰ to Amiran's office and had another talk with Alex Aladashvili about my talk tomorrow. He is a bit reluctant to do away with their high school to medical school track, and we talked at some length about the philosophy of it.

Went to Tbilisi State Medical University and interviewed about ten students

²⁰The building our center is in contains: the EMS training center; the National Learning Resource Center; our Partnership offices; the World Bank Center for Continuing Education; Amiran's National Health Management Center. We have about 9-10,000 sq. ft in what is probably a 60,000 sq ft building. The Minister told me on an earlier visit that he wanted "all of Western health knowledge to be in one place, so I can say to my people 'here is where you need to go to learn about modern medicine.'"

who wish to come to Emory. We have now had 14 of their students for six months each, and the program has been a resounding success. Six Emory students are in to Tbilisi now, and I look forward to at least four coming every year. (I have decided that in the future I will always come in April, which is when the Emory students will be here. The conjunction of our visits this time produced a lot of good results.) The people at the medical school over here arrange for them to stay with the families of their medical students. Several of our students have stayed with Tbilisi students whom they got to know when they were in Atlanta. The school is the high school--six years of medical school model. I interviewed five of the fifth year students, and decided all of them were quite good, and at least on interview were not separable. This afternoon they will have an oral examination in each of the big clinical subjects, and an English essay test. The English teachers asked me to specify the topic. In previous times I have given topics such as "Why have Health Reform in Georgia?" etc. I asked this time what about just giving the topic as "Humor." This was vetoed as too hard by the teachers, and I had to admit they were right. We compromised on "Why are Humor and Compassion Useful Attributes for a Physician?" I also interviewed some sixth year students who will graduate in a few weeks. They badly want to come over, and can pay their own way. I promised to get with the school about this.

I gave a lecture on "Language." Packed room. All the students must take English several years in medical school, and I could see they were having a rare opportunity to practice their skills in understanding medical English. They were *excited* about the lecture--a wonderful site for a lecturer to see. We used to all give a lecture when we came over, but the practice ceased with electricity and slide projector problems. At the request of the rector we will start this again. One of those insignificant-seeming acts that over the long haul have a substantial impact.

Lunch with Dato Shengelia, who used to be married to our applicant secretary Tamuna, and Levan Kechuashvili, a physician who spent a few months at Emory and now wishes to return for an MPH. Dato is setting up a law office with American partners in Atlanta and Georgian partners. Aimed at helping U.S. firms do business in Georgia.

The people from the horse stable came and all of us went horse back riding: Emory students, their friends, me. My horse as usual was an exploding atom-

ic bomb. They came out with an English saddle, but I asked them to replace it with a "military" saddle, that is a cross between English and Western saddles. We all had a great time. Then a Georgian *supra*, as the Georgian table is called, at the stables. Complete with a rock group. Much toasting, etc. All had a really good time. Janet Moore even demonstrated her dancing skills.´

Thursday April 25

Got up early and worked on my speech to be given at 11 a.m. at Tbilisi State University. A bit of background that I have covered in bits and pieces earlier. All medical education except that in the U.S (and Canada?) begins just after high school²¹. I personally feel the U.S. way is much better and on an earlier visit had made this point to the Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU), with little effect except a cosmetic rearrangement and renaming of a bit of the first two years of the curriculum.

Then Tbilisi State University (TSU), the national university with 30,000 students, decided to think about setting up a new medical school. The pieces were already present: they have a large biological and basic science faculty; there are about thirty of so "institutes" in Tbilisi, sort of like a miniature National Institutes of Health: neurology, oncology, trauma, infectious diseases, etc. The University proposed to put these two pieces together, forming alliances with the institutes and combining everything into a new medical school. In fact, the medical school had been part of the university in the 1920's, but had been split off into a separate school many years ago. I told the Rector of TSU we would consider helping them with the curriculum if and only if they would go to the U.S. model. He agreed. Then earlier this visit I discovered that the curriculum that had been drawn up was still the European model, to my dismay. I was told how the system made it impossible to change, etc. I persuaded Alex Aladishvili to come up with a U.S. style curriculum, and I decided in my speech I would make no bones about this being a condition of our help.

²¹I recently got an E mail from someone in Australia saying there was a group there working on changing their medical schools to the U.S. model. It will be interesting to see if this succeeds, and if other countries do it. I have talked with the World Bank, and have discovered they support the high school--medical school path. I suspect this is because a lot of the medical people in the World Bank are Europeans, and they feel this is the best way.

A synopsis of the speech, which lasted about 20 minutes:

It is an honor for me to address the distinguished Board of TSU, which has a long and respected history. I regard it as a special occasion to speak when there is consideration of the restoration of a medical school to TSU. My talk today is The Education of a Physician. Education is supremely important to Georgians, and I cite the example of the founding of this university by Ivan Javakashvili in 1917 after much struggling. Another example is the founding of the Academy by King David at Gelati, in the eleventh century. You know King David's grave is in the entrance to the Academy, and one has to step on his tombstone in order to go into the grounds. One of my favorite quotes is on his tombstone:

"This is the place for me forever. I once owned all of this, and now this (grave) is all that is left."

I want to let all of you know a secret: Georgians only have ten ribs. Count them on yourself. The reason is that actually Adam was a Georgian--by name of Adam Peervali²². After God took out one rib to make a woman, at Adam's request he removed his second rib to form a book, such was Adam's respect for knowledge!

Education is also supremely important to us in American: e.g., Abraham Lincoln and candlelight; the fact that our citizens win more Nobel prizes than any other nation.

My topic today then, is the education of a physician, based on the U.S. model. We in the U.S. have the best physicians and healthcare system in the world. It is no accident that we win the most Nobel prizes. Why is this so? Our minds are clearly no different than the minds of other nationals. The reason is our educational system. There is a clear difference between European and U.S. medical education. Europeans educate physicians as tradespeople: high school, then trade school. In the U.S. all physicians are educated as professionals, scholars, humanists. In its recreation of its medical school, TSU has a new beginning, a clear opportunity to combine the best of the U.S. with the best of Georgia, and start a new and unique medical school.

I will divide the rest of my talk into the four parts of the education of a physician: (1) before the university; (2) the university; (3) medical school; and (4) after medical school.

Education of potential physicians must begin when the child starts to talk, around two

²²I had earlier asked for the Georgian name that meant first, and found out in fact *Peervali* is a well-known Georgian name.

years of age. He/she²³ must be taught to love science just as art/music/literature. The teaching of the love of science in lower schools is very important.

In the university the general education of the physician is most important. He/she must know and understand and love literature, humanities, philosophy, art and music, in addition to science. The Georgian student who will go ahead and become a physician must understand and love Rustaveli and Shakespeare, Galactione and Beethoven, Iliia and Plato, Akaki and Michelangelo, etc.

In medical school there are some important principles for the first two years: problem solving must come into the curriculum the first day; pathophysiology must forge an unbreakable bond between science and disease; mentors and role models must be plentiful; the student must have an early introduction to his/her role as a physician. The last two or mainly clinical years must focus on the patient. The student must have responsibility for patients, and this is quite different from the European model. After medical school the university, hospital and ambulatory clinics must be equal partners in the training of physicians.

Let me now be specific about my proposal for you to consider in restructuring medical education. After graduation from high school the student can attend any faculty of Tbilisi State University: philology, psychology, art, humanities, philosophy, mathematics, music, geology, etc. He/she must take certain required courses in addition to those of the faculty in order to be eligible to apply for medical school, mainly biology, chemistry and physics courses. Then the student may apply to medical school. There are several advantages to this path:

1. Diversity: it is good for physicians to come from different backgrounds. In the U.S. individuals from many areas go to medical school: musicians; Shakespearean scholars; physicists; artists; and the like.²⁴
2. Maturity: the student is older, has decided for certain he/she wants to be a physician, and is a much better student.
3. No change needs to be made in their current system, in which the university is composed of many faculties, but no premedical one.

²³The Georgian language has no separate word for he/she. He/she/it are all the same word, which explains why Georgians so often mix up genders when speaking in English. In speaking to a purely Georgian audience I always use one or the other gender, but when Americans are present in the audience I genuflect to current practice and say he/she, just as I do in the U.S.

²⁴At this point I turned, with a bit of drama, and asked our two Emory students in the audience to stand up, in a ploy suggested to me by Archil. I introduced Srinu McKundan, and said he came to medical school from a biology faculty. Then Janet Moore, who I said came from a dancing faculty! The audience was suitably impressed.

I have been told by many Georgians that the current system cannot accommodate this change. Nonsense. The system is what you wish it to be. Do not be a slave to what you have created, but rather let your creation be your slave. You have the opportunity for a new beginning. Ecologists tell us that forest fires are necessary for the survival of forests: undergrowth is burned away and new growth can occur. View your recent history in that way. It has been a terrible human tragedy, but now take advantage of what has happened and begin in a new way. We will give you technical assistance in setting up courses, teaching technology, teaching how to write tests, and letting your faculty see how we at Emory and other selected U.S. medical schools teach our curriculum. We will go with you to various sources--governmental and private--to try to get funds.

I want to end by telling the tale of two countries, France and Germany²⁵. Modern medicine began in France around 1800, the time of Corvisart, Pierre Louis, Laennec and many other giants. From 1800 to 1850 every physician who studied abroad-e.g., William Osler-went to France. Beginning in 1850 no one went to France, but went instead to Germany, which became the ancestor of modern U.S. medical science. Why? In the simplest terms, it was because the French medical schools were *hospital* medical schools, where research was wholly devoted to clinical observation. There are limitations to clinical observations, and French medicine ceased growing. The German medical school was a part of the German university, and was a *university* medical school, having as its fellows the faculties of physics, chemistry, philosophy et al. Modern medical research was born in this setting, enabling medicine to grow.

You at TSU have a clear choice: produce physicians who are tradespeople, or produce physicians who are scholars, humanists and future academicians.

We are not interested in helping you produce tradespeople: you already know how to do that, better than we know how to do it. We would be delighted to help you produce physician scholars.

No one had questions, and Archil later told me that was an excellent sign. It meant the material had been presented clearly to them, and also that they agreed. We shall see.

We had an intimate lunch at Rector Khetsouriani's house²⁶. Archil, myself,

²⁵This story is presented beautifully by my friend Ken Ludmerer in his book *Learning to Heal*.

²⁶Bear in mind that he is the Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University, the medical school which was wrested from TSU in the 1920's, and thus the new medical school will become a direct competitor. I had suggested he be invited to the presentation at TSU, but this was firmly rejected "because this isn't the business of his school."

Otar Gerzmava (the school's representative to us, professor of Public Health), the Rector, his wife, his daughter (a student who is applying to come to Emory as part of our exchange), Carol Burns and his son-in-law, an economist. Like other apartments, entrance was into a crummy looking building, then a wonderful apartment with fabulous furniture and decorations. The Rector was expansive, and we talked at length about our various endeavors. I encouraged him to consider setting up a combination Healthcare Administration School/Public Health School, pointing out that Otar Gerzmava would be the ideal person to head it. They agreed, and said they were thinking about doing so. I carefully told him about my presentation at TSU, and emphasized our relationship would not be affected, that we were looking forward to continuing to help his school in the same and expanding ways. He was not fazed, saying in effect that he had an outstanding school and was working to make it even more so.

Archil and I left between the hot and cold courses to go visit the German Ambassador. We had an appointment, but were met by the Deputy Head of Mission, who told us she had not known of our visit. I explained that we wanted to let Germany know what we were doing in the healthcare sector, in the event they wanted to join any of our efforts.²⁷ I became aware that we would not see the Ambassador, and that she would simply talk to us until we realized that and departed. So after enumerating a summary of our projects we took our leave with the statement that we would be delighted to work with Germany if any of our interests coincided.

Back to the Rector's where the wine and vodka had been flowing. He was even more expansive, and we had a good visit. A marked contrast to the first two years of our collaboration.

To the Ministry of Health and went with the Minister and George Shakarashvili to the Palace of Youth. One of the grand tsarist buildings. We met Mrs. Shevarnadze, and had a meeting with the fourteen Georgian students who had come to Emory and the four Emory students. The Minister spoke first at some length about the importance of the students and their spending time in

²⁷This was actually Keith Norman's suggestion. Germany and the U.S. are neck and neck in terms of their aid to Georgia, but Germany is mostly into energy and has little or no presence in the health sector. Keith also said the Ambassador was from the old school: dressed to perfection in ambassadorial style, formal, punctilious.....

our school, then I spoke. I asked each of the students to introduce themselves and make some statements. Mrs. Shevarnadze spoke at some length. Archil later said it had been a splendid talk, but the quality of the translation was quite poor. There was a presentation by the students at the Palace. Ages 6-16, I would guess. They come to the Palace before and after regular school, and take various courses: dancing, singing, computing and other special enriching courses. Free. The performance lasted an hour, and was spectacular. A modest Georgian table presided over by the Minister, with toasts to Mrs. S., etc.

I had a small dinner with George Shakarashvili, just the two of us. We spoke about his imminent decision whether to get an MPH or MBA. He sounded to be leaning to the latter.

Friday April 25

Carol Burns and I had breakfast, and continued a running conversation about staff for the Learning Center. We had agreed that the woman who was Deputy Director of the National Medical Library would be excellent for the post of Director of Library Operations, and Dato, who is now at Emory for two weeks working with the computer people in our Library there, would be the computer person. The director has continued to be a problem, without any choice. We had spoken about and with Zviad Kertava, a rheumatologist at City Hospital #2 and TSMU. Zviad was one of the first to come from Georgia to Emory, and every year goes to Sweden as part of ongoing research he has there. About 37, outstanding. Smart, articulate, and has the great virtue of cutting a swath through all odds when having a task to do. The problem is he wishes to continue as a rheumatologist. On the other hand there is no rheumatology going on to speak of in Tbilisi now. No hospital beds, no medications, no laboratory facilities. Zviad and his wife had their first child two weeks ago, and this has clearly changed his outlook about spending time in Sweden each winter. We decided to approach Zviad with the idea of becoming Director of the Learning Center for two or so years, then going back to rheumatology when City Hospital #2 becomes operational (World Bank putting \$5 million into its renovation; due to be finished 1998). We are working on an American co-director, which Carol and I see as crucial to the success of the project. We have applied to the Soros Foundation for salary, but haven't heard yet. We are cautiously optimistic. We have in mind Bruce

McClelland, currently getting his PhD in Slavic languages at the University of Virginia. Bruce speaks 12 languages fluently, has had a lot of experience in Russia, and would be quite interested. He would be superb, having wide experience in medical informatics--e.g., did a lot of the software for BRS Colleague. The combination of the two of them, with Zviad visiting Emory for a bit and the National Library of Medicine, would be an awesome beginning for the library. We talked at length about this, and I think all of us are coming down to agreeing on this plan. Carol has the final decision and will make it shortly.

Carol and I are both excited at the remarkable progress she has made with the library project during this visit. Just yesterday she settled the issue of telephone lines, which had been vexing. She also agreed in principle with Mimosi Hard about Internet access. Now she will go back to Emory and complete the furniture buying, make sure the hardware has been programmed right, buy the core print material and begin to make final plans. I am going to do my dead level best, to quote one of my mother's favorite sayings, to get the Georgia Air National Guard to bring over the furniture, books and hardware in one of their planes.

George Kamkimidze came by, and we talked about the possibility of his coming to the Department of Radiology and doing research. George was a mathematics major, and appears to be exceptionally able. We agreed Srinikandan, the Emory student over here who has a PhD in nuclear magnetic resonance and who is going into Radiology at Emory, will advance his case to Bill Casarella.

Otar Gerzmava and Rima Beriashvili came by to talk about the results of the student exams the previous day. They spoke at length about wanting more students to come to Emory. They also have cooperative agreements with German and English medical schools, but Emory is at the top of their list. We agreed to the following:

-I would speak to Jack Shulman about decreasing the time of the rotation to 3-4 months, rather than six. I rather think 90% of what they get has occurred in that period.

-I will discuss with Jack whether to have two "classes" of students: scholarship students (which would be the current program, where we pay all expenses), and elective students, who would stay 2-3 months and pay all their own expenses. If so, we would

start with the four sixth year students (Nino, Levan, Irakly and George) that I had interviewed. We will go ahead and plan to take the five fifth year students, at less than 6 months; perhaps four months each (20 months, so less than four for six months each, or 24 months, which we had budgeted for).

-Jack and I will agree on whether to make the above changes, and decide the maximum number of students for each group per year.

-The Rector and one or two people would like to visit Emory in the autumn for 1-2 weeks. They will pay their own travel. What could we pay for while they are here, and this need not be the same for everyone. E.g., could pay living expenses for Rector.

-They want all of us who visit to give a lecture at the medical school when we visit Tbilisi. We had once done this, and I agreed we would start again.

-The National Information Center: I agreed we would help them decide exactly what they needed to become the first satellite library. We will purchase modems, etc., for them in the U.S. with their money. Otar wants a setup for the school and also for his department. I agreed we could do this. We will need to figure how to set up an account they can transfer money into. Carol Burns agrees to this.

-They have asked Carol to get for them several copies of some textbooks for a new course they are setting up. They want very much to translate Cecil into Georgian, but I have failed in getting the Cecil people to agree.

I was quite impressed and pleased with our conversation. The content of our collaboration has changed markedly from four years ago. We now have do-able collaborative projects that we are both working happily at.

Met with Jano Bagrationi (actually Prince Bagrationi, since he is a descendant of the family that provided the kings of Georgia for many centuries--e.g., King David the Builder), who is First Deputy Minister for Sports, and in charge of the Georgian Olympic team. I had met him a few months ago in Atlanta. I wanted to meet him over here because Linton Bishop from Atlanta had offered to provide four rooms in his home for Georgians during the Olympics, if I would find the Georgians. I told this to Jano, to his huge delight. I stressed they would be guests in Linton's home, and this was not a hotel.

Jano asked me to see him as a patient for a check-up in Atlanta, and I agreed. In fact, I will go into the Olympic village and pick him up myself, since this is undoubtedly the only way I can get there!

Archil and I had lunch and talked about converting our partnership to an NGO. We agreed we needed the following:

- AIHA by-laws and letter of agreement from Jim Smith
- Emory letter of support, saying we agree to be a member of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Partnership NGO to be set up in Georgia
- Protocol of the meeting we will have agreeing to above.
- Register under laws of Georgia in Tbilisi
- Develop our own by-laws, supplanting AIHA ones
- Establish a Board

We will start working on this on my return. Need to do it rapidly so we are exempt from the 30% tax of goods coming into the country.

Late last night I had spoken with Paul Klever in Atlanta, and he had said Bill Casarella had gotten GE to agree to give a CT scanner to City Hospital #2. The specific machine had been identified in Europe, and GE said they wanted to do it immediately. Archil and I went by and saw Ilia, the CEO of the hospital, and we celebrated with a glass of champagne. I then went to see George Shakarashvili, since the World Bank is overseeing the renovation of the hospital. George and I agreed we needed to get GE to send the specifications to Tbilisi immediately, and the decision needed to be made whether to incorporate it into the new building the Bank is renovating, or place it in the adjacent old building.

Went by the Minister's office, where his secretary said his mother had died unexpectedly that day in Western Georgia of a stroke. Roman Shakarashvili had gone there with the Minister. I infer she was relatively young.

I went with Archil and his daughter Salome and moved heaven and earth to find a particular type of necklace I had seen. Finally discovered it is an antique, and you have to go to the marketplace on Saturday when the "old people" come in to sell their wares. We three talked about the possibility of Salome coming to Atlanta and working with my friend Doris to learn about real estate, taking the required course in it at the same time. Salome is about 30, very smart, elegant and beautiful, recently divorced with an eight or so old son, and is interested in pursuing a career. I agreed to explore this with Doris.

I had originally intended to leave late in the day for Moscow, but changed my

mind since there was so much to do on Friday. So I had the pure pleasure of having an uncommitted night. Archil, Carol and I had the Emory and Georgian students over to Betsy's for dinner. A fabulous evening, with a lot of toasting and consumption of wine. Carol leaves tomorrow for Frankfurt and an overnight stay before reaching Atlanta Sunday. The students leave Monday, and will reach Atlanta Wednesday. I leave tomorrow for Moscow and will reach Atlanta Tuesday.

Saturday April 27

Up early, breakfast, packed. Went with Archil to talk to George Shakarashvili about the conference on healthcare reform being held here week after next, and to go over the agenda for the Public Health faculty. Deb McFarland, Richard Saltman, Jim Setzer and David DeLozier have worked very hard analyzing the results of the reform so far, and will present their findings. We agreed on the agenda they had sent over for the second day of the conference.

Archil and I went to the Metechi Palace Hotel, where we used to stay before Betsy's started, and had lunch on the patio overlooking the city. One of my favorite places. We talked at length about a future project we have in mind, and agreed Archil would draft the proposal in the next week.

To Betsy's for my bags, then to the VIP lounge at the airport. A one hour delay due to the arrival of the Metropolitan of Russia arriving in Tbilisi. He is the Patriarch of the Orthodox Church in Russia.

Left at 4 p.m. for a two hour Aeroflot flight and what I assumed would be an uneventful entry into Moscow, being met by Levan. Little did I know.

I got off the plane. Raining. Dreary. Cold. Sheremetyevo-1 airport²⁸. Dirty, old, uninviting. I waited patiently in line for customs. The woman looked at length at my papers, then called a guard. They gestured at my visa. A smat-

²⁸Moscow, with 12 million population, has four international airports: (1) Sheremetyevo-2, the largest, handling flights to U.S., Europe and Asia; (2) Sheremetyevo-1, which is contiguous, flights to Baltic and Belarus; (3) Vnukovo, serving the Caucasus, Ukraine and Moldova; and (4) Domodoyedovo, flights to Central Asia. All the airports are abysmal. Sheremetyevo-2 can handle only 30 planes at once, while Heathrow handles 150.

tering of English. I rapidly got the message I was being put on a bus to Sheremetyevo-2 and was to be deported to the U.S. on the next flight. They kept pointing to my Russian visa. They sat me down and went, I could tell, to make arrangements for my immediate departure from the airport, without picking up luggage, without even being allowed to see Levan. I gestured, plead, did everything I could to be allowed to see Levan. Finally I got out his card, in Russian, pointed to the place beyond customs, and to my infinite relief they went and got him. He spoke and listened to them at length, and spoke finally in what I could tell was a placating and imploring fashion. He finally turned to me and said my Russian visa was good for only one in and out, and was not multiple entry. It needed to be the latter because I had arrived in Moscow, left and went to Tbilisi, and now was going back out through Moscow.

They were sending me to the big airport, he said, where I could try to pay and get another visa and be allowed in. He was ushered out, I was placed on a bus, and had intimations of Siberia and the Gulag.

For the next six plus hours I oscillated constantly between abject pleading and groveling with people who did not speak English and clearly didn't feel helping me was on their agenda, and incandescent fury at the asshole in Washington who arranged the ticket and a single entry visa, knowing full well I would be entering and leaving Moscow twice. It was never clear to me that I would be allowed to get a visa on the spot, until finally I got to a Russian consul hidden away in some secret place in the airport. I explained I would be staying in Moscow three days and then leaving, and needed an entry and exit visa. He took \$150 and I thought with relief I was clear. Had to wait an hour to go through customs again.

Once again, they said I did not have the right visa. Once again no English. Finally figured out the consul had only given me an exit visa. They called him, he told me he had made a mistake. Another few hours of waiting, with Levan meanwhile outside somewhere being totally unable to communicate with me, and not knowing what was happening. I kept hearing my name over the loudspeaker, kept asking the customs people if I could answer, and being refused. A truly awful experience.

At last I got through, to discover Levan had given up some hours ago (I didn't

blame him at all) and left, thinking I had been deported. One outside telephone in the entire airport. To my intense relief I found him at his office, wondering what had happened to me. A \$50 taxi ride (about 20 miles it seems to me) to meet him at a hotel near the White House in downtown Moscow (Levan doesn't have a car).

Then to Levan's apartment at 2 a.m., where to our absolute horror we discovered the outside steel doors had been closed, electricity off, and there was no way to operate the magnetic/electric lock to let us in. Rain. Cold. Wind. Me with light coat, freezing, totally exhausted, etc. Finally decided our only choice was to find a hotel and see if they would take us in at that time of night without baggage (Levan had picked mine up from the first airport and taken it to his apartment). Only hotel with rooms willing to take us was quite expensive, but a bed never seemed so inviting.

Total cost of this stupid mistake: \$700.

Sunday April 28

Up aching in every muscle (must have walked 30 miles around the damned airports), trudged to Levan's apartment. Really looked good. Out to an American style breakfast place: identical to Evans Fine Foods at North Decatur and Clairmont, even with same sugar container and other utensils. Only thing lacking was Euna, my favorite waitress of 40 years, to coddle me. Spent the afternoon working on my papers from what we had done in Tbilisi. Levan is presenting to the board of his investment bank on Tuesday, and worked on his slides.

Dinner at night with Lado Gurggenidze, who got his MBA at Emory one year before Levan. He and I became good friends and he introduced me to Levan at his parent's home in Tbilisi three years ago. Lado works for a Dutch investment bank, just as Levan works for an American one. One of Lado's coworkers, and one of Levan's friends in Georgian politics who was passing transiently through Moscow. A lot of walking and talking afterwards around 11 p.m.

The streets were clotted with prostitutes. All of them very slender, with leather, short dresses, boots coming up above their knees, ash-blonde hair,

cigarette dangling. Many absolutely beautiful in a neon sort of way. Levan says there are even more of them in summer. I counted ten in one ordinary city block as we walked along.

Monday April 29

Levan went to work early and I slept in. Worked on Tbilisi projects. Gingerly and carefully let myself out to go to the supermarket in the same building to get some milk for coffee. Couldn't find supermarket, asked several women and men I passed by. They all averted their head and walked quickly by, not even indicating they had heard me. Yesterday Levan had asked some waitresses for help (in Russian of course), and basically was told they had no interest in helping. A prevalent attitude here, even in my limited experience. Levan says it is pervasive. No concept of service or courtesy. New Yorkers could take a lesson from them.

Levan came home, and we went to the Patio Pasta for dinner. Mostly desultory conversation. Levan is focusing on the presentation he has tomorrow to the Board of his bank. Had spent all day preparing the slides and doing the figures. After dinner walking and talking for a couple of hours down the streets of Moscow. A lot warmer tonight.

Home to pack and to bed.

Tuesday, April 30

Up at 5 a.m., taxi the 20 or so miles to the airport (same one I was detained in). Once again some trouble with the bureaucracy. Someone had given me an old spoon as a gift as I was leaving Betsy's, and the customs people took a long time to decide it could go out of the country. I told them it was a gift from Tbilisi, and they could keep it if necessary. Finally shrugged their shoulders and I was out, thank God.

The Delta plane never seemed so inviting. Three hours to Frankfurt, one hour layover, then ten hours to Atlanta.

