Carnegie-Mellon University   Department of Psychology
Schenley Park
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213
[412] 621-2600

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Professor Edward A Feigenbaum
Computer Science Department
Stanford University
Stanford, California   94305

Dear Ed:

      I am sending you the enclosed announcement, which may be of
interest to you or some of your associates, and may not otherwise come
to your attention. The National Institute of Education wishes to make a
serious exploration of the prospects for supporting artificial intelli-
gence research that would cast light on human language processing. This
announcement represents the first step toward getting the knowledge the
agency feels it needs in order to plan any kind of subsequent grant pro-
gram, and I think it is vitally important that the job be done well. I
hope you will give serious thought to the possibility of undertaking one
or more of the studies that are requested, or, if you can't do that,
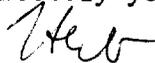interesting another person who would be qualified to do them.

      The announcement sets a 15-day deadline for replies, but I
expect that need not be taken completely literally--that replies re-
ceived within a reasonable time will get careful attention from NIE.

      There are prospects here for substantial support for AI re-
search, and for application of that research to an important area of
human cognitive performance. I hope the AI community will be able to pro-
vide NIE with the information it needs to build an effective research
grant program in this area.

      If you are interested in the possibility of undertaking one of
the pre-planning tasks, but would like more information about the back-
ground of this activity, please give me a ring, and I'll try to fill you in.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert A. Simon
Professor of Computer Science
and Psychology

Enclosure
HAS/ela