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Tel.: (203) 248-4865
January 17, 1979

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Office of the President
Rockefeller University
60th Street and York Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Presently I am compiling a book consisting of a series of interviews with scientists in Europe and America. These interviews will focus on the impact of science on society. This book will be published by William Morrow & Co. (New York), and will be directed primarily to the general public, but will be equally of interest to scientists and science students.

The purpose of this letter is to ask whether you would be willing to grant me an interview. I propose to discuss the following subjects with you: a) the relationship between science and society; b) science and politics; c) the responsibility of the scientist towards society; d) ethical problems in science; e) scientific freedom; f) criticism of science; g) the future of society, as related to the development of science and technology.

As for the practical side of the interview, the conversation, held at your convenience, will be taped and then transcribed. The transcript will be edited and submitted to you for your approval. You will also have the opportunity to make changes and corrections on this transcript.

To introduce myself, I am a science writer with a special interest in the relationship between science and society. I studied astronomy at the University of Utrecht in Holland, and was the science editor for the Dutch Oosthoek Encyclopedie. In the United States I was a senior editor for the physical sciences with the Arete Publishing Company in Princeton, New Jersey.

Enclosed is a list of scientists I have interviewed so far. I will phone you sometime next week. ✓

Sincerely yours,

Alexander Hellemans ✓

*MJ: did he?
But "hookway" anyway.*