

March 4, 1959

Hugh Odishaw  
Parkhotel  
The Hague

Enclosed herewith copies of some material sent to you at NAS, for safety.

I'm rather apprehensive, as perhaps you are too, about the implications of USSR non-representation on CETEX: it may mean they are planning some massive demonstration that would be in conflict ~~xx~~ with CETEX principles-- perhaps something silly like a battalion of moonshots to take 'territorial possession' of the moon. The published pictures of Mehta (né Lunik) showing embossed plates as figurative pennants might justify this suspicion.

In any case, it would be desperately important to make contact with Russian biologists and biochemists. Whatever judgments you can make on effective channels would be most important! They already have an established Institute of Astrobiology at Tashkent, and Oparin's discussions back in the 30's are the very basis of current thinking on the chemical origins of life-- it's astonishing there hasn't been a detectable peep out of this wing of Russian science.

Good luck--

*H. Odishaw*