August 12, 1959

Dr. G. A. Derbyshire Space Science Board National Academy of Sciences 2101 Constitution Avenue Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Derbyshire:

Thank you for the reports received in good order.

Dr. Hartline's interim statement seems to me excellent. Possibly, a more detailed presentation on extraterrestrial life might be desirable; whether the Westex report can be ready for your deadline, and if so, whether it should be incorporated in <u>Science in Space</u> or treated separately are both problematical.

The only comment I have is that the last page may overrate the difficulty of decontamination: a revision closer to the tone of SSB-100 would be more consistent. By the same argument I would say that decontamination is (now) not so much the most urgent problem as that it is the first one and a necessary basis for subsequent exploration. More emphasis should be placed now on experimental construction taking advantage of clean instruments.

This is not important but I have a personal allergy to the term 'blosciences' which lumps a lot of incommensurables.

i have to give some more thought to whether Man-in-Space is a program of sufficient value in any sphere to warrant our urging the "collaboration of a larger scientific community."

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. 25 copies of 'Research in Space' for local propaganda?