

October 27, 1959

Dr. Hugh Odishaw  
1145 19th Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Hugh:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the Space Science Board and a privilege to join in its deliberations.

It is too bad that we could not find time to get together for the preparatory discussions on the Man-in-Space Program but I hope something can be done along these lines in time for the next meeting of the Board. I was pleased to find that all of the Board members with whom I talked shared many of the views that Dr. Goldberg and I had expressed briefly during the meeting. The Board has a deep moral and professional responsibility for full candor in expressing its views; some additional urgency may be implicit in the likelihood that an election year will probably bring about some sharp questioning from Congressional committees on all aspects of the space program. In any event I am sure that many members of the Board would welcome an opportunity to clarify the Board's position on this and related problems.

There is ample time to do this in connection with the next meeting of the Board. Meanwhile I would like to offer a constructive suggestion for prompt implementation. During the meeting, Dr. Berkner expressed very well the point that our space program must rest on three foundations: the objectives of national prestige, practical applications, and scientific research, all of which must be used in building the space program as formulated by the National Space Council. I would suggest that the forthcoming volume on science in space display a preface written to voice just this point. The volume itself will then accentuate the positive accomplishments and aspirations of science in space without overreaching the role of the Space Science Board in criticism of other aspects. That the special role of the Board concerns space science perhaps deserves some stress. While these general marks doubtless should go into a preface at the start of the book, I would suggest that the history and organizational details of space operations would be more appropriate as the concluding chapter.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg