

NOV 23 1959

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

Dear George:

Thank you for the duplicated Westex materials, just arrived. Would it be appropriate to give the bound collection an SSB- number for easy reference?

If I did not already indicate it, I would suggest furnishing copies to H B Steinbach, and also to Dr S E Luria, at MIT, who is on Committee 6. I would appreciate your confirming to me how this material has been distributed to avoid unnecessary duplication on my part.

As for exchange with, say, Ierusalimskii, in Moscow would you think it appropriate to send him pp. 1-16 (omitting 17) of the introduction and references (1), & 5, as a basis of preliminary discussion? Please give me SSB views on this as soon as possible, in view of the imminence of the Nice conference.

Also very urgent for the same purpose is an official clarification of NASA's position on decontamination. So far as I know there has been no public statement at all and I hardly know what attribution I can properly make as to the US policy on this point. I would strongly urge that a public or publishable statement be available from NASA at least by the time of the actual meeting. Calvin and I and others will have to look for explicit guidance on what we can appropriately say.

A propos SSB-120, I am in full accord. However, it should be obvious that the proposed conference is side-stepping the intended functions of the UN special committee on space, which should be burdened with program decisions and the formulation of international agreements. I assume that it is wise strategy to encourage a transinformational conference as a desirable preliminary to the resumption of more legalistic discussions.

Is there any definite word as yet on Russian participation at Nice? My (all our) interest in attending was predicated on this.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg