

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

Dear George:

I would not be able to evaluate the proposal for lunar sample return* from the standpoint of technical feasibility. But if there is any chance of its working, it should be pushed very hard. The accomplishment would be a tremendous coup on the political front, and scientifically it stands as the outstanding possibility for the time interval. Technically it would also lay the groundwork for the full program of planetary investigation.

Why doesn't NASA advertise this requirement to elicit the most elegant proposals to meet the problem within the indicated constraints.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

GM: ER 61-108 3/3/61