STANFORD UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL CENTER
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

Professor J. Lederberg, Executive

February 11, 1962

To: Jerry Wiesner, White House

Re: Satellite Communications -- Govt. reservation of bandwidth for internal technical com-

munications.

Dear Jerry-- Is there still time to make it worthwhile to consider the following suggestion:

The US has invested very large sums in the establishment of satellite technology, on which new high bandwidth telecommunications will be built. While policy is still fluid, should not the US reserve say 30 per cent of the bandwidth for its own internal communications particularly of a technical nature? I have in mind the data links that could eventually revolutionize the dissemination of scientific information. (And of course I am also thinking of easing the killing demands on the technical consultants, demands that will be bound to grow with time.) If we don't plan this now, 20 years from now, it will still be "too expensive" to link Stanford with Washington by a video channel, which will still cost \$10,000 an hour at commercial rates. It seems to me a good way for industry to "repay" the US costs in the preliminary development, which cannot possibly be charged for in monetary terms if we hope to have any commercial satellite communications. Besides, if the "repayment" were in monetary terms, it would be of little direct use to technical communications as such, but be swallowed in the budget.

Joshua