

May 21, 1962

Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner
President's Science Advisory Committee
The White House
Washington, D.C.

MEMORANDUM

Dear Jerry:

Some notes to tape down the substance of our telephone conversation.

The call was made at Dr. Doty's specific suggestion to convey some of our mutual impressions about the chief problem areas worthy of consideration for U.S. Japan cooperation in science.

1. Rather than attempt to deal with specific substantive areas the discussions should emphasize the general problem of science communication between the two countries. This should be dramatized in order to bring out as many proposals for effective solutions as possible from the people who could implement them rather than have them directed from on high.

2. Some specific suggestions follow:

a. Special support for English language publication of Japanese research. Many of the present English or bilingual journals are in serious financial difficulty.

b. Establishment of reference centers on a reciprocal basis to furnish prompt access to current publications in the U.S. and Japan respectively, to scientists in the other countries.

c. Broadening the functions of the science attache to include survey reports analogous to those now furnished by ONR London. An aggressive science information officer in such a post could also be the focus of additional proposals.

d. Announce special emphasis on the problem of effective communication to elicit specific working proposals. This should be particularly effective as a means of generating means to improve the use of a language of general scientific communication (which happens to be English).

e. Paul also wished to stress his very strong support for increased, not cut back, NIH funds for Japanese science, particularly in support of badly needed equipment.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

cc: Dr. Paul Doty
Dr. Alvin Weinberg