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OCT 8 1974

In reply please refer to:

Prière de rappeler la référence: B9/370/1

4 October 1974

Dear Josh,

Many thanks for your letter of 23 September and the enclosures on DNA biohazards. I read the material with much interest, and as you will have inferred from my Pugwash paper, I agree with your views in practically all respects.

Paul Berg will be at a meeting in Davos on genetic manipulations the latter part of next week, and I hope to get there for at least part of the meeting. I am arranging for Ole Maaloe to attend on behalf of WHO also, and we shall speak to Berg at that time. I believe it is important that WHO become directly involved in the International Symposium planned for next February. We shall ask Berg how this could be arranged. I shall also speak to Stone of NIH when he is here for a meeting on 2-4 December. I shall keep you informed as to the results.

Thank you for suggesting Stan Cohen as a possible adviser to WHO on the subject. We shall see how matters develop, and then determine how best he could help us.

With respect to your query about material on security in laboratories dealing with pathogenic organisms, I shall see what I can dig up in WHO. There should be ample information from the experience at Porton and Fort Detrick, as well as the CDC high security set up, apart from standard publications on safety procedures in microbiology laboratories.

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B9/370/1

Howard Goodman and I are sorry that you will not be able to make the mid-November meeting. I note from one of your enclosures that you will probably have to be present at the dedication of the SUMEX-AIM Computer Project in Stanford on 14 November. I am much interested in the possibility of this project vis-a-vis WHO and should like to learn more about it. Perhaps you can help us in this respect by planning to set aside 18-20 January (which I see is a weekend) here in Geneva. We would take that opportunity to also have you discuss with us the tropical diseases project at that time, unless we feel it might be more advantageous for you to do this in Africa. I doubt the latter, but let us leave the question open until I have a chance to discuss it with Goodman who is away from Geneva at the moment.\* We would, of course, cover any extra travel and per diem expenses involved. We must go ahead with the mid-November planning meeting, but by January there will have been much progress and your advice at that time would be most welcome and useful.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Martin Kaplan  
Director  
Office of Research Promotion  
and Development\*

P.S. I have just spoken over the telephone to Goodman who tells me that he has written you a separate letter concerning the desirability of your visit here in January.

\*Formerly designated as Office of Science and Technology