



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

May 15, 1975

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Department of Genetics  
(415) 497-5032

Dr. Halfdan T. Mahler  
Director-General  
World Health Organization  
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Mahler,

I have received a very disturbing communication from my esteemed colleague and friend, Professor Andre Lwoff, which reports the likelihood that the forthcoming WHO General Assembly will be the seat of a renewed campaign for the exclusion of Israel. I understand that you are indeed the servant of the Assembly as the sovereign political body but I hope that you will use every possible influence to point out the folly and the destructive impact of such a step. The humanitarian aims of WHO have been universally regarded as super-ordinate, even to the most vital of specific national political considerations. It is in that spirit that I have felt privileged to be able to offer my own counsel and services to the WHO and it is inevitable that a further politicization of the organization will have the most drastic impact on the possibility of that kind of participation for my own part and for that of many others. Surely, among the first to suffer from a degradation of the quality of WHO's efforts will be the inhabitants of the Arab nations themselves whose health requirements deservedly are high in the list of priorities of the concerns of the organization.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/rx