



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

WASHINGTON, DC 20301

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(R&AT)

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

26 SEP 1989

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I appreciate receiving your comments on Senate 933. It is always important to be aware of the viewpoints of academic and scientific leaders concerning legislation before the Congress.

There is one other issue I would like to bring to your attention. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) is auditing the Biological Defense Research Program to determine if the DoD effort is consistent with the mission of the program. The principal concern of the audit team appears to be whether or not the DoD program addresses development of offensive capabilities. The audit team recognizes that they do not have the scientific expertise to evaluate the program, and would like to form a scientific group for this purpose. I gave them your name, both as a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and as an individual with a professional interest in the program. The audit team leader, Mr. Derek B. Stewart, is likely to contact you in the near future.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Osterman
Director, Environmental
and Life Sciences