



ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 17 1958

Dear Professor Lederberg:

I am writing you to tell you about the Advanced Research Projects Agency, and to invite you to participate in a small Top Secret study and work group here in Washington, July 14 to August 2.

The Advanced Research Projects Agency has been assigned responsibility for space technology, defense against ballistic missiles, and such other advanced research as may be designated by the Secretary of Defense. ARPA reports directly to the Secretary of Defense and has funds with which to pursue programs in its area of responsibility.

In connection with the identification of advanced projects, the Secretary of Defense, Honorable Neil H. McElroy, has approved a study group to identify problems not now receiving adequate attention where science can contribute vitally to the national security and to recommend agreed technical, and perhaps organizational, means for the solution of these problems and for the continuing identification of important new problems. A study of these new scientific areas is an important approach to improving our defense situation.

The Institute for Defense Analyses has been asked to assume responsibility for this study, and I have asked Eugene Wigner, Oskar Morgenstern, and John Wheeler (chairman) to act as a committee of three to arrange the study and work program. In collaboration with Dr. A. G. Hill, Vice President and Director of Research of IDA, and myself, they are to work out a program of briefing by responsible Department of Defense individuals about urgent issues of defense, of limited warfare, and certain other aspects of national security.

The program committee anticipates that these briefings will occupy from one to three hours a day. The rest of the time is to be left free for such informal discussions, individual consultations, reference work and calculations as may seem appropriate. Because of the responsibility of the group, every effort is being made to give it as much freedom of action as possible. Whether you recommend what to do to get new means of communication on the battlefield, or to get high temperature alloys, or to get improved protection from blast and burns,

or whether you recommend quite a different measure, where there is a belief that a contribution to national security will be made, it will be appreciated.

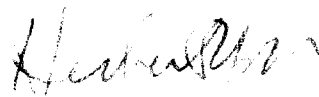
Hoping that you will accept this request, may I ask you to wire your reply to me at the above address. Since it will be necessary for us to obtain Department of Defense Top Secret clearance for all group members, I request that you give your current clearance, including the issuing agency.

Members of the group will be reimbursed for travel and living expenses, and will receive remuneration for their time.

If you can come, you will hear shortly about rooms and other arrangements from this office, and about the program from the Committee of Three.

We hope to make hotel arrangements to keep the group together to allow the maximum time for productive informal discussions. On the two weekends occurring in this period it is expected that there will be no formal briefings and everyone will be free to follow his own inclinations. However, it is anticipated that a number of panel members will wish to continue active, therefore conference rooms, classified documents, and all other relevant aids will continue to be provided.

Sincerely yours,



Herbert F. York
Chief Scientist

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Chairman, Medical Genetics Department
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin