

February 17, 1962

Dear Dr. Wolstenholme:

In response to your letter of the first, I am putting your meeting of November 26 through 29 on my calendar, and will make a determined effort to attend. There are unfortunately some possible interferences over which I might have little control, but I think you have some margin of safety in having arranged session 5 so that its success is very well assured regardless of my own speculations. I am not so keen about having to talk myself, but this is a reasonable price for the privilege of listening, and I would be deeply disappointed if I had to forego it.

I believe you have trimmed your program nicely, and session 2 is the only one that strikes me as intrusive, and this only from my own special standpoint. I would again recommend Harrison Brown (Department of Geochemistry, California Institute of Technology) as a potential contributor here. As to session 1, I believe it would be most desirable to ask some prominent Indian to speak on the impact of population on economic growth. ~~Q~~ I have a partly ulterior reason for suggesting this. Many Indians have bewailed long and loud for Western science to produce the contraceptive "pill" that would be the panacea for India's population growth. This has always seemed to me a fallacy: an effective program of social security is a more urgent precondition. At any rate, the "pill" now exists, as any of a number of progestational drugs which Pincus has been instrumental in developing, but Indian reaction to this has been incredibly confused and divided. Would it be too "political" to ask Nehru to address the symposium on some more general topic that would help to define his own position on this issue, I mean the impact of medical advance on economic and ~~social~~ social progress in underdeveloped countries. This may be a presumptuous gamble, but I am not sure Nehru would not be flattered by such an invitation, and his participation could be a mutually educational experience of some more than negligible practical impact. An alternative choice would be Justice Chagla, former Indian Ambassador to the United States.

I may try to submit some additional suggestions, at least until you advise me that your program is filled out.

My wife would like to join me, and would be humbly pleased if there were any possibility of her occupying an unobtrusive corner in the conference room.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg