

Telegrams: Mirror London EC1
Telex 21165

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Daily Mirror

Holborn Circus London EC1
Telephone: Fleet Street 0246 Ext.

5th July, 1962

Joshua Lederberg, Esq.,
Stanford University,
Santa Clara County,
West California,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr Lederberg,

You may remember that we met at the COSPAR meeting in Nice early in 1961.

We talked about your project to develop a robot - complete with a kind of sticky tongue - that could be sent to the planets to investigate the possibility of life-forms there.

The robot, as I remember, would stick out its tongue, collect on it any spores that might be around, and subject them to a rough chemical analysis, before telemetering the information back to Earth.

In the European edition of the New York Times today, there is a reference to a NASA plan :-

"To send a small device with a sticky string and a broth spiked with radioactive carbon to Mars in 1964".

I am sure that this device, which is to be taken to Mars aboard a Mariner B spacecraft, must be one developed by you.

7/16/62 sent to Dr. Gumbly - NASA

cont.....

The Daily Mirror Newspapers Limited

probably Gumbly

Bell for L

If it is, I would be most grateful if you could let me have some details about it - how much it weighs, how it will work, and so on, together with a photograph, if available.

*Very Sincerely,
Yours,
Ronald Bedford*

RONALD BEDFORD
Science Editor