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Geophysical Laboratory

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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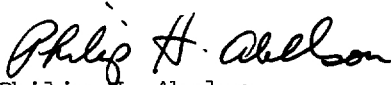
Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Recently I have performed model experiments which convince me that conditions imposed by the geophysics of Mars make it highly improbable that organic compounds have been synthesized there and that accordingly life could not originate on the planet.

My findings will be published in the December issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. However, in view of your activity with respect to this problem, I thought you would be interested in an advance copy which I am enclosing.

Sincerely yours,


Philip H. Abelson
Director