

*Recd 9/3/63*

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THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

TALLAHASSEE

INSTITUTE FOR SPACE BIOSCIENCES

21 August 1963

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
School of Medicine  
Medical Center  
Stanford University  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

\* Apropos of the letter to Dr. Shneour, I would like to invite you cordially to participate in the conference at Wakulla Springs, Florida in late October. I hope also that you can let us know promptly.

At present, it looks very much as if Haldane will be in attendance. I believe we do need to round out a small group of geneticists interested in the origin of life.

\*\* I would like to take advantage of this letter to make a comment which arises from conversations with Dick Young. Some time ago, Dick told me that you were considering including in a culture vessel destined for Mars some thermal proteinoid as potential nutritional substrate. If this possibility is still in purview, it may be worth pointing out that Dr. Gottfried Krampitz (Bonn) has learned that thermal proteinoids are attacked far more rapidly by proteolytic enzymes if they have first been heated in aqueous solution. In the accompanying negative print of a chromatogram of such an experiment, the action of pepsin on thermal proteinoid is illustrated, by ninhydrin staining, on the left. The pattern when the proteinoid is first heated in aqueous solution at 80° for 1 minute is on the right. Controls, such as heated proteinoid without pepsin being added subsequently, are in the middle.

We hope very much that we can see you here in late October.

Sincerely,

*Sid*

Sidney W. Fox

SWF:bw  
Enclosures

*\* Thanks very much but  
I don't think I can.  
\*\* Thank you for the trip.  
Good luck.*

*Sidney Fox*