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KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
STOCKHOLM 60
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CONFIDENTIAL

BAKTERIOLOGISKA
INSTITUTIONEN

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University
Medical Center
Palo Alto, California
U S A


Dear Professor Lederberg,

My personal feeling about the matter discussed in the enclosed letter is that the weight of the "verdict" to a large extent depends on the composition of the group, which should not only consist of pure "space biologists" but also ought to have a membership of scientists with a broader background. At present we are thinking in terms of the following composition: Florkin, Imshenetskii, Lederberg, Lwoff, Miles, Oparin, Sneath and Sagan (rapporteur), and I certainly hope that everybody in this group will do his utmost to participate. I had been hoping that bilateral discussion would simplify the situation, but since no such contacts have obviously yet been made, there is no alternative now but a rapid international action. When you have read the first section of the "Views on Space Craft Sterilization" you will understand that rapid action does not mean incompletely prepared.

There is a certain urgency in the whole matter, since the next "Mars window" will be in August 1964. Even if this will only be used for "fly-bys", sterility considerations must enter into the planning of the trajectories, and certainly the art of space craft sterilization must be further advanced before the next "window" in 1966.

I have requested that you will be provided with information about the COSPAR Space Symposium in Florence, because the life-sciences section may be of considerable interest to you.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

C.-G. Hedén

cc. V. Sarabhai