

March 21, 1961

Dr. Richard S. Caldecott  
Geneticist, Biology Branch  
Division of Biology and Medicine  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D.C.

REF: BMB:RSC

Dear Doctor Caldecott:

Thank you for referring Dr. Marcovitch's application to me for comment.

Dr. Marcovitch is well known as a careful and productive worker in the radiobiology of bacteria. His experimental designs are well calculated to give fundamental information on the mechanism of lethal action of radiation - information which is very badly needed both as a problem in basic science and in the assessment of the biological damage induced by radiations. He is credited with perhaps the most useful work in the biological measurement of the effect of very low doses of radiation in favorable material. If any justification is needed for support of work of this kind in another country, it should be on the basis of the unique confidence of the investigator in a research area of critical importance. I do not know of any quite comparable investigations being carried out in this country - if they are, they must be based directly on the recent prior work by Marcovitch and Latarjet.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

P.S. May I note an error in transcription in your letter - Dr. Trefouel is the director of the Pasteur Institute.

MARCOVITCH, H.