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JUN 24 1977

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

June 21, 1977

Dear Josh:

I agree with you that it is in the interest of the country that the gulf between faculties at academic institutions and government, particularly in the national security area, should be repaired. I believe that this can be done without violating the atmosphere of academic freedom that prevails on university campuses. It is in the interest of mission agencies like the Department of Defense to strengthen connections with universities in the area of unclassified basic research. I have already talked with Ruth Davis, the designated Deputy Undersecretary for Research and Advanced Technology in DOD. She agrees with this proposition and is undertaking a series of discussions with university presidents.

My own office is making a study of basic research in mission agencies to see if goals of these agencies are being met by an adequate basic research program.

The important justification for such connections in the area of technology is to have a knowledgeable group of experts, outside of government, as a source of independent advice to the Administration. University people who are up to speed on current technological problems in the national security area are a valuable source of such independent advice. Such a list would enable senior officials in government to select from a wider range of options and, if the past is any indication, could save the government enormous amounts of money. As you know, experts drawn from universities in the past have made important contributions to arms control, weapons systems evaluation, technology assessment, and the ability of university people to contribute to their government in this way should be strengthened.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Frank Press
Director



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cc: Ruth Davis