MEMO FROM
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TO: Kinkead

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Nothing special.
I heard a report that the Russians claim to have decontaminated Lunik II and I hope this is correct. They claim to have ensured the safe landing of their marker plaques and if so this would indicate that microorganisms would not necessarily be automatically destroyed by impact.

This is obviously just the beginning of interplanetary commerce. A moonfall is more of a stunt and less scientifically valuable than a graze or an orbit around the moon would be. Now that one side has earned rightful plaudits for the achievement I hope future missions on both sides will be devoted less to acrobatics and more to solid science. On this general theme, which may be the most important "story" on US space efforts, see encl.

Cordially

J. L.