MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
LABORATORY FOR NUCLEAR SCIENCE
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

Albuquerque, Feb 10.

Dear Dr Lederberg;

I was very happy to hear from Luria that you and Stanier have agreed to organize a small conference on the West Coast to discuss the problem of the detection of life on other planets. I really feel that this problem deserves careful consideration by the most competent and imaginative scientists.

As probably Luria told you, the Space Science Board would like to be informed beforehand of the date of the meeting and of the approximate sum needed to pay for travel expenses. They may send one of the secretaries to help with the preparation of the proceedings. The person who came to our meeting is Dr. George Derbyshire, and he may be the proper person to contact (c/o National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington DC).

I am asking my secretary to send you 20 copies of the draft report of the MIT meeting. It would be perfectly all-right, of course, to circulate this draft

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(as well as the draft of the proposals for the COSPAR-CETEX meetings) with the call for the West Coast conference.

I am sure that it would be perfectly appropriate, and in fact very desirable, to send the reports of our meetings to qualified scientists abroad. However I feel that we should wait for a final approved version before doing so. Also I would like to clear this matter with Dr Berkner.

With best wishes

Sincerely yours
Bruno Rossi