Your Holiness,

We, the undersigned Nobel Laureates, are deeply conscious of the immense burden of responsibility resting on the shoulders of Your Holiness in acting on the information and analyses of the Commission you have designated to study the subject of population and fertility control. We extend our prayers and sympathies to Your Holiness and to the Commission in this trying period leading to decisions that will affect the course of history, for all time and for all human beings, regardless of their religion. Sensitive as all thoughtful men and women must be to the ethical context in which marriage and the family should be viewed, we are increasingly impressed by the emerging consensus about the goals of family planning — namely, to assure each new infant the birthright of a warm welcome in a loving home, with a healthy opportunity for education, employment and fulfillment. The pressures of population growth now add a new moral imperative to the thoughtful consideration of family size.

In recognition of the gravity of the issue and the inevitable worldwide consequences of your action on it, we wish to express to Your Holiness the hope that any decisions will be the fruit of the most profound and searching studies. To this end, we wish to offer Your Holiness the best of our professional capacities and endeavors.

John Bardeen
Konrad E. Bloch
Felix Bloch
Walter H. Brattain
Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet
Melvin Calvin
Owen Chamberlain
Andre' Cournand
Edward A. Doisy
Vincent Du Vigneaud  
Sir John Carew Eccles  
John F. Enders  
Philip S. Hench  
Robert Hofstadter  
Bernardo Alberto Houssay  
Edward C. Kendall  
Arthur Kornberg  
Willis E. Lamb  
Joshua Lederberg  
Tsung Dao Lee  
Willard F. Libby  
Fritz Albert Lipmann  
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William P. Murphy  
John H. Northrop  
Linus C. Pauling  
Edward Mills Purcell  
Isidor Isaac Rabi  
Dickinson W. Richards, Jr.  
Frederick Chapman Robbins  
Emilio Segre  
William Shockley  
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New York  
March 18, 1965