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September 25, 1993

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President-Emeritus  
Rockefeller University  
1230 York Ave., Box 400  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Since we spoke, the International Scientific Networks project has been developing on schedule. In July, ICSU's committee on capability-building, with representatives from each of its members, met in Paris and began consideration of the vision. At least 3 good options for low-cost multimedia multicasting on the Internet should be available this fall. Specific proposals for startup Environmental Research Channels (Yale and MIT), a Communications Research Channel (Internet Society) and a Human Rights Channel (Yale) are under review.

I am writing to follow-up your suggestion of a High Quality Across all Fields Channel. It's an attractive idea. It would immediately enrich the curricula of all educational institutions worldwide. It also could set the standard for this new era and develop the norms that will define the emerging international scientific community.

The idea might appeal to visionary corporate leaders and receive their financial backing. The Channel would provide access to a wide range of discussions and be of immediate value in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (George Soros). It also would respond to Akio Morita's proposal, to a recent plenary session of the Trilateral Commission, for a "new dialogue" of technologists to support scientific communication and progress in addressing urgent global problems.

Do you have any advice about how this Channel can be organized? One approach might be a limited partnership involving distinguished, multidisciplinary scientific institutions (e.g., the NY Academy of Sciences, with participation by AAAS, Sigma Xi and private investors). The Channel could generate income to

underwrite infrastructure and the growth of new programming to improve scientific education at all levels. The capabilities also could be made available to members of the NY Academy of Sciences on a time-sharing basis.

I will speak with Rod Nichols further; if the project would have your support, and his, I would be open to discuss whatever role I could play, including a full-time commitment.

Recently, Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth called this initiative, "truly an innovative idea that matches the challenges of the increasingly interdependent world we face." I believe the Channel would benefit your members and secure a better global future.

With all good wishes -

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lloyd S. Etheredge".

(Dr.) Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director  
International Scientific Networks Project

cc: Rod Nichols