



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 16, 1987

Dr. Alan Lazen  
National Research Council  
National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Al:

I thank you for your trip report on your hurried meeting to Tokyo on November 2nd. That's a very useful account.

It's true the only meeting I'm going to be able to make is in March. Sorry we can't dig up more effective representation but it's hard to do on this time scale.

My dilemma is what we are supposed to do as private citizens in communicating the fact of what appears to be an unenunciated U.S. policy, which common sense could also dictate: namely, that it is extremely unlikely that the United States is going to put out any additional funding for an internationally administered research program, especially given the enormous contribution that this country already makes through its existing channels (even if they are not labeled in that way).

That was the main tenor of my previous discussion; and I thought they had some understanding of it. Perhaps they did, if they are beginning to think of some degree of unilaterality in how they get started with their effort.

So indeed I have tried to guide them towards discovering ways of getting their own basic research programs in order and recruiting all of the techniques of peer review which I think are not going to be easy for them to assimilate. If they would just operate their biological research in Japan

*Japan Human Frontiers  
Science Project*

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+ OSTP  
(also)*

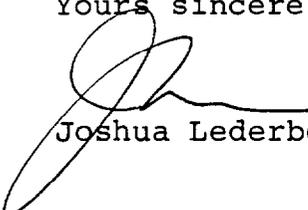
Dr. Alan Lazen  
November 16, 1987

- 2 -

along the same open lines as we do in the United States, I think they will accomplish their overall goals. That would include a very high degree of international participation, which is just what we do. Obviously I'm ready to provide whatever policy and scientific and technical help I can but we have to find some way to discover whether they are hearing our messages.

Is Bill Graham, or Beverly Berger in his office, on your distribution list? I talked to Bill Friday; he had not seen your report.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg