

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Stanford, California

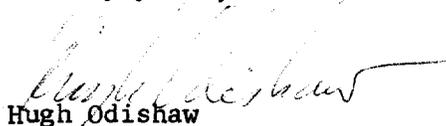
Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I have made an informal inquiry of NASA on the question of hard landings and have received the following qualitative answer: namely, that one cannot count upon the velocity-induced heating for total sterilization. The total energy cannot be assumed to have a uniform distribution among all particles, and there will may be large pieces that are not significantly heated.

I hope this is of some use to you.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,


Hugh Odishaw

Executive Director