

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

pro bono humanis generis

1230 YORK AVENUE - NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021-6399

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 5, 1988

Monsieur Francois Mitterand
Presidence de la Republique
Paris

Dear Mr. President:

It is hardly possible to find words of appreciation sufficient to match your gracious hospitality to the Nobel Laureates you convened in Paris last month. The event can be said to have had no parallel in history; but in spirit it was in the finest traditions of France's respect for intellect and culture. f

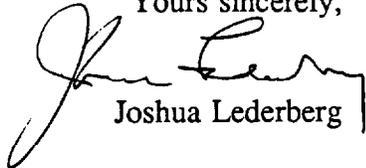
It would be a difficult challenge to identify a tangible product that would justify the lavish attention we received. I do not know what can be said of the impact we can have had on the thought of the outer world. We will know more when there is some publication of the addresses and deliberations of the participants. I am certain that the meeting made a very deep impression on the participants.

The laureates are of course very distinguished people in their own fields of science, culture, politics. But, especially among the former, many have not until now had their consciousness raised about their particular responsibility to exert intellectual leadership in dealing with the global problems on the agenda of the conference. For them, the occasion may well prove to be a crucial turning point in their self-estimation and dedication. I am sure there will be many fruits from the encounter, far beyond what was officially expressed, or apparent at the instant.

Your own remarks were, of course, in exactly that vein, and added much to the mood of ethical responsibility that pervaded the conference.

For your interest in my wife Marguerite's family history as well, I remain,

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg

cc: M. Elie Wiesel