(American version)

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

André 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

Maria Goeppert-Meyer

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

Wendell M. Stanley

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

Edward L. Tatum

Harold C. Urey

Selman A. Waksman

James D. Watson

Thomas H. Weller

New York
March 18, 1965