EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
NOV 7 1991

November 1, 1991

Dear Josh:

Pursuant to receiving your letter, I sought and received a satisfactory detailed briefing from Rayburn Hesse (U.S. Department of State), Morgan Ames (Office of National Drug Control Policy), and James Anderson (U.S. Department of Agriculture). They insist that the article is straight misinformation, that they are not now applying nor have they permission to apply agents to destroy coca plants in Peru.

There is work in process in Hawaii on Fusarium at a University of Hawaii site. The potential issues and problems associated with field application even if a satisfactory biological were developed were discussed at length. I am persuaded that Hesse, in particular, is keenly aware of the issues. However, they assert that two U.N. Expert Commissions have endorsed and encouraged biological research. We established to my satisfaction that we were in agreement that this is an exceptionally difficult and sensitive issue, that present studies are specifically directed toward characterizing the reasons for and mechanisms of plant pathology caused by Fusarium already present at the site and that extended work in this area would require a full policy review in full collaboration with the United Nations.

All best regards,

D.A. Henderson, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Director for Life Sciences

x ↓
o ↓ BW

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.
Professor and President Emeritus
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021-6399