U.S. Army Chemical Corps Research and Development Command
U. S. ARMY BIOLOGICAL WARFARE LABORATORIES
Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland

CMLRD-EW-10-PD

2 July 1959

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

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

After talking with Dr. Davies we decided that it would probably be unnecessary for me to stop by the Jet Propulsion Laboratories on the 7th, so I will come directly to San Francisco and then Stanford as originally planned. Should anything develop at the meeting that would indicate that a trip to Pasadena really was desirable I could go down there the following day.

Last April, when some discussion arose here at Detrick concerning sterilization of space probes, I hastily drew up a draft memorandum suggesting what should be done and I obtained some rough cost estimates for this from our Comptroller. I am taking the liberty of inclosing a copy of this with the possible thought that it might be advisable to have the discussion go a little beyond the problem of how the first unmanned probes could best be sterilized. It seems to me that, if we buy the premise that it is desirable to sterilize unmanned probes, it is not too early to begin serious consideration of what should be done before the first manned vehicles are launched.

Sincerely,

1 Incl

CHARLES R. PHILLIPS
Chief, Physical Defense Division