September 7, 1967

Dr. Kermit Gordon
President
Brookings Institution
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Gordon:

After our very gratifying conversation last spring I feel I should keep you up to date with respect to my intentions about spending some time in Washington. For the time being I decided to postpone any extended translocation but when the right time does arrive I am sure that I will want to turn back to you again to ask about the possibility of some personal arrangement with the Brookings Institution. For the moment, however, any such plans will have to be in cold storage. I have decided to take an appointment to the National Mental Health Council as one way of participating in some science political affairs during the next couple of years. However this will only involve the usual few brief trips a year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to introduce to you the name of Dr. Alexander Hollaender who has also written the enclosed prospectus. I suggest that his ideas deserve to be taken rather more seriously than the tone of this document might lead you to. It does read rather too much like an industrial proposal and this does not do justice to either the sincerity or the probable quality of what Dr. Hollaender and his group could put into such an enterprise.

You will be able to look him up in the usual bibliographic sources but let me just say that he has been Director of the Biology Division of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories for the past twenty years. By universal acclaimation he has done a splendid job in the organization and maintenance of the quality and morale of that organization. In particular he showed great wisdom and effectiveness in maintaining the proper balance

between satisfying applied demands related to the atomic energy mission of those laboratories and the continuation of an atmosphere in which first class basic research could flourish. Dr. Hollaender has just retired from that position - he is now approaching the age of 69; he is nevertheless an extremely alert and effective person with very broad interests and very many contacts throughout world biology. I do not know exactly what form his proposed organization should take but it is idealistically motivated and I believe it would be worth any time that you could give to talk with him to help with its orientation and realization. I might even make the presumptuous suggestion that some form of affiliation with the Bookings Institution might be mutually profitable.

You will, I think, see some parallelism between the aims of the planning activities that Dr. Hollaender contemplates and some ot the kinds of work that I had in mind for myself as a Washington experience.

At any rate I hope this letter may serve to introduce him to you when he seeks to make an appointment at some time in the next several weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medicine

JL:bm

bcc: Dr. Alexander Hollaender