INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF HUMAN DUTIES

I C H D

Rome, December 13, 1995

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Prof. Marshall W. Nirenberg
Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics,
NHLBI Bldg. 36, Rm. 1C-06
Nat. Inst. of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892
USA

Dear Prof. Nirenberg,

The importance of the International Human Rights Law as an instrument for the protection of the fundamental rights of every individual is today recognized worldwide. However, at the same time, the need for a corresponding Declaration of Human Duties has become increasingly evident.

On the invitation of the University of Trieste, a number of outstanding scientists and intellectuals from many countries met in Trieste in December 1992 to draft a Declaration of Human Duties.

Following a lively discussion, a Declaration of 12 principal Human Duties was accomplished and approved by all the participants in a second meeting in Trieste in 1993. A number of International Organizations have since given their full support of this Declaration.

Enclosed you will find a brochure containing the list of duties and the names of the persons and international organizations subscribing to this document.

As a fellow Nobel Laureate, your approval and support of this document, along with any suggestions you might have, would be of invaluable importance for the success of this project. A new global consciousness and human solidarity is imperative in the 21st century as we move beyond the consideration of Rights to the more inclusive concept of Duties for the protection of each other and the earth.

In the hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I remain

Cordially yours,

Rita Levi-Montalcini

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RLM/lcd
Enc.

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