

SEP 15 1969

Academician N. V. Keldysh
President, Academy of Sciences
of the USSR
Leninsky Prospect 14
Moscow U-71, USSR

Dear Academician Keldysh:

Thank you for your recent letter (transmitted to me telegraphically by our Embassy) explaining that the limited time available after the arrival of my invitation of August 21 did not make it possible to assemble a group of Soviet scientists to attend the briefing on the 1973 Viking missions to Mars which began September 11 at NASA Headquarters here in Washington.

I regret very much you did not have more advance notice, but I believe that this circumstance need not thwart the purpose of my invitation. I am therefore sending you, along with the agenda for the briefing, the Viking Project material distributed to scientists attending the briefing. These documents, we believe, will provide sufficient detail to permit Soviet scientists to develop proposals.

As indicated on page 6 of the July 15 supplement to our Opportunities for Space Flight Investigations (copy also enclosed), proposals from abroad should be endorsed by the national space agency (or Academy of Sciences) in the scientist's country and forwarded directly to the NASA Office of International Affairs. All proposals should arrive by October 20, 1969 if they are to meet the schedule set for their consideration.

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In this connection, we appreciate the mechanical difficulties which might be encountered in formulating definitive proposals, and we would be delighted to arrange for informal discussions of ideas your scientists may have in order to maximize confidence that any final definitive proposals would be of mutual interest.

In order to compensate for your inability to attend the Viking briefings this week, we are prepared to provide a briefing for your people as soon as you can arrange for them to get to Washington. I would hope this occasion could also provide an opportunity for the broader discussion of our respective plans for planetary exploration which I proposed in my August 21 letter.

I look forward to receiving word from you confirming that Soviet scientists would be able to attend such a special briefing and suggesting the earliest date which would be convenient for them.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed
T.O. Paine

T. O. Paine
Administrator

Attachments

bcc:
S/Dr. Haugle
SL/Mr. Hearth

Prepared: I/OEAnderson:DRMorris:dep:9-12-69

SL/Hearth
in draft
9-12-69