January 17, 1962

Dear Dean O'Brien:

Recent newspaper articles to the effect that the Department of Defense is reconsidering its conflict of interest regulations have led to expressions of concern by certain Department of the Army consultants as to their future status in giving scientific advice to the Government.

As you know, it is the policy of the Department of the Army to utilize the special talents, backgrounds and experience of persons learned in the arts and sciences whose regular occupations are in private industry or in the fields of education and the other professions. This policy is based upon the need of the Government to obtain the benefit of all skills and talents which may be available for the solution of Government problems.

The current reconsideration of regulations, in which this Department is participating, is designed to insure that the Government may continue to obtain such advice, consistent with the law, and with minimum inconvenience to the members of the scientific community. I am sensible of the great contribution which advisory groups and consultants have made to the Defense effort and feel strongly that such contributions must be continued without interruption.

A careful review of the statutes and regulatory material in this field will take a certain amount of time. Consultants will, of course, be given full information if any changes in our procedures should ultimately be found necessary. In the interim, I would appreciate their continued cooperation with the Department of the Army on the basis of existing procedures. Would you please make copies of this letter available to members of your Panel.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elvis J. Stahr
Secretary of the Army

Inclosure No. 1