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13 December 1991

Roger W. Sperry
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91125
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Dear Roger,

Thanks so much for your letter of November 12th. I cannot tell you how happy I was to learn that you approve of my idea of giving light to the project which you first prospected in 1972. I also wish to thank you for sending me your recent article, "The impact and promise of the cognitive revolution" where you expand on this fascinating subject in your so unique and incisive style.

I wonder if you feel, as I do, that the "Bill of Duties" should focus on the three main problems facing mankind, namely: man and his relationship with the planet earth; wealthy versus poverty-striken populations; past versus new generations.

Roger, my main reason for writing to you today is to ask if you would agree to write the draft of the document and take on the leadership of this project. This draft would then be submitted for approval to a small group of highly qualified individuals who share, as you do, a deep concern with these problems. In fact, I would like the project to be presented by you, myself, Adbus Salam and Ilya Prigogine and then submitted for final approval to Prof. Borruso, Chancellor of the University of Trieste. Once completed, the document would be circulated among the most influential figures in science, philosophy and the humanities. I have already spoken to Prof. Borruso of this idea, and he was very enthusiastic. Please let me know what you think. Of course, you would not be required to travel or personally attend any meetings. I cannot think of anyone more qualified than you, the originator of this proposal, to head the project.

Looking very much forward to hearing from you,

Rita Levi-Montalcini

RLM/lcd