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26 February 1986

Ryan Roxas
c/o G. W. Skene
6226 Penbrooke Dr. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2A GM7
Canada

Dear Ryan,

Thank you very much for your letter which arrived recently. I am glad that you share my interest in TITANIC.

In response to your question, I have no plans or desires to raise TITANIC. First, I consider the TITANIC site the grave for the over 1500 people who lost their lives when she sank. TITANIC should be left where she is as a memorial to those people. Second, because of her size and condition (broken in half), it would be very difficult and astronomically expensive to attempt to raise her.

Our Lab hopes to return to TITANIC to view her using unmanned, robotic cameras. The camera system currently under development would be attached to the ship by a cable and, with control from the surface, would be directed to swim in and photograph the inside of the ship, providing, in essence, a "museum tour". However, if and when we do return is up to the U.S. Navy, in large part, because it funds our explorations and testing of new equipment. When we do go down to see TITANIC again, I will be happy to send you pictures.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "R.D. Ballard".

Dr. Robert D. Ballard
Senior Scientist
Deep Submergence Laboratory

RDB/mva