

Prime Minister.

Agree Sir Stuart Hampshire?

or do you prefer Professor Mary Hesse?

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W.0848

MR COLES, No 10

15 December 1983

A.S.C. 15/12

Stuart Hampshire  
MB

MR NAKASONE'S PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE ON LIFE SCIENCES  
AND MANKIND

I have made some further enquiries following receipt of your minute of 9/December. I am pleased to say that Dr Arthur Peacocke has agreed that his name may go forward to the Japanese for invitation to the Conference.

I have had more trouble with finding a suitable replacement for Mary Warnock. The only female candidate of suitable distinction is Professor Mary Hesse, Professor of the Philosophy of Science, Cambridge. The problem with her is that her scientific interests have been very much in the area of the physical sciences and it seems unlikely that she has any special interest or competence in the area of life sciences. However, as a philosopher she would certainly be a suitable candidate.

A much better choice, in my view, would be Sir Stuart Hampshire, Warden of Wadham College, Oxford and formerly Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. He is very eminent in his field and does have a special interest in philosophy and the life sciences.

Therefore my advice must be that the third member of the British team should be Sir Stuart Hampshire, but if the Prime Minister feels that the desirability of having a female member overrides the points I make above, then I suggest that I approach Professor Hesse.

RSN

ROBIN B NICHOLSON  
Chief Scientific Adviser



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