I'm delighted with your interest and response to plans for our deep sea research expedition in Bermuda, August 1992. This is a continuation of the BEEBE PROJECT that Emory and I started in Bermuda in November 1984.

Emory Kristof, deep sea photographer for National Geographic, the Odyssey Foundation and I have chartered Russia's RV Akademik KELDYSH for two weeks starting approximately August 14 - 18. This 403-foot ship, the world's largest oceanographic research vessel, is the mothership to MIR-1 and MIR-2, two of the most advanced deep diving submersibles.

We plan to dive the subs together and meet on the bottom at depths from 1000 to over 7,000 feet (or the deepest we can go in the area around Bermuda). We are almost certain to see big sharks at 2,000 to 4,000 feet and a number of fantastic animals of the deep sea. The MIRs can go to 20,000 feet and take three people, a pilot and two passengers. Emory wants to plan some midwater dives if his baiting experiments in July bring in the giant squid. Any video or still photos any of us get must be shown to Emory. National Geographic has the right for first refusal on any of your pictures of giant squid before you can sell or show them elsewhere.

To be a part of this research trip you will be expected to keep a notebook with a chronological account of your dive(s) in the MIR. Record the time, depth, and perhaps temperature, etc. (visible daylight, artificial sub lights ON or OFF, sub stationary or moving, etc.) for each interesting observation you make outside or inside the sub. A screen inside the
sub will give the sub's location graphically as well as with digital readouts for depth, temperature, latitude, longitude, etc. (If you're not sure how to read the instruments the pilot can tell you, perhaps in Russian!) During a debriefing session I will want to go over your notes and perhaps have pages copied. Your original notebook with all your notes, sketches, stickers, etc. will be yours to keep. When I write in my notebook I use only the right side and keep the left side free for sketches and afterthoughts.

We plan to hold seminars and conferences during briefing sessions. Highly experienced submersible divers, Dr. Sylvia Earle (consultant to NOAA), Dr. Clyde Roper (giant squid expert at the Smithsonian), Emory and I will be giving mini lectures on the deep sea and its creatures. Odyssey Foundation participants, guests, assistants, other scientists, and Russians aboard the KELDYSH will sometimes join us. Among the Russian participants of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Academy of Sciences, Moscow will be:

Dr. Lev Moskalev, Senior Biologist
Dr. Anatoly M. Sagalevitch, Director of the Laboratory of Deep Manned Submersibles
Evgeny Cherniavtsev, Chief Pilot of the MIRs.

When we know your flight arrival time we will try to meet your plane and bring you to Somerset (the opposite end of Bermuda from the airport) to Teddy Tucker's boat MISS WENDY at King's Point House and Teddy will bring you to the KELDYSH. If you have to come by taxi ($40 to 50) we can reimburse you. Please save receipt. Plan to spend a minimum of 3 days, preferably 5 to 7, on the KELDYSH. (For your information, 220-volt electricity is available on the KELDYSH.) You can, of course, spend all the time you want in Bermuda before and after your time aboard the KELDYSH. Emory and Teddy are trying to arrange snorkel dives in the area if you want to take a day off the ship.

We would like to know your travel plans by early August. I will be out of the country (on a Red Sea trip) June 23 to August 4 but my secretary, Bev Rodgerson, will review my mail and phone messages (301-405-6920) while I'm away. I will also be assisted by Martha Kiser, (coordinator); Hera Konstantinou, graduate student in ichthyology who has made sub dives and assisted in deep sub projects in Grand Cayman, Bermuda and Suruga Bay, Japan; and HS students Andrew Snowhite and Bianca Piccillo.

Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to me ASAP. An addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Also enclosed is a copy of the Odyssey Foundation announcement. They are bringing at least six more sub divers and an additional yacht. They may start before we do and make sub dives in the ALVIN. We have at least nine divers (in addition to Emory and the scientists), several making more than one dive.

This is certainly one of the most exciting diving research trips I've organized through the University of Maryland Foundation. I'm really looking forward to meeting you on the KELDYSH!