

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N.Y. 10027

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Monday, May 11, 1992

Dr. Iris Rotberg  
The Rand Corporation  
Suite 800  
2100 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20037-1270

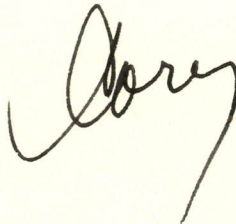
Dear Iris:

Thank you so very much for the brilliant job you did a week ago Wednesday. The students were ecstatic over your presentation, as was I. Enclosed is a written comment from one student's examination (female from Morocco). She is a very good student. Enclosed are several photographs that another student thought you might like to have from the class.

I spoke to Harold Noah about your request for information on funding streams. He remembers you from a trip that you, he, and others took to Israel. He would be delighted to speak with you. You may reach him at 914-373-9673.

Again, thank you so much for the effort you made to come to New York. I was very pleased to see you again and hope that I can see you next time in Washington, D.C.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry", is centered below the typed text. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Now I would like to discuss Iris Rotberg. I remember when I was reading her articles on my way home on the train during Spring Break. After absorbing all her ideas and questions, I thought to myself, "I like this woman." I was impressed with Iris Rotberg and her statements on the faulty methodology of international comparisons. She made me rethink my own ideas and opinions on where the United States stands in terms of education in comparison with the world. I still feel that education in the United States leaves much to be desired, but I now react cautiously to statistics professing high test scores.

And this admiration for Ms. Rotberg was before we were fortunate enough to have her address our class! When she came in last Wednesday, I was expecting someone with an air of importance about herself, but Ms. Rotberg treated us like colleagues. She seemed quite comfortable and even joked about David Letterman and our exam. What impressed me most

was that she, like Prof. Rieder, wanted to learn from us. After explaining to us the "ten most often asked questions in Washington", Ms. Rotberg asked the Japanese students in our class to comment on some recent articles from 'The Times'. The whole class was able to benefit from those comments as well as from what Ms. Rotberg said herself. That session was extremely valuable and I am sure that my classmates feel the same way.