

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING



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February 19, 1991

Ms. Iris C. Rotberg
Program Director for
Education and Human Resources
National Science Foundation
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20550

Dear Ms. Rotberg:

Only recently have I had an opportunity to read your paper "I Never Promised You First Place" from the December 1990 Phi Delta Kappan. I enjoyed the paper very much. It raises issues about international comparisons of educational achievement that need to be surfaced. Public policies are being formulated on the basis of pat interpretations of the numerical results that we see in our newspapers and journals. Yours is the first paper I have seen that has clarified for me many of the sampling problems that distort some of these numerical comparisons.

Congratulations on a good piece of work.

Sincerely,

Robert M. White
President