



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
A Commonwealth University

School of Communications and Theater

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7/3/98

Prof. Noam Chomsky

Dear Noam:

I am faxing the attached to your office fax, and mailing also to the Wellfleet address.

I have great hope that you will agree and be available to represent the "people's" point of view in the dialogue.

Please let me know if you are receptive to a formal invitation (which will probably come from the sponsors. Dates are still somewhat flexible - May 16-19 being a current alternative

I will be out July 9 - Aug 1, hope to hear from you before that or soon thereafter. Best regards.

George

The Challenge of the Digital Age: Hope or Hype?

A Forum of Diverse Perspectives

Unbeknownst to most Americans, the "digital age" begins on December 31, 2006. Soon thereafter, television and other systems of communication, ranging from computers to satellites, will change. The change to digital technology holds out the promise of greater diversity of communication than has ever before been possible. This is a critical juncture in communications for both public service and private opportunities.

The purpose of the proposed two-part international conference is to provide a forum for well-balanced dialogue among leading media and other industry executives, members of the creative community ("content providers"), community leaders, and scholars. The dialogue is intended to facilitate fair mutual and public understandings of the interests and perspectives of these key players in the process.

The first meeting takes place on November 20, 1998, at the Sugarloaf Conference Center of Temple University in suburban Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. It is a one-day round table of about 25 leaders in diverse areas of telecommunications. Issues for exploration and points of discussion arise from participants' own self-interest, as revealed in their responses to preliminary meeting materials. It will have both a substantive purpose resulting in a report for publication, and a planning function for the second meeting.

The second meeting will take place May 7-9, 1999 in New York, with expected attendance of 70. It is an international conference whose scope, programs and participants will assure high visibility.

The conference is convened by George Gerbner, Bell Atlantic Professor of Telecommunications at Temple University. For more information, contact Victoria Tredinnick, c/o George Gerbner, Department of Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Mass Media, School of Communication, Temple University, 218 Annenberg Hall, 2020 N. 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122, 215-204-6434 (phone), 215-204-5823 (fax).

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

E39-219

Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

July 13, 1998

Dear George,

I was most interested to hear about the conference, and appreciate the invitation to take part. I'm afraid neither of the two dates is possible for me. In November, I'll be in Asia; in May tied up with travel/speaking just about every moment that is not committed to teaching and other professional obligations here. It's a very tight year coming up. Hope it all goes well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Noam'.

Noam Chomsky