

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL



LABORATORY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL,
HILLS ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE.

Telephone
Cambridge 48011

Professor V. Weisskopf

2.

13 February, 1963.

You may also remember that we talked about the possibility of assembling an international "pressure group" composed of one representative of each of the countries likely to be concerned. I now think it might be better to try for something more modest in the first place - namely a group of representatives of only the largest of the countries concerned. It might include, for example, France (Monod), Italy (Bernadini), Germany (Frechse?), United Kingdom (?), with the addition of yourself, Szilard and myself. Such a group would be much easier to assemble in one place at one time, and it could be widened later when some sort of program had been established.

I hope we may be able to discuss all these questions next week. If you are not free for lunch I could probably meet you at any time on the same day up to 7.15 when I have a dinner engagement.

Yours sincerely,

John C. Kendrew.

cc. Professor Szilard,
Dr. J. Monod

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

*file: Cern*Telephone
Cambridge 48011LABORATORY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL,
HILLS ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE.

13 February, 1963.

Professor V. Weisskopf,
CERN,
Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Professor Weisskopf,

It would be very valuable if we could have another talk about the CERB project, and I believe I remember your telling me that you expected to be in London on Friday, 22nd February. If so, I hope very much that you might be free to have lunch with me and I would suggest that we meet at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, 71 Pall Mall, at 12.45 p.m.

I have talked with a number of people about the project, especially with Leo Szilard whom I saw in Washington a few weeks ago, and with Jacques Monod who visited us here last week. I still feel confident that a laboratory on the lines we were discussing would be very successful. I wish I felt as clear about the best way to get the project launched. In the first place I feel that my personal position is a rather difficult one. If I am to be thought of as a possible Director, it is really not for me to take the leading part in pressurizing the countries of Western Europe. Nevertheless I feel strongly that some single person must be found to undertake this task. Secondly, the biggest difficulty is the lack of any central organization through which one could work. Life would be very much simpler if CERN came under some international organization like UNESCO; one could then make application to that body to consider setting up a parallel laboratory in biology. I know that you told me there were financial and constitutional reasons why the new laboratory could not be sponsored by the Council of CERN. What I would like to explore with you is whether, nevertheless, there is any chance that your Council might at least act as a forum for discussion of the project. Even if the Council could not take executive action, at least the idea would be aired in front of official representatives of all the countries concerned, some of whom would inevitably become members of any corresponding CERB council which might later be set up.

..../contd.

Medical Research Council,
Laboratory of Molecular Biology,
University Postgraduate Medical
School,
Hills Road,
CAMBRIDGE.

28 May, 1963.

Dear Szilard

I am enclosing copies of two papers written by Professor C. H. Waddington and myself as a basis for the next discussion at C.E.R.N. on the proposal for an International Laboratory of Molecular Biology. I look forward to seeing you in Geneva on June 28.

Yours sincerely,

John Kendrew

John C. Kendrew.

Enc.

Geneva, 18 July 1963

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr John Kendrew
MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology
Hills Road
Cambridge
England

Dear Dr Kendrew,

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation. Dr André Cournand has suggested that you write to Dr Maréchal, Délégué Général, Recherche Scientifique et Technique, 103 rue de l'Université, Paris 17ème. In your letter you should say that Dr André Cournand telephoned me from Paris and suggested that you contact him (Dr Maréchal) directly. You ought to explain to Maréchal very briefly, in just a few lines, what all this is about and then ask him whether he would be willing to appoint someone who would report to him and who would among other things also attend the Ravello meeting. In order to be able to invite someone to attend the Ravello meeting perhaps you ought to have a letter from one of the organizers of the meeting which would authorize you to issue such an invitation. I believe that Professor Gilberto Bernardini, whom you met at the CERN meeting on 28 June, is one of the organizers and could give you such an authorization. He can be reached through CERN, and I shall send him a copy of this letter for his information and for the record. Your letter to Maréchal ought to give all the details of the Ravello meeting, such as dates, accommodation, etc.

Dr Cournand told me that it is his guess that either Jacques Monod or Latarjet would be likely to be appointed by the French Government as an "official observer". Dr Cournand also told me that it would be improper for you to express a preference in this regard.

It seems to me that in the circumstances it would be wise for you to ask Gilberto Bernardini to write, at this time, personal letters to invite to the Ravello meeting both Jacques Monod and Latarjet. Monod's address is : Institut Pasteur, Paris 15ème. Latarjet's address is Dr R. Latarjet, Directeur, Institut du Radium, 26 rue d'Ulm, Paris 5ème.

In addition, on the basis of a conversation which I had with Delbrück before he left Geneva, it would be advisable for Bernardini to invite to the Ravello Meeting Albert Gierer as well as Friedrich Freksa. Freksa is in Tübingen at the Max-Planck-Institut für Virusforschung, Spemannstrasse 45.

Gierer is at another Max-Planck-Institut in Tübingen. I don't know which one, but Max-Planck-Institutes, Tübingen should be a sufficient address. Gierer is supposed to be a better man than Freksa for our purposes, but of course we would want to carry Freksa along also.

As I mentioned to you over the telephone, Dr Courmand has not only talked to Maréchal but also to the Chef du Cabinet of the Minister (Palowski).

As I also told you, this ends my mission as far as France is concerned and from this point on you will have to carry the ball *there*.

There is only one more thing in France that I could do, and that would be to write a private letter to Monod and to see whether he could do something himself that would increase the chances that he would be designated as the French "official observer".

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard

cc: Professor Gilberto Bernardini

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Telephone :
Cambridge 48011



LABORATORY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL,
HILLS ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE.

22 July, 1963.

Dr. Leo Szilard,
c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan,
WHO,
Palais des Nations,
Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Leo,

Many thanks for your letter of 18 July. I will take action as you suggest as soon as I have the necessary information from Bernardini, to whom I am writing today. I agree that it would be very good to have Gierer at the Ravello meeting, and have written in this sense to Bernardini.

I am wondering when you will be ready with your re-drafted version of the CERB-EBO document. I really need to have an agreed version of the document to send to the people we thought of inviting to accept senior positions at CERB. If possible I should like to write to these people in advance of Ravello. Meanwhile I am enclosing a copy of Waddington's draft. This may help you, though in many respects I disagree with it, especially in that it puts EBO before CERB rather than after. I also think it nonsense to say that the Naples laboratory "draws its staff from all European countries", page 2. In fact, as far as I am aware, there is only one non-Italian at the Naples Laboratory, although Buzzati told me that he now proposes to recruit others, the fact is that he has not yet done so.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

John Kendrew

John C. Kendrew.

Dup

Geneva, 24 July 1963

Dr Jacques Monod
Institut Pasteur
25 rue du Docteur Roux
Paris XVe

Dear Monod,

For sometime now I have been unable to contact you by telephone because you were on your sailboat. As I believe I wrote you from New York, Dr André Cournant offered to explore in Paris how we are to go about getting the French Government interested in our tentative plans to set up a biological institute in Geneva. Dr Cournant phoned me from Paris to say that he talked to Marechal and also to the Chef du Cabinet of the Minister (Palewski) and that he obtained the promise that the French Government will appoint a scientist to look into this matter and to report back to the Government. Your name was one of those mentioned as a possibility. On the suggestion of Cournant, John Kendrew will officially write to Marechal and ask that an official representative be appointed. At the same time he will invite this official representative to take part in the Ravello meeting in the middle of September. Cournant tells me that it would be improper for Kendrew to express a preference as to who the French representative might be.

My main purpose is to raise the question with you whether you yourself could perhaps engage in some course of action which would increase the chances that you yourself would be picked as a representative, which, of course, would please Kendrew very much. I will send a copy of this letter to Kendrew with the suggestion that he delay a little while writing to Marechal, at least until he hears from you what you would propose to do. At the same time Kendrew cannot delay writing to Marechal too long if we want the French representative to attend the Ravello meeting. In these circumstances, all I can suggest is that as soon as you receive this letter and are clear in your mind what needs to be done, contact Kendrew in Cambridge. The telephone numbers through which you can reach him are as follows:

57580
48011
(and at home: 47258)

His address is: MRC Laboratory for Molecular Biology, Hills Road, Cambridge.

As long as I roam around in Europe you can reach me c/o Dr Martin Kaplan, World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Corb

Telephone:
Cambridge 48011



LABORATORY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL,
HILLS ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE.

31 July, 1963.

Dr. L. Szilard,
c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan,
World Health Organization,
Palais des Nations,
Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Leo,

Thank you for sending the copy of your letter to Jacques Monod of 24 July. I have not yet written to Marechal because I am still awaiting confirmation from Bernardini (as official host that I may do so). I will however write as soon as I hear from Bernardini and from Jacques. I expect to be leaving England somewhere about 18 August so I hope that all this can be cleared up by then. I also hope to have your draft of our joint document well before that time, so that I can circulate it before I leave.

May I add that you have got my telephone numbers slightly wrong. They are:

Peterhouse	50256
Laboratory	48011
Home	57580

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

John

John C. Kendrew.

cc. Professor G. Bernardini.

gen. file

February 4, 1964

John Kendrew, Esq.,
M.R.C. Laboratory for Molecular Biology
Hills Road
Cambridge, England.

Dear Kendrew:

Margaret Vogt, who is on the staff of the Salk Institute, told me that she and her sister have inherited from their father a large research laboratory, formerly the Institut für Hirnforschung, located in the Black Forest about half an hour from Basel. At present, this laboratory is used to a very small extent only and they would consider renting or selling it, even partially giving it away to a worthy cause.

I am writing you all this because I think that if your enterprise gets going you might want to set up operations in such a place for a few years until you get your own buildings in shape in Geneva, which might well take about three years.

I think you ought to make enquiries about this place and this is easy enough because Margaret Vogt's sister, Marthe Vogt, works in Cambridge, England. You will find her at the Institute of Animal Physiology, Babraham, Cambridge, of which, I believe, she is the head.

The Institute in the Black Forest was built by Krupp, for the father of these sisters, after the Nazis forced him to resign his position as Director of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institut für Hirnforschung in Berlin.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

LS: jm

Leo Szilard