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ISTITUTO DI GENETICA
UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA
VIA SANT' EPIFANIO, 14
PAVIA

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Dear Joshua:

I have received your note on Daedalus, it is interesting that other people had an idea very near yours, or are you Daedalus?

I'm sorry to confess that nothing much has happened on biopoiesis for some time. We have been busy with a number of things and as to myself, I have not had any energy to push anything except what was absolutely urgent.

There must have been some confusion from what I wrote to Arturo, though I hoped it would convey a clear idea of what the situation is now at Naples. Let me summarize it for you so that you are completely aware of the situation now.

Since the middle of July, 1964, when I became director at Naples, I had to go there fairly often, say once every week maybe for just one day but enough, in any case, to disrupt much of my work here. It was also necessary for me to go to Rome a number of times in order to find out what the main issues were and how the problems could be solved. It has taken a fair amount of time and various events delayed the final outcome, but to make a long story short, I finally managed to convince the financing agency, The National Research Council, that the best thing to do was to leave the laboratory at Naples again as it was, with all the liberty it had and eventually they recognized that this was the best thing. And all the liberty it meant also that the laboratory people would be able to choose Buzzati as its director and after some long talks this was eventually obtained. At the end of January, The administration had been named again and it met and this was the essential condition for having a new director. In fact,

DAEDALUS

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the director is named by the laboratory according to the statutes but is confirmed by the administrative board and in the absence of it, it was impossible to have any new director. I have been asked to act as vice director so as to assure a smoother transition to normality and I am doing it but staying in Pavia, which means that I am going to Naples now about once a month. So everything is practically back to normal. The financial condition has improved from what it was in June and we now have a little more money so that we plan to get an electromicroscopy research team in Naples.

The question concerning Arturo is only whether he should work at Naples or in Pavia. For one thing, he had to be willing to work in Pavia rather than in Naples, and he answered that he was. I must now bring the matter before the board of the Laboratory research workers, but I hope that there will be no major objection to this.

We still have a few problems to solve, like choosing a new administrative director (the old one was not very good and he went) and apart from that, I hope there will be no major trouble coming out in the future. I have expended a great deal of energy in this and it is only after the end of the mission that I have been able to relax. I am now almost completely, I hope, normal. As to future plans, I have unfortunately accepted an invitation to give a seminar in Denver and I have recently had a letter from Esther who kindly reminded me of your standing invitation to Stanford on that occasion; Unfortunately, I had promised to give papers at two meetings which turned out to be overlapping with the Denver meeting; one of them is in early September (WHO and population meeting at Belgrade). I hope Bodmer may take my place in it or that we might give a joint paper. The second is an ISI meeting just after Denver, also at Belgrade and I must go at least to the second meeting; If I stay in the States, it must be before Denver and not after it; It is somewhat difficult for me now to see whether or not this will be feasible. It also depends on whether Walter is coming during August or not and, if not, much depends on whether Walter will come for the next academic year or not. I am hoping he will because his manifold skills could be extremely useful down here. I hope very much that we may take this opportunity, if it arises, to write something of the things that we had in mind. I am also thinking hard on what to do next now that I am coming back relaxed to a less discontinuous type of work than in the last seven months. I have your letter of December 18 mentioning the possibilities of research under my eyes. I am thinking of it but I don't think I can contribute to chemical work in any substantial way, at least not to the part

that you have already carried out so far. There may be some more hopes that I may be able to do something on the formal analysis, as you call it, of molecular biology (what I would rather like to call mechanized induction) with a view to devise better experiments by machine.

In any case, I don't want to make any rash decisions as I have to make sure that the human work that I have started goes to a reasonable end and this will take some of my efforts in any case. And, I have to plan a kind of work that can reasonably be done in a country which has the limitations that ours has.

If you are at Stanford, even if you do not come to Fort Collins in the beginning of September, there is a chance that I may be able to say hello to you.

Please thank Esther for her very charming letter and show her this letter of mine as if it were addressed to both. I'm sure you enjoy Pescadero very much: but I also hope you will plan some time to spend a reasonable period in this place.

All the best,

Yours sincerely



L.L. Cavalli-Sforza

LLCS/aam

P.S. I have reasons to be in Italy on September 1st. This limits the possibility of staying in Stanford to the week end of September the 5th. I hope I may arrive on the 3rd. Would this be all right?