



BIOZENTRUM
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ABTEILUNG MIKROBIOLOGIE

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U S A

July 8, 1982

WA/uf

Dear Mat,

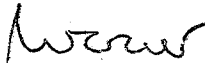
I am writing you in my function as a member of COGENE, the Committee of Genetic Experimentation of ICSU. There are plans to hold a COGENE Conference entitled "Gene manipulation and evolution" in Cologne, Germany, from April 7-9, 1983. I am in charge of organising the session on microorganisms. There will be other sessions on gene manipulation of plants and of animals and humans.

In a discussion with Peter Starlinger he suggested that it might be appropriate to include a talk on "Manipulation of microorganisms in view of military applications" or more generally on biological weapons. I would like to ask you for advice whether the inclusion of this topic appears appropriate to you. If so, we would be extremely pleased if you accepted the invitation to take the responsibility for this talk. Alternatively, would you have other suggestions?

The general aim of this COGENE Conference is to critically discuss possible long-term consequences of the application of in vitro recombinant DNA techniques. I expect that there will be also discussions of ethical nature, particularly with regard to the human experimentation. It is likely that the conference proceedings will be published, but I am not aware whether any decisions in this respect have already been taken. It is clear that your expenses will be covered by the conference organizers.

Thank you very much in advance for your prompt reply. With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,


Werner Arber