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HAMPstead 1471

28th October, 1965.

Prof. M. Meselson,
Biological Laboratories,
Harvard University,
16 Divinity Avenue,
Cambridge 38,
Massachusetts,
U. S. A.

Dear Matt,

I have just heard from Humphrey about your meeting with Wayland Young on Monday after your return from Stockholm. I have no doubt that you have done this with the best intentions, but nevertheless I have to state that this sort of intervention is both unnecessary and undesirable. I made it plain in Stockholm to leave alone the question of Porten and the approach to the British Government, and I asked this for a good reason. The whole situation is very delicate. The information which you gave me when you were in London a few months ago turned out to be incorrect, and it seems that a great deal of tact is necessary in order to unravel the problem and achieve the desired end. There are good chances of achieving this end, but any intervention from other people will only complicate matters and probably lead to complete failure.

For these reasons I have to ask you to stop any further interference in this matter. You are, of course, welcome to contact microbiologists or other experts in this country and induce them to come to the symposium or to write memoranda, but please leave off any attempts to negotiate with the British Government either directly or indirectly.

Yours sincerely,

