Dr. Ruth Bellairs
Dept of Anatomy & Embryology
University College London
Gower Street
London WC1E 6BT ENGLAND

October 17, 1979

Dear Ruth, Adam, and Graham

What do you think of my idea for the Abercrombie Symposium, as communicated by Graham? Essays on various aspects of the social behavior of cells, rather than research reports. More like the volume in honor of D'Arcy Thompson (ed. by Le Gros - Clark and Medawar ?), rather than say the Uppsala Symposium. This would be distinctive (not a small attribute, considering the number of symposia now appearing each year), and could have a really profound effect on the direction of research in this important area, whose future lies mainly in the future. Moreover, it would be very much in the spirit of Michael, whose occasional essays of this sort have influenced the research of all of us.

If the three of you editors agree with me, a letter should go out to all contributors fairly soon, telling them what is expected of them. They can then begin thinking right away about the various grand thoughts they have on the state of the art and where it should be heading, if it is to get anywhere in the next years.

Also, who is to write the appreciation of Michael? This will be a not inconsiderable task. The obituary that Graham for Nature is excellent and completely appropriate for that purpose. But what is required for the memorial volume is a kind of appreciation of the man and his work, in some detail. A good model for this might be Michael's own essay on Harrison, but a bit more personal. Who should do it? Finally, someone should be delegated to put together an accurate list of his publications.

My best regards to all of you,

Yours,