

December 10, 1962 Rome

*Doris divorce  
N.Y. Board Meeting  
NGF*

Dear Victor,

Please forgive me for this delay in answering your letter November 30. I received it the day I came back from Palermo and I immediately wrote a letter in answer to yours. Then, for some reason the letter was not completed and not mailed. I left for Turin to see my mother who is again suffering of a severe form of bronchitis and took the letter with me to mail it from Turin. I came back today from Turin still with the letter and I decided to write another one. This will be mailed at once even if I am very much tired and it will be a very poor letter.

First I answer to your question: when I will be back. If this is possible I would like to postpone my return to the very end of January. The main reason is of course my worries about my mother. I just called Turin. She is now somewhat better but she is far from being well. Even if living in Rome I am not of too much help, it is still a great relief for Paola to know that I can be in Turin any moment. It just takes one hour by plane. Also I hope, by remaining here till the end of January, to be able to complete at least the first part of the research on single cells in vitro. Please let me know if this will not cause too much of inconvenience. If so, the secretary should come only at that time or a little earlier to become acquainted with our work.

Many thanks for the letter for Bizzi ( an excellent letter which should give very much strength to the petition) and for the news. I knew about Mel. Paola saw him a moment in Paris and found him in much better shape than one year ago. He is in peace with Ruby and with himself and seems to have again faith and enthusiasm in his work. He told Paola that also Peter and Jackie Hofer came to the divorce. As for Doris, I am sure she will <sup>feel</sup> much relieved after this decision and will be able to face the future better than before. I am glad that you will see her and Carola at Christmas.

Not too much new in Rome. In many respects the work here is difficult and progresses quite slow. I had many offers but I am not planning to accept any, Victor. My roots are still in St. Louis and, were it not for my family, I would not hesitate to come back as soon as possible.

In these last weeks I received a number of invitations to attend Conferences and give seminars in the U.S. in the next months. One of these invitations which you have probably also received shocked me a great deal. It came from Dr. Noback from Columbia University (Dept. of Anatomy). He invites me "to participate in a program on the Nerve Growth Factor with Dr. Crain and Buecker". He writes that " both Crain and Buecker are anxious to have me make a contribution"! It seems that Buecker and Crain consider the NGF as their own property but are kind enough to admit me in the discussion. It will certainly be an unpleasant meeting with the two of them. I suppose you have been also invited. If not, I will ask you, please to come. I answered Dr. Noback that I plan to be present (February 7) and I very much regret that Dr. Cohen will not be able to attend the Conference. I will see if it will be possible for Piero to come in order to ask to Buecker some explanations about his puzzling results on the two factors. The meeting will be at the New York Academy of Sciences. It was certainly promoted by Crain and Buecker.

I will write you soon again. This letter will be mailed as it is.  
I very much hope to hear soon again from you and to know if you do  
not object to my return at the end of January.

All best wishes Victor and thanks again for everything.

Yours,

R.I.