November 22, 1948.

Dear Mike,

I would have replied earlier except for being out of town a large part of this last month.

I've seen Monod's note, which is very interesting, but not very informative in detail. He was working with EL or some other coli, but not K-12. I would be very much interested to hear from you whether this mechanism of maltolysis applies as well to the wild type (K-12) as it does to the mutant combination W-327. As to your question about W-327 being an adapted form of W-108, the problem is mainly semantic. Monod is talking about enzymatic, non-genetic adaptation, and I am sure that you will find that in this sense, W-327 must also be adapted to maltose before it shows maltolytic activity. But you could leave W-108 in contact with maltose indefinitely, and so long as there is no opportunity for selection of Mal+ mutants, you will not get maltose production. W-327 differs from W-108 in respect to a gene, which was arbitrarily labelled "S", for suppressor, which permits cells carrying the S+ allel or form to adapt to maltose. In the broader sense, W-327 is an adapted form of W-108, but the adaptation is a genetic one, involving mutation of a definable gene.

We will be delighted to have you here next year. Let me know as soon as you can when you can best arrange for it. On the other hand, I would like very much to spend a month or two on the West Coast next summer, if it could be financed — but there's the rub. The main problem is transportation. To be quite blunt about it, do you think there would be any chance of a temporary position at Berkeley or at UCLA? I would like very much to be able to work with you, and would not mind at all doing some teaching in the direction of the genetics of microorganisms. I have wondered, for example, if something should not be set up along the lines of the Cold Spring Harbor phage course, but going over techniques in producing mutants in bacteria, and in crossing them. This is probably importunate to ask, but if you should see a good chance of it, I would be very much interested.

Sincerely,

Joshua.