

June 2, 1956

Dear Francis:

Although I was told several weeks ago that my application had been declined, I was notified suddenly of an award of an NSF travel grant to attend the Tokyo symposium. So, much to my surprise I expect to see you and Betty and the mysterious East this summer! (It's a shameful waste of the taxpayer's money, but I suppose it's worth the cost in terms of a diplomatic investment if nothing else; but I still can't justify it as a junket).

Jim Crow and Hans Ris are also planning to make the trip from here, so you see there's quite a large Wisconsin contingent. Altogether, I think there are 20 grantees under this plan.

This letter is partly a warning to you and Betty to take cover before the hailstorm of American geneticists, and partly a plea for any advice you care to offer on itinerary, baggage, accommodations, etc. I'm sure you'll be deluged with notices like this, so you'll have to mimeograph rather than copy your answers. Tentatively, we're planning to arrive about 1 week early; I don't think this leaves enough time to recuperate from the tourist-class flight (some poor souls are MATS), but I hoped I could persuade a few microbiologists I've been in touch with to attend the meetings early too so we could commuene without the distraction of the meetings: (can Betty interpret?) I know you've had a lot of Japanese microbial genetics, but what would you think of the idea of trying to organize a more informal advance meeting. Except for Aaron Novick, I don't know who else in this field is coming from the US; some of the people I'm anxious to see myself are Uetake from Sapporo; Iseki & Sakai from Gunma; Kikkawa from Osaka; and Nakayama or Fukumi from the NIH at Tokyo; there are probably many others that you, and my [brilliant] student Iino here would also suggest.

Are there any books that you would suggest to help get the most out of a brief visit to the country? Have you any itinerary suggestions? What should we do about accommodations: do you know if the Congress has made any special provisions?

This reminds me: only a few days earlier, I wrote to Sinoto regretting that I could not accept his long-past invitation to attend the conference or chair any of the sessions. Could I ask you to call him and explain what's happened, and that I will therefore be at his ~~disposal~~ disposal? It's probably too late to do anything about the program, but I also thought it would be a small lift for Iino if I could present the work we've been doing on phase variation in Salmonella. Or do you think it would be better for me to write to him more formally?

As these things were set up it looked more probable that Esther would be going than myself: at least they had put her down as an alternate for the travel grant. But everything seems to be snafu at Washington, and I don't know what's really what. It would be wonderful if we could make the trip together, but I don't know how hopeful to be about that.

Sincerely,

P.S. : A minor item: how much