Dear Francis,

How very kind of you to write to me on your birthday. I do not think that I have deserved it! I had a very happy birthday, and your letter was a great contribution. I am greatly obliged to your wife for enquiring about my age.

I should very much like to have one day your criticism of my paper on reduction.

You are very right in what you say about Jacques Monod and Peter Medawar. They are both wonderful people. Or, alas, Monod was.
It almost looked on my birthday as if life had been found on Mars. Of course it may be so different from the basic uniformity of life on Earth that we may not be prepared to detect it.

Kind regards to both of you from both of us,

Yours ever

Karl