

copy

March 8, 1960

Professor J.W. Boyes,  
Department of Genetics,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Canada

Dear Professor Boyes,

Many thanks for your letter of February 27. I realize how great a responsibility you would take upon yourself, if you asked the International Committee today to reconsider the decision taken at Montreal one and half a year ago.

Yet I believe that such a reconsideration is indicated. The opposition to Germany as a meeting place is shared by much wider circles of geneticists than you may be aware. It stems from the knowledge that pseudo-genetic argumentation served as a pretext for the extermination of millions with various national and religious affiliations, while the majority of German geneticists refrained from voicing any protest. While it is true that almost two decades have passed since then, it is also undeniable that the Nazi Doctrine has survived in a considerable number of adherents belonging to the ranks of German politicians and, unfortunately, also German geneticists. It was for precisely this reason that the German invitation to the Conference of Human Genetics was not accepted.

Regarding a suitable alternative, I know it is not easily found. However, France, Holland, Switzerland and England have been mentioned, and maybe the problem could be solved by a cooperation between several European countries, modelled on the admirable coordination between Canada and the U.S., which contributed so much to the success of the Xth International Congress of Genetics.

I am therefore hoping that a solution acceptable to all may yet be found.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Goldschmidt

cc: Prof. E. Hadorn  
Prof. I.M. Lerner