

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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MRC Unit

Dr. M. W. Nirenberg,
Department of Health, Education,
and Welfare,
Bethesda 14,
MD.,
U.S.A.

4th January, 1962.

Dear Dr. Nirenberg,

It was very kind of you to send me your two papers, and I look forward very keenly to your next one. I liked the first paper very much, but I felt that perhaps Ochoa had rushed you into publishing the second one in rather a hurry. We hear that Leon and Maxine are helping you prepare the polymers. I hope that this is true, and that all is going well. It must be maddening to have the whole world jumping into one's problem. I must confess that we are doing a little on it ourselves, in collaboration with Marianne. Our results are broadly the same as everyone else's, except that we get incorporation with poly UC having a measured U/C ratio of about 0.24. This incorporates a lot of proline, among other things. In our hands poly C doesn't appear to work, but we think this is because it is double-stranded. However, we haven't pursued this. I should be surprised if CCC is not proline, as you claimed in your PNAS footnote.

I will certainly give a talk at NIH, but I think it had better be on the genetic work. We can talk about the biochemistry privately.

I have to be in Washington for the Biophysics meeting, and expect to be around till at least the evening of 20th February. Perhaps you could collate your invitation with David Davies, who has suggested I give a general evening lecture. Let me know what you fix up between you.

The English papers have made rather a fuss about our Nature paper, which was published on Saturday, but as far as

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I have been able I have stressed that it is your discovery
which was the real break-through.

Looking forward greatly to seeing you in February.

Yours sincerely,

F. H. C. Crick

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