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EPIDEMIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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21st September, 1973

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LAB OF PHYSIOLOGICAL
HYGIENE

Professor H. Blackburn,
School of Public Health,
Stadium Gate 27,
Minneapolis,
Minnesota 55455,
U. S. A.

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Return in an
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9-24-73
BR

Dear Henry,

It was good to meet again with you at Orsay and your experience and wisdom made as always a major contribution to the success of the seminar. At the end of the seminar the Committee had to face some very troubling and painful decisions concerning future faculty membership. There are two problems. One is the precarious state of our finances, in the light of which we decided to make a small reduction in the size of the faculty. Our other problem is the necessity to try and avoid getting each year deeper into a groove and losing the vitality on which the success of the seminars wholly depends. We think that this compels us to have continuing turnover among the faculty so that new people can bring in fresh stimulus. At the same time I suppose we need to maintain some continuity of tradition and experience, and it was thought on balance that this meant for the time being extending the contracts of those who lecture in the various systematic series. (As you know, I am personally a little restive about my own role in this respect.)

You will see what all this adds up to, and I hope you will understand the sadness - both professional and personal - which it occasions, particularly in the case of a Founding Father such as yourself.

Any decisions about the longer term future of the seminars are only tentative and I personally hope that the currently strong pressures for economy and turnover will not spell a final end to your association with the seminars. However, it seems that we cannot hope to be able to invite you for 1974. Please understand that this decision was reached with deepest regret and notwithstanding recognition by everyone concerned of the size of your contribution to the seminars over the years since Makarska.

Yours,

Boyd
for Geoffrey Rose

(Dictated by Prof. Rose and signed
in his absence)

cc. Prof. R. Remington,
Mrs. R. Stamler