



Personal & Confidential

HOUGHTON STREET,

ALDWYCH,

LONDON, W.C.2.

March 1st 1964

Telephone: Holborn 7686 (7 lines)
Telegrams: "Poleconics, Estrand," London

My dear Mario, I hasten to answer your questions.

The most important seems to me about Canberra.

I am very much in favour. Admittedly - to say the least first - there is still the feeling about Australia of a certain cultural remoteness and irrelativity (if one is brought up in Europe), or of lack of tension (if one is brought up in America). But the University is first class: it has some absolute first class men; it is a University primarily devoted to research, and secondarily to (graduate) teaching; it gives money for travelling, and is anxious for its members to keep up contacts abroad by letting them (on its expense) go abroad for long and short periods, and by inviting scholars from abroad. In other words it is really an astonishingly excellent set-up. There are lots of negro graduate students, Japanese, Chinese, ^{Indians,} Indonesians; Americans from Canada and U.S.; even Russians come. The University is large, but not too big. Canberra is a sort of thinly spread provincial copy of Washington, very confusing. The landscape is very nice, even though unexciting. I have several good friends there, who are happy and would not dream of leaving; two of them Europeans.

As to Univ. College, I have never been officially consulted though I was twice asked by outsiders. The set-up is incredible: a quarrell has been going on for years. There was a new palace



Professor Mario Bunge
 Department of Physics
 Temple University
 Philadelphia 22, PA
 U.S.A.

Sender's name and address:

K.R. Popper
 London School of Economics &
 Political Science,
 Houghton Street, Aldwych,
 London, W.C.2 England.

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revolution in Great Department about three weeks ago I put yesterday; but apparently it was only partially successful. The present acting head (whom I don't know) is said not to aspire to become professor. I am not sure whether this is true; He is said to be one of those Roman Catholics who are at present every where in the increasing rapidly in the field of history and Philosophy of Science. I have no influence at all. I recommended you very strongly when I was asked by a complete outsider (Danao Bolau) what I thought of you for the chair. But I do not know whether he has even the slightest influence, though he may. Paul Feyerabend was ^{very} interested very seriously and got an offer, but they dropped him suddenly in the instant way imaginable. It would be wonderful if you could get it; but it looks to me a highly improbable gamble, and I do not see what I can do about it unless I should be consulted. I have never met the Provost. (Or perhaps once? I don't think so.) Love from both of us Yours ever Karl

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