December 5th, 1940

My dear Gross,

I have your letter of December 2nd and am glad to hear of your release from internment. I should be sorry, however, if, in consequence of a most unpleasant experience, you were to allow your grievances to rankle, as though it were possible for you, or for the majority of refugees from enemy countries, to produce any adequate evidence that they were not enemy agents.

In my opinion the question of sifting by the strictest police enquiry the body of refugees from Germany and Austria, in view of the inevitable suspicion that a proportion of them were Nazis, should have been raised by and on behalf of the refugees themselves fully a year before war broke out. It would then have been possible for many to have a well-established clean record to their credit at the time when it was needed. There is, however, a very ill-founded, but wide-spread, belief that it is in the interests of Jews in particular that the facts of personal history and association should be concealed. Every attempt to improve the registration system in this country has been successfully frustrated on the ground that it would be politically unpopular among your people.

P.T.O.
For my part, I am convinced that well-disposed Jews, like well disposed Gentiles, have a great deal to gain by being easily distinguishable for official and other purposes from the criminal elements of their respective races. I suppose the suspicion that knowledge is sought by officials only for the sake of unjust oppression may well have been justified for centuries in East Europe, and is, for that reason, so widespread. It does, however, seem to me a suspicion that is still doing much harm to the possibility of cooperation between Jews and non-Jews, even in England and America.

I enclose a brief statement of the kind you ask for, which I hope may be of use to you in completing the business of naturalisation.

Yours sincerely,
I have known Fabius Gross since 1934, when he was introduced to me by Julian Huxley as a Jewish refugee seeking opportunities for continuing his scientific work in this country. From June of that year till September 1935, when he obtained a post with the Marine Biological Laboratory at Plymouth, he worked as my assistant in the Galton Laboratory.

Dr Gross is a genuine scientist, capable of doing very valuable work. This I can say from my own knowledge, and I believe it has been fully confirmed by his later work at Plymouth and at Edinburgh. I have no reason whatever to doubt his good faith in making application for naturalisation, or that he would become a loyal and reliable British subject.

December 5, 1940