Letter 141
Razumovskii to Euler Copy in Euler’s hand: F. 21, Op. 3, No. 321
Petersburg, 30 Oct. / 10. Nov. 1750

[. . .] Her Most Gracious Imperial Majesty has desired that I ask you if you
would like to return to the Saint Petersburg Academy and enter the
service of Her Imperial Majesty. In so doing she asked me to assure you of
Her Imperial Majesty’s highest favor toward you, and that every favor
will be permitted you in Russia if you decide to accept, and that you are to
inform me immediately of the conditions under which you would
undertake to do this.

You may be absolutely sure that this great favor of Her Imperial
Majesty not only to you, but also to your family (in the event God should
decide to cut short your life), may be of no small advantage, since you
now have a chance to include everything in the conditions required for
your own peace of mind. I ask you to ignore the earlier conditions about
which I wrote to you several times when I became a member of the
administration of the Academy, but to write up conditions that would be
fully satisfactory to yourself and your family.

I ask that you keep secret this offer to you from me, and especially
what is communicated to you in accordance with Her Imperial Majesty
and her particular Imperial assurances to you, and not reveal it to anyone.
And so that you would not be subject to any prejudicial consequences in
your work, should this offer not come to fruition through some
impediment, I am sending this letter by special courier for greater
security, and your reply, which I am to await, will be sent in the same
manner, provided you turn it over to the minister to the court of Her
Imperial Majesty Herr Chancellery Councilor Gross. For no one, even
here in the Academy it is to know, and I am writing this from my home
[. . .]