

From: The Rt.Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, MP.



*Private*

*To file*

25th March 1963

Dear Dr Szilard,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 18th.

I agree that the world situation is changing, and that, in response to McGeorge Bundy's great increases in US military expenditure, Khrushchev is replying in kind, and that the discussions in the Committee of 18 in Geneva have taken on an air of great unreality.

Nevertheless, I believe that these discussions remain our best hope. I wish more attention could be devoted to the actual proposals which both the US and the Soviet Governments have put forward.

I would not have believed that anyone could have done so much so quickly, as McGeorge Bundy has, to undermine the feeling of solidarity on which the NATO alliance rests. Of course, we shall all go on saying that NATO is the foundation of our policy, and in a real sense that will be true. Nevertheless, there is a serious process of erosion now at work.

Harold Wilson is coming to Washington at Kennedy's invitation, on March 29th. But he is also, I believe, to



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visit New York, and is to return on the evening of April 2nd. His visit will, therefore, be brief, and I expect that official engagements will take up most of his time. I know that he would want very much to meet you, and I will talk to him before he leaves.

I am afraid I have no plans to be in Washington myself in the early future. But I hope we may somehow meet to discuss the present changing, and most dangerous, situation.

With kindest regards, and best wishes,

*Yours ever,  
Philip Noel Baker*

Dr Leo Szilard.

Univ. of Chicago letterhead

April 8, 1963

The Rt. Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, M.P.  
House of Commons  
London, England

Dear Mr. Noel-Baker:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of March 25th. I wonder whether McGeorge Bundy is really the villain; it might even be that there is no villain and that what we are witnessing is something like a Greek tragedy.

I watched Harold Wilson on television yesterday (Meet the Press) and found that he handled himself very well.

I meet more and more people who are seriously concerned about where we are headed but no one feels responsible enough to drop what he is doing and try to stem the tide.

I am dreaming about a vacation in Europe in the late Spring and if it should materialize, I would certainly stop over in London for a few days and would hope to see you on that occasion.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

From: The Rt. Hon. P. J. Noel-Baker, MP  
House of Commons,

London, S.W.1

13th May 1963

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Dear Dr Szilard,

Please forgive me for not having written sooner to thank you for your letter of April 8th. I was away over Easter trying to write - a very difficult enterprise for politicians.

I am hoping very much that you will come as you suggest in the late Spring, and that I may have a chance of seeing you. But please give me a little notice, as I would like to mobilise a few Members of Parliament who are interested in the subject of nuclear armaments to have a talk with you.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Philip Noel-Baker*

Dr Leo Szilard

*LS*