

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL CENTER

LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

January 4, 1956

Dr. Leo Szilard
Department of Biophysics
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Although you have heard nothing from me until now I have been much affected by our meeting. It was a thrill to run into you and to have the privilege of a conversation with you about the atomic stalemate and political problems. When I came home I read thoroughly your very challenging article in the October Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. I felt it was a beautiful essay and wish earnestly that it might receive serious consideration by diplomats here and abroad. Unfortunately I think it has one drawback, and that is a not quite complete enough separation between the compelling logic of a scientific approach to the problem of atomic stalemate and the speculative elements in the essay which, right or wrong, are not so prime to the purpose. Altogether I thought it a fine piece and hope you will follow it up with more material, for example the memorandum of December 5 which you so kindly shared with me over the lunch table.

I am very keen that this school have the privilege of your presence as a biophysicist on this campus. I have had long and friendly interviews with Dr. Warren, Dean of the Medical School and Chairman of the Biophysics Department, Dr. Kinsey, Chairman of the Department of Physics on the campus, and Dr. Blacet, Chairman of the Department of Chemistry. Although Dr. Kinsey and Dr. Blacet know you only by reputation, all three have a very high regard for your work. Blacet indicated that his Department would not be able to participate in any joint appointment but he felt sure that the departmental group on the whole would be extremely cordial to your coming here and would benefit greatly from collaboration with you. Both Dr. Kinsey and Dr. Warren recognize the worth of this opportunity and yet their budgets and space are not prepared for it. The University is trying to sail very close to the wind just at this time, but in my opinion we won't achieve anything unless we try. Dr. Kinsey said the only possibility that might be open at the present time would be to invite you on a short-term basis, that is for a year or less, as a Visiting Professor. To organize a campaign for the necessary budget in either Physics or Biophysics or a combination of both, it will be necessary for us to be well armed with full information about your life, career, accomplishments, publications, etc. Although Dr. Puck's office was able to provide me with some details, as you know this was quite incomplete.

I am afraid I can't tell you in advance what the chances of favorable action are. I wish you to know that I am very much in favor of your joining us and consider it a point of my responsibility to this University to carry the matter to a point of serious consideration. Both Dr. Warren and Dr. Kinsey

** Mainly, I mean, an open minded, non-suspicious & optimistic approach.*

January 4, 1956

have left the matter open for the time being. If I submit to them copies of the information you furnish (two copies would be especially helpful) they will see that the matter is given careful consideration by appropriate ad hoc committees.

With every good wish for the coming year,

Yours sincerely,

Bob Livingston

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.
Associate Professor of
Anatomy and Physiology

RBL:DB

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

January 10, 1956

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.
Associate Professor of Anatomy and Physiology
University of California Medical Center
Los Angeles 24, California

Dear Dr. Livingston:

I received today your letter of January 4 and I was very much touched by it.

I appreciate the kind words which you had to say about my article. I was not altogether happy about it and I think that you are probably right that the mixture of logic and speculation is not a very happy one.

The conversation which I had with you in Denver was like a breath of fresh air. The experimental work about which you told me I found extraordinarily interesting. I hope to learn more about it on some future occasion.

I feel somewhat embarrassed to find that you have gone to so much trouble on my behalf. I did not realize that you might want to go beyond a very tentative and preliminary inquiry. That Dr. Warren and Dr. Kinsey have left the matter open for the time being is gratifying and I am also grateful for the clarity of your letter.

At this point I somewhat hesitate to ask you to go any further for the time being. I expect to be in Los Angeles at the end of March and perhaps also in February, each time for a few days; and this would enable us perhaps to discuss the matter further and to try to figure out if I could be really effective there and if so under what circumstances. I wonder whether you think that we would lose much by letting the matter rest until then.

I am grateful to you indeed for what you are trying to do.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Leo Szilard

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL CENTER

LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

January 30, 1956

Dr. Leo Szilard
Department of Biophysics
University of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Thank you for your letter of January 10. Your forthcoming visit to Los Angeles might provide the right kind of opportunity to discuss with Dr. Warren and Dr. Kinsey your future plans and those of this University. I still think the odds of something mutually satisfactory being worked out are small, but that the matter should be carefully considered.

It will be a pleasure to see you again during your visits to Los Angeles. I hope we will have further chances to discuss the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists and other matters, and that Mandy and I may have the pleasure of your company at supper with us.

Please let me or Staff Warren know beforehand when we may expect your visit when your plans are arranged. You may be sure we will be delighted to see you.

Yours sincerely,

R. B. Livingston

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

RBL:DB

cc: Dr. Warren
Dr. Kinsey

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL CENTER

LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

February 7, 1956

Dr. Leo Szilard
Department of Biophysics
University of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I sent a note to Staff Warren and copies of it to Dr. Kinsey in Physics and Dr. Blacet in Chemistry, indicating that you might be on the campus some time this spring thereby affording us an opportunity to become better acquainted with you. I just received the following note from Staff:

"By all means go ahead with an expression to Szilard of our interest in his forthcoming visit and please warn me about his expected arrival on campus so that I can set some time aside."

Needless to say, my wife and I would both be very happy to have you join us for supper at our home, and I know that many people on the campus will be looking forward eagerly to your visit. Please be sure to let me know in advance when you are coming, and it would be helpful to send a copy of ^{your} this communication to Dr. Warren, in case I should be out of town when your letter arrives.

I had another good visit with John Benjamin recently in Denver at a Public Health Service committee meeting. He is another ardent admirer of yours.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

With every good wish,

Bob

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

RBL:DB

The Quadrangle Club
1155 East 57 Street
Chicago 37, Ill.

March 9, 1956

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.
Department of Physiology
University of California Medical Center
Los Angeles 24, Calif.

Dear Dr. Livingston :

I am writing to thank you for your letter of February 7th . It is extraordinarily kind of you to go to all this trouble.

I was pleased with Dr. Warren's expression of interest communicated to you in the note from which you quoted. And I shall contact you as soon as I know when and for how long I may be in the Los Angeles area.

With kind regards,

Sincerely ,

Leo Szilard



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND METABOLIC DISEASES
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL RESEARCH
NATIONAL HEART INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH
NATIONAL MICROBIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES AND BLINDNESS
THE CLINICAL CENTER
DIVISION OF RESEARCH GRANTS

February 12, 1957

Professor Leo Szilard
Quadrangle Club
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Leo:

When I was in Chicago in January, I telephoned in the hope of reaching you to find out whether we might obtain the advantage of your consultantship to our Basic Research Program on a fairly continuing basis. I'm sorry that I couldn't locate you at that time because I would have liked to talk the matter over with you thoroughly in person.

Since then, I have heard from Dr. John Benjamin that the National Science Foundation is thinking of setting up for you a roving professorship. This sounds eminently suitable to your genius and I would like to hope that we might benefit by your spending part of your time here. I think arrangements might be made for our contributing by a transfer of funds to N.S.F. or by some other means that could be found appropriate. It would be my hope that you could treat this laboratory group, even though it is considerably larger, very much in the way you dealt with Dr. Theodore Puck's Biophysics Department and some of the other facilities at the University of Colorado. Moreover, as you know, I had tried very hard to attract you to U.C.L.A. I hope my new location here may make the case stronger for a benefit of your talents toward research in the nervous system.

A few days ago, Alex Rich told me of his meeting with you in New York City and of his desire to have you visit the Institutes and give a lecture or seminar. I proposed instead that we invite you for a longer period of time for your better acquaintance with any of several problems which might interest you in the Basic Research Program.

2-Professor Leo Szilard

February 12, 1957

This letter is entirely exploratory. I hope you will consider it a most cordial invitation that we might discuss the matter before long.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Bob

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.
Director of Basic Research
National Institutes of Mental Health
and Neurological Diseases and
Blindness

February 20, 1957

Dr. Robert B. Livingston
Director of Basic Research
National Institutes of Mental Health
and Neurological Diseases and Blindness
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Bob,

Many thanks for your very kind letter of February 12th. Somewhat earlier I had a letter from Alex Rich. I replied to him today and you will find a copy attached.

If the time I suggested to Alex is convenient, I should see you in March and we could then talk about the issue which you raised in your letter. What you suggest might be a very good arrangement - in principle.

In the meantime I might say the following: The original plan of setting up a Roving Professorship under the National Science Foundation has in the meantime been modified. What was actually done was as follows:

Cal Tech, The Rockefeller Institute in New York, The Medical School of The University of Colorado, and The Medical College of New York University, as well as The University of Chicago have jointly applied for a research grant for five years. The application for this research grant will be acted upon by the Board of The National Science Foundation some time in May. If the grant goes through, the funds will go to Cal Tech. It is conceivable that the funds will be actually administered by The University of Chicago under a sub-contract between Cal Tech and The University of Chicago. This indeed would be the simplest arrangement because I could then operate under the rules of The University of Chicago, to which I am accustomed and which have been working smoothly in the past.

Assuming that this is the way that it will be and that you want to "obtain the advantage of my consultantship for your basic research problem on a fairly continuing basis", we

could do this in either of two forms: Under the rules of The University of Chicago, I can spend a certain limited fraction of my time as a consultant. The limitations are not set by any rigid rule but rather by friendly discussion of the circumstances with the Dean of the Division. Over and above this, under the rules of our employment in Chicago, each of us has one quarter off, and thus we can take off each year three months in any manner we please. Therefore, up to a total of three months, we can undertake on a full-time basis any activity we please and accept pay for it. The rules, under which The University of Chicago operates, would seem to give me all the flexibility that such an arrangement as you had in mind might require. Nothing would need to be arranged directly between the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. ^{us} Then the danger of getting entangled in red tape might be avoided.

I saw the article by Olds in the Scientific American and some rather obvious questions occurred to me while reading it, to which no doubt, in the meantime, the answers might have been obtained. I am looking forward to the pleasure of discussing these and other things with you in the not-too-distant future.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



L. Szilard

m
Encl.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND METABOLIC DISEASES
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL RESEARCH
NATIONAL HEART INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH
NATIONAL MICROBIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES AND BLINDNESS
THE CLINICAL CENTER
DIVISION OF RESEARCH GRANTS

March 6, 1957

Dr. Leo Szilard
Quadrangle Club
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Leo:

It is very good to know that you may be able to spend two or three weeks as a Consultant to the Basic Research group, following the Physical Society Meetings. My secretary, Mrs. Marie Davies, has made arrangements for you to have secretarial help during the morning hours and for one of two alternatives for evening work. Either you might wish to work directly with some secretary, which is a little more difficult to arrange, or you could have a dictating machine and the material could be transcribed in the course of the following day.

As to a place to live, my wife and I would be very pleased to have you stay with us. Dr. H. W. Magoun, the Neurophysiologist, who was a Visiting Scientist here for awhile, stayed in our home and it worked out very well. This would enable us to have a good deal more contact than otherwise. However, it might be that you would rather be more independent. In any event, you should feel perfectly free wherever you are. We certainly would like you to come and spend some of your evenings with us in any event, if that would be convenient. There are a few nondescript rooming-houses close to the Institute and meals are served at practically all hours at the Clinical Center which would be convenient. The Kenwood Country Club is more comfortable and has adequate facilities. It is about a fifty-cent taxi drive from the Institutes. The most preferable thing from your point of view might be to stay at the Cosmos Club which is approximately a dollar or a dollar and a half taxi drive from the Institutes, but which is considerably more comfortable and gentile than any of the other suggestions. You can make up your own mind about this question and let us know your choice, so that we can make the necessary commitments.

2-Dr. Leo Szilard

March 6, 1957

I am delighted to know that under the rules of the University of Chicago, you might be able to spend some fair proportion of time with us as a Consultant each year. I am looking forward to this possibility with great enthusiasm. I know that you will provide just the kind of stimulating atmosphere that would be most helpful to this entire program. Very selfishly I should like to spend some time talking with you not only about scientific questions, but also about the problems of science and society.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I am

Yours Sincerely,

Bob -

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.

May 8, 1957

Dr. Robert B. Livingston
Director of Basic Research
National Institutes of Mental Health and
Neurological Diseases and Blindness
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Bob,

I was looking forward to being with you by this time but something rather pleasant came up which forces me to delay my trip. I am engrossed in some work which appears to be going exceedingly well, and I dare not interrupt lest the spell of luck passes. I shall contact you as soon as this is over. It seems that I shall have enough material for ^{seven} ~~six~~ talks to be given at the NIH but probably no time left to prepare the slides.

I now hope that I shall be able to come by the end of May or, at the latest, by the 15th of June. Please let me know if this would interfere with your schedule.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

May 10, 1957

Professor Leo Szilard
The Enrico Fermi Institute
for Nuclear Studies
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Leo:

I was delighted to receive your letter and to learn that "good things" were the cause of postponing your visit.

I plan to be away from Bethesda during the month of August and would personally regret missing you should circumstances dictate that month to be the time of your visit. Optimistically, I hope you will be able to come in June or July. However, I am sure you know that you will be most welcome at any time and we here at NIH consider it an honor to be your host.

Meantime, my very best wishes to you in your present work.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

June 13, 1958

Dr. Leo Szilard
The Quadrangle Club
The University of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Leo:

We have been tremendously pleased with the response to your activities as a Consultant. It was gratifying to know that you have enjoyed living and working in this setting.

I would like to offer you a fulltime position, with a 208(g) classification at an annual salary of \$19,000. We could make the appointment effective within a few weeks of any time you put the matter in motion.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Livingston, M.D.
Director of Basic Research
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dr. Leo Szilard

FROM : Dr. Robert B. Livingston

SUBJECT:

DATE: June 13, 1958

I am delighted with the possibility that you might wish to accept our offer of a fulltime position on the staff of the Basic Research Program. We will need to talk about arrangements for your identification as a Laboratory Chief or some other appropriate position and work out which Institute would be the more appropriate.* Of course, selfishly speaking, we would like to have the advantage of your fulltime activity here, but would readily understand if you felt it desirable to hold down a position elsewhere and, from time-to-time, go on leave without pay from this institution. I have talked these matters over thoroughly with Dr. Snadel, Associate Director for Intramural Research, NIH, and it has the enthusiastic support of Dr. Shannon and his staff.

The only thing we cannot offer at this time is space. We will need to work this out with our people over a period of time. I am confident that we can find an office for you and provide secretarial support but the development of laboratory space will take some time. According to my best estimations--as you know, I don't operate in an authoritarian fashion as an administrator--we could probably make available four modules at the end of approximately one year's time and four additional modules at the end of a second year or thereabouts. I would anticipate that there will be some kind of construction on behalf of the Program in approximately five years' time and that ~~at that time~~ you could have construction designed and fitted appropriately for your needs at that time. Since you have indicated to me that your outside wants are something of the order of 2500 sq. ft., we would be able to provide part of that within a short time and most of it within two or possibly three years.

I am delighted with the possibility of this enduring association and look forward to helping work out future plans with you.

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

RBL:lb

* Probably NINDB would be the more appropriate

June 13, 1958

Dr. Leo Szilard
The Quadrangle Club
The University of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Leo:

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With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.
Director of Basic Research
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness

RBL:md

Dr. Leo Szilard

June 13, 1958

Dr. Robert B. Livingston

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The only thing we cannot offer at this time is space. We will need to work this out with our people over a period of time. I am confident that we can find an office for you and provide secretarial support but the development of laboratory space will take some time. According to my best estimations--as you know, I don't operate in an authoritarian fashion as an administrator--we could probably make available four modules at the end of approximately one year's time and four additional modules at the end of a second year or thereabouts. I would anticipate that there will be some kind of construction on behalf of the Program in approximately five years' time and that ~~at that time~~ you could have construction designed and fitted appropriately for your needs at that time. Since you have indicated to me that your outside wants are something of the order of 2500 sq. ft., we would be able to provide part of that within a short time and most of it within two or possibly three years.

I am delighted with the possibility of this enduring association and look forward to helping work out future plans with you.

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

RBL:lb

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dr. Leo Szilard

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Robert B. Livingston
Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

* Probably NINDB would be the more appropriate.
RBL.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

June 13, 1958

Dr. Leo Szilard
The Quadrangle Club
The University of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

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With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.
Director of Basic Research
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness

June 13, 1958

Dr. Leo Szilard
The Quadrangle Club
The University of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

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With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.
Director of Basic Research
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness

Robert B. Livingston

July 16, 1958

Leo Szilard

I understand that you will get back to Washington on July 27th, and I shall have left Washington by that time.

I have filled out an application form for the NIH but, since I have not as yet heard from Dr. Bronk, I have asked that the application be handed to you rather than put through the mill. I wonder whether it might not be best for you to call Dr. Bronk now, over the telephone, and discuss with him what his intentions may be, so that we shall be able to decide whether to set the machinery at NIH in motion at this time.

Let me recapitulate the main argument for a full-time appointment both at the Rockefeller Institute and at the NIH on a "half-time leave of absence, without pay, from both" basis.

If Dr. Bronk were to agree, I would probably want to start out with building up a laboratory operation at the Rockefeller Institute. This would be a slow process, because I am anxious to find just the right men. I estimate that it would take two years before this laboratory could go at full-blast. After five years, just at the time when it will be easy to get laboratory space at the NIH,

2-Robert B. Livingston

July 16, 1958

I might then begin slowly to shrink my space requirements at the Rockefeller Institute--as it seems fitting for someone who has reached "retirement age." At the Rockefeller Institute, I would reach retirement age in about five years, but I might remain on the payroll on a year-to-year basis, perhaps, for another three years. Beyond that time, I could maintain a laboratory operation at the Rockefeller Institute only if I had sufficient private income to be without a salary. This might conceivably be the case, but I cannot be certain of it at this time.

In these circumstances, a double appointment of the sort that I discussed with you and Dr. Bronk would appear to be a rational solution from the point of view of enabling me to be productive as long as possible.

There is another consideration involved also. When Dr. Bronk took over the Rockefeller Institute, there was almost no free space and he could only make very few new appointments. At this time, "molecular biology" is still a very weak reed at the Rockefeller Institute and I cannot be quite sure that the men whom I would like to get would be attracted by the Rockefeller Institute, or that they would be considered by the Rockefeller Institute as desirable additions from the long-term point of view. Only time could tell this and I am faced with decisions that I must make rather soon now.

July 16, 1958

"Molecular biology" is a rather weak reed at the NIH also. The pleasant living conditions at Bethesda would, however, attract young married couples who have children to bring up. Moreover, laboratory space will cease to be a problem at the NIH a few years hence, and tenure is a far less serious problem at NIH than at the Rockefeller Institute, which has a much lower turnover than NIH.

1) If, when talking with Dr. Bronk, you should find that these arguments are convincing to him and that he is--in favor of a double appointment, then I should appreciate your putting through my appointment at NIH without further delay.

2) If Dr. Bronk is NOT in favor of a double appointment, then there are two possibilities:

a) If he would like me to be full-time at the Rockefeller Institute and to have a laboratory operation going there, then I would have to choose between the NIH and the Rockefeller Institute and let you know what my choice is; and

b) If Dr. Bronk is not in favor of my being full-time at the Rockefeller Institute and would rather have me at Rockefeller Institute on a part-time basis without having experimental facilities, then I would be grateful to you if you were to put through the appointment now at NIH. Dr. Bronk could then let

4-Robert B. Livingston

July 16, 1958

me know later, at his convenience, what his pleasure may be concerning my holding an appointment at the Rockefeller Institute as a Visiting Scientist.

Leo Szilard

July 21, 1958

Dear Bob:

This is just a letter to say that I greatly enjoyed the hospitality of your office. Everyone at NIH has been wonderful, including yourself, and I am eager to get back as soon as possible.

Depending on how the visit to Moscow develops and depending on whether or not we shall have war in the Middle East, I might spend the month of September in Europe. Since I have so far used up only about three weeks of the sixteen weeks which you have budgeted for me as a Consultant in the current fiscal year, I would plan to be back at NIH soon after the 1st of October, assuming that you are able to find an office for me with enough space in it to spread my papers.

I shall keep you informed on how my schedule develops and I trust you will let me know how things shape up at NIH.

With kindest regards--also to your wife.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Robert B. Livingston

July 21, 1958

Leo Szilard

I left with Mr. Klovdahl the filled-out application forms, a list of my publications and a curriculum vitae, but I thought I would rather leave it to you to define the work that I will be supposed to be doing if I were employed at NIH.

Perhaps, as a guide, I could give you the following as background:

I am a biophysicist, mainly interested in "molecular biology" and, within this framework, I am at present particularly interested in the general problem of protein synthesis. As far as experimental work is concerned, two particular aspects of protein synthesis might be tackled by me if I set up an experimental operation. One of these is adaptive enzyme formation in micro-organisms; the other is antibody formation in mammals.

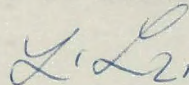
I am interested, of course, in a general way in the central nervous system and, within this general framework, I am attracted by the problem of sleep and, of the higher cortical functions, particularly by the problems of thought and memory.

2-Robert B. Livingston

July 21, 1958

Incidentally, I thought of an amusing experiment which touches upon the problem which we briefly discussed shortly before you left on your vacation. It might be possible to do the following:

Anesthetize a man with nitrous oxide and cool down the whole man to a temperature low enough to anesthetize by cold alone. Then, switch over to breathing air free from anesthetics and, while the man as a whole is still cooled, bring up one-half of the brain to 37°C. (the left half) by applying diathermy to half of the brain while chilling the man as a whole. Bring up also one eye to 37°C. and now let the man read a few jokes. After the man is warmed up, ask him to tell the jokes which he has read. Since the left half of the brain contains the speech center, he should have no difficulty in doing so. The question is, will the right half of the brain laugh about the joke that it hears?



Leo Szilard

P.S. You need not include this experiment in the job description.

Robert B. Livingston

July 21, 1958

Leo Szilard

I left with Mr. Klovdahl the filled-out application forms, a list of my publications and a curriculum vitae, but I thought I would rather leave it to you to define the work that I will be supposed to be doing if I were employed at NIH.

Perhaps, as a guide, I could give you the following as background:

I am a biophysicist, mainly interested in "molecular biology" and, within this framework, I am at present particularly interested in the general problem of protein synthesis. As far as experimental work is concerned, two particular aspects of protein synthesis might be tackled by me if I set up an experimental operation. One of these is adaptive enzyme formation in micro-organisms; the other is antibody formation in mammals.

I am interested, of course, in a general way in the central nervous system and, within this general framework, I am attracted by the problem of sleep and, of the higher cortical functions, particularly by the problems of thought and memory.

2-Robert B. Livingston

July 21, 1958

Incidentally, I thought of an amusing experiment which touches upon the problem which we briefly discussed shortly before you left on your vacation. It might be possible to do the following:

Anesthetize a man with nitrous oxide and cool down the whole man to a temperature low enough to anesthetize by cold alone. Then, switch over to breathing air free from anesthetics and, while the man as a whole is still cooled, bring up one-half of the brain to 37°C. (the left half) by applying diathermy to half of the brain while chilling the man as a whole. Bring up also one eye to 37°C. and now let the man read a few jokes. After the man is warmed up, ask him to tell the jokes which he has read. Since the left half of the brain contains the speech center, he should have no difficulty in doing so. The question is, will the right half of the brain laugh about the joke that it hears?



Leo Szilard

P.S. You need not include this experiment in the job description.

July 21, 1958

Dear Bob:

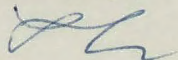
This is just a bread and butter letter. I am writing to say that I greatly enjoyed the hospitality of your office. Everyone at NIH has been wonderful, including yourself, and I am eager to get back as soon as possible.

Depending on how the visit to Moscow develops and depending on whether or not we shall have war in the Middle East, I might spend the month of September in Europe. Since I have so far used up only about three weeks of the sixteen weeks which you have budgeted for me as a Consultant in the current fiscal year, I would plan to be back at NIH soon after the 1st of October, assuming that you are able to find an office for me with enough space in it to spread my papers.

I shall keep you informed on how my schedule develops and I trust you will let me know how things shape up at NIH.

With kindest regards--also to your wife.

Sincerely,



Leo Szilard

September 24, 1958

Professor Leo Szilard
c/o Hotel Regina
Vienna, Austria

Dear Leo:

I very much regret that I must renege on the formal offer extended to you on June 13, 1958.

Please be assured this action in no way diminishes my high regard you, your work and what you stand for. I sincerely hope you will see your way clear to remain as a Consultant to the Basic Research Program and spending as much time as is mutually advantageous instructing, stimulating and inspiring our people.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.
Director of Basic Research
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness

RBL:md:eh

LEO SZILARD

Washington, D. C.
September 28, 1958

Dr. Robert B. Livingston
Director of Basic Research
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Bob:

I have answered your letter of September 24, 1958 today. I also have been trying to make a guess as to the real cause of the "trouble". On the assumption that at least part of the trouble comes from a fear that I might be a "headache" from the administrative point of view because I may be expected to think, say, and occasionally do unusual things, I am furnishing you below with information that should enable you to ~~check up on the point and to~~ gather some evidence that should enable you to estimate to what extent I might be expected to be a "headache".

On the basis of past experience, I can say that some administrators did consider me to be a "headache", while others enjoyed working with me. Why this different response is not easy to say. However, if I might venture a theory, I would say the following: Since I am given to making unusual suggestions not all of which may be expected to be acceptable, administrators to whom it is painful to say "no" ~~on occasions~~ are likely to consider me a "headache". This holds particularly

for administrators whose main aim in life is "to please" and to whom it is therefore particularly painful to have to say "no".

Thinking back some fifteen years, I remember that in the Uranium Project in Chicago, the Director of the project, J. C. Stearns--a Westerner--said with great relish "no" to most, if not all, of my proposals and did not consider me a "headache", whereas A. H. Compton, the "Contracting Officer" of the project who found it very difficult to say "no" to any proposal, must have undoubtedly considered me a "headache" of first order. *P* This was inevitable, particularly since ~~he~~ I was most emphatically opposed to the official proposal of ~~the~~ *his* uranium "project" to produce plutonium in a helium-cooled--rather than *a* water-cooled--reactor. Fortunately the issue was decided ~~a few weeks~~ after the DuPont Company took charge of building the reactors at Hanford, when they chose the process design of E. P. Wigner, which was a water-cooled reactor, over the "official design" of the Uranium Project. *P* Similarly, I must have greatly embarrassed Compton by the fight which I led against the use of atomic bombs against the cities of Japan that got underway in March 1945. That A. H. Compton has nevertheless managed to write as nicely about me as he did in his book is probably due to the fact that he is not primarily an administrator. *A. H. Compton can be reached at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.*

I think that if you inquire about me with R. M. Hutchins, who was Chancellor of the University at the time when I joined the University of Chicago and for a number of years thereafter and with whom I had many dealings during his tenure of office, you will find that he did not consider me to be a "headache". I undoubtedly have approached him with more than one unusual proposal and sometimes he said "yes" even though probably mostly he said "no", but since he had no difficulty to say either, he was probably more amused than annoyed. If you want to write to him you may address your letter to the Fund for the Republic in New York. ^PHis successor, Lawrence Kimpton, the present Chancellor of the University of Chicago, may or may not consider me to be a "headache". If he does, ^{this} ~~it~~ is probably mainly due to an unusual situation which has arisen in Chicago as a result of the decision of the University to dissolve the Institute of Radiology and Biophysics, which the University created while Hutchins was Chancellor. This Institute, of which I was a member as long as it existed, changed directors several times and finally was operated by the Dean of the Biological Division serving as Acting Director of the Institute, and, ultimately, it disappeared entirely as an organizational entity. For the dean of a division to act as a director of an institute which is part of the division is a rather

difficult situation from an administrative point of view, and I have little doubt that the Dean of the Division came to regard me as a "headache" during the time when he wore two hats. When it was decided to dissolve the Institute, I was invited by Morton Grodzins, who was at that time Chairman of the Social Sciences Division, to join the Division. While the Institute still existed, I held a Research Professorship in it and was free of teaching duties, but after the Institute was dissolved, for me to remain free of teaching duties became somewhat of ^{a problem.} ~~an anomaly~~. By accepting the invitation of the Dean of the Social Sciences Division, I gained more freedom to pursue my theoretical studies in biology than had I accepted an appointment in any of the departments in the Biology Division. I think that if you would write to Morton Grodzins, who is at present Chairman of the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Chicago ^{and had assumed the corresponding teaching} ~~on leave of~~ ^{right now,} absence at the Ford Foundation's Center for Behavioral Studies in Palo Alto, California, you will find that he did not regard me as a "headache".

After he resigned as Chairman of the Division, his place was taken by Chauncey Harris. Even though I had very little to do with him, my being in his Division was obviously an embarrassment to him. I was therefore very glad when the

faculty of the Enrico Fermi Institute of Nuclear Studies asked me to join the Institute with the full understanding that I would continue to work in the field of biology rather than the field of physics. The Director of this Institute is H. L. Anderson. He, Fermi, and I collaborated way back in 1939 and he is one of the references I gave in my application form.

The Dean of the Physical Sciences Division is Warren C. Johnson, who is at present Chairman of the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission. He had known me since the days of the Uranium Project, 1942-1945, and I gave his name also as a reference on my application form. It would be my guess that neither Anderson nor Johnson would regard me as a "headache", or at least I believe that neither of them would think that I am primarily a "headache".

The third reference on the application form is Colonel Richard S. Leghorn, President of the ITEK Corporation, 700 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. This is a corporation engaged in defense work which is controlled by Lawrence Rockefeller. Colonel Leghorn and I have been lately closely collaborating, being both members of a Committee set up by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences ^{at my request} ~~that has been~~ ^{this committee} ~~specially set up as a result of one of those "unusual" suggestions that I have made.~~ I had a comparatively short,

but very intense, collaboration with Leghorn and you might, therefore, be able to extract some useful information from him about the ways I am wont to operate.

If you wish to write to any of these people, you are most welcome to do so and they will presumably regard it as lying within their official duties to furnish you with the kind of information you ~~may wish to~~ ^{may} indicate you wish to have.

P ^{have been} I was thinking about others who might give you some character reference among those people who are more likely to be known to the administration of the NIH than the names mentioned above.

If you are interested I might ask Robert Merriam whether he would be willing to receive an inquiry from you about me. ^{He} ~~I~~ has lived in the university community at Chicago ^{where} ~~while~~ his father, Charlie Merriam, was a professor and a highly respected member of the community. While his father knew me better than ^{he does} ~~he himself~~, I think he ^{might know} ~~knew~~ me well enough to be able to give a useful reference.

Another name which comes to my mind is that of Mrs. Albert D. Lasker, who I believe ^{also} knows me well enough to be able to give you some useful information. If you want me to do so, I could ask here whether she would be willing to receive an inquiry.

Let me perhaps add that I am able to guess by now in advance to ^{who} ~~whom~~ I might be likely to ^{to regard me as a} ~~cause a~~ "headache"

and to whom ~~I~~ might not. Thus, I am, for instance, quite certain that ~~I~~ if I join ^{of} the NIH, you would not think that I am a "headache", and I am equally convinced that Seymour Kety would not have thought that I am a "headache", had I joined the Institute at a time when he was Director of Basic Research. ~~Thisxxxx~~

This is all I can think of at the moment, but since if you want to write to all ~~of~~ ~~the~~ of those whose names are mentioned in this letter you will be kept busy for awhile, I might as well stop at this point.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LEO SZILARD

Washington, D. C.
September 28, 1958

Dr. Robert B. Livingston
Director of Basic Research
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Bob:

I am grateful to you for showing me yesterday, upon my arrival in Washington, a carbon copy of a letter which you wrote to me on September 24, 1958. I am writing you today in order to acknowledge the receipt of this letter and to say the following:

The first sentence of your letter reads: "I very much regret that I must renege on the formal offer extended to you on June 13, 1958." While it is not entirely clear to me what the word "renege" is meant to convey, I should like to interpret this term, in the given context, as meaning that you would like me to release the National Institutes of Health from the formal offer extended to me.

As you know, and as I am recapitulating below for your convenience, subsequent to receiving your offer I had advised you that I was accepting it. In the present circumstances, as I shall indicate below, I should not be able to release you from your offer without seriously endangering my future

scientific career. I am therefore--to my regret--not in a position to release you at this time.

In explanation of the above statements, let me set forth the following sequence of events which led up to the present situation.

About ten months ago, I was advised that I am being offered the Directorship of an "Institute for Nuclear Physics" to be built in Berlin by the State of Berlin. This Institute was supposed to be the twin of an "Institute of Nuclear Chemistry" at present under construction.

On May 26th I received a letter from Dr. Bronk expressing interest in the possibility of arranging a joint appointment between the Rockefeller Institute and the University of Chicago. Subsequently, I saw Dr. Bronk and I told him that I regarded an arrangement which would force me to commute between Chicago and New York as undesirable. Dr. Bronk thereupon told me that he would be prepared--subject to approval by his Board--to offer me a full-time position at the Rockefeller Institute; since the idea of the joint appointment, originated with Warren C. Johnson, Dean of the Physical Sciences Division of the University of Chicago, Dr. Bronk felt however that he would want to be sure that Warren Johnson would be agreeable to whatever arrangement was worked out between me and the Rockefeller Institute. A few days later, Warren Johnson gave me a fully satisfactory reassurance with regard to this point.

Soon thereafter I received from you a letter and a memorandum, dated June 13, 1958, in which a formal offer was made to me by you on behalf of the NIH. In your memorandum of June 13th, you wrote, "I have talked these matters over thoroughly with Dr. Smadel, Associate Director for Intramural Research, NIH." I understood from you that your conversation with Dr. Smadel covered the proposed dual appointment by the NIH and the Rockefeller Institute.

On the basis of your offer, I wrote Dr. Bronk on June 19th concerning a possible arrangement involving both the NIH and the Rockefeller Institute and a copy of this letter was transmitted to you for your information.

On July 11th, I advised H. L. Anderson, Director of the Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies of the University of Chicago, who is my immediate superior at the University of Chicago, of the offer made to me by NIH and my intention of accepting it, and, similarly, I advised Warren C. Johnson, Dean of the Physical Sciences Division of the University of Chicago.

I formally accepted your offer in a memorandum dated July 16, 1958. In this formal acceptance there was still contained a qualification which read as follows:

"If Dr. Bronk is not in favor of a double appointment, then there are two possibilities.

"a) If he would like me to be full time at the Rockefeller Institute and to have a laboratory operation going there, then I would have to choose between the NIH and the Rockefeller Institute and let you know what my choice is."

Subsequently, while I was in Denver, you talked to me over the telephone from Washington and asked me whether I would care to clarify my position concerning the above quoted passage and say whether I would choose the NIH or the Rockefeller Institute. I told you thereupon that I would choose the NIH and I gave you my reasons for this choice. This, then, made my acceptance of your offer definite and final.

Concerning the offer that I received from Berlin, I was not called upon to make a definite decision as yet. I have told the Government of Berlin, however, that they must not count on my eventual acceptance and I have explicitly and fully relinquished all control over the building program. I have not explicitly relinquished control over appointments, but it appears that I have lost this control through my failure to indicate that I should be likely to accept the Directorship of the Institute. Accordingly, while the position in Berlin is apparently still open to me, I should be in a rather awkward situation were I to accept this position today.

After receiving your offer, I had an inquiry from Professor Jerome Wiesner, Director of the Electronics Research Laboratory of MIT, who asked me whether I might be interested in associating myself with an Institute devoted to the problem of Communications, which may be set up in the near future. In response to this query, I told him of the offer that I had from the NIH and of my intention of accepting it.

It is possible that this matter could be reactivated, but I cannot be sure of this at this time.

* *
*

I should greatly appreciate it if you would in the light of the facts stated above reconsider your letter of September 24th, and, in particular, I should appreciate your responding as soon as possible to the following:

1) Are you willing to state clearly, at this time, that the NIH will honor the offer extended to me on June 13, 1958?

I have had in the past no association with any government research laboratory. My associations were with

the University of Berlin, the University of Oxford, Columbia University, and the University of Chicago. It is, however, difficult for me to imagine that the standard of fair dealing which regulates the relationship of the administration of a university with the members of its faculty, actual or potential, should be appreciably different from that which regulates the relationship between the administration of the NIH and the members of the staff, actual or potential. For this reason, I am leaving here the possibility that your answer to my question might be in the negative out of consideration.

2) I am at present committed to choose the NIH if I am forced to choose between the NIH and the Rockefeller Institute. If you gave me permission to do so and if I could do so without thereby releasing the NIH from the offer made to me on June 13th, I might at this time prefer to reverse my position and to advise Dr. Bronk as follows: "If I had to choose between the NIH and the Rockefeller Institute, I would choose the Rockefeller Institute." Accordingly, I might then tell Dr. Bronk that if he were to offer me a full-time position at the Rockefeller Institute, with adequate laboratory facilities for my work, I would be prepared to accept it, whether or not Dr. Bronk agreed to an arrangement which would involve both NIH and the Rockefeller Institute.

3) I am aware of the fact that a dual arrangement involving both the Rockefeller Institute and the NIH is so unusual that it might put an intolerable burden on the NIH from the administrative point of view. Therefore, were Dr. Bronk to offer me a position at the Rockefeller Institute under an arrangement which would involve both the Rockefeller Institute and the NIH, I would not insist that you must accept such a dual arrangement merely on the ground that the NIH has already committed itself in this regard. Inasmuch as I myself believe that such a dual arrangement would work well, I should want to have an opportunity to present my views in this regard at as high a level of the administration of the NIH as is necessary, but there is no reason for you to fear that having presented my views on this issue, I should insist that they must necessarily prevail.

* *
*

I am grateful for your advising me of your last telephone conversation with Dr. Bronk, in which you proposed, as a compromise, that I take a leave of absence from the University of Chicago for one year and that we try out how a dual arrangement between the Rockefeller Institute and the NIH would work. I personally do not believe, however, in "trial marriage", and while I appreciate your good intentions

in this regard, the arrangement proposed by you would have been totally unacceptable to me, even if it had met with the approval of the Administration of the NIH--which, I understand, it did not.

Yours very sincerely,

Leo Szilard

MEMORANDUM

September 29, 1958

To: Robert B. Livingston
From: Leo Szilard

I wonder whether it wouldn't be a good thing for you to call the three people, who I have listed on my application form as references, over the telephone, obtain from them such information as they may be able to give, and then ask them to write you a letter also.

The main purpose of this operation would be to demonstrate that you have done a thorough job in collecting all the information that might conceivably be relevant. Of course, you may or may not have an occasion to make use of this information but it might be a very good thing to have it available in case of need.

The three people whom I have listed are as follows:

1. H. L. Anderson, Director of the Enrico Fermi Institute of Nuclear Studies, who is my direct superior at The University of Chicago. The telephone number in Chicago is: MIDWAY 3-0800. Anderson has known me since 1939. At that time, he was a graduate student of Fermi's and we have done experiments together.
2. Warren C. Johnson, Dean of the Physical Science Division of the University of Chicago, who is my superior one step removed. He is at present the Chairman of the General Advisory Committee of the AEC. He has known me since the days of the uranium project during the war. His telephone number in Chicago is also MIDWAY 3-0800.

9/29/58

3. Col. Richard S. Leghorn, President of the ITEK Corporation, 700 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Mass. I listed him because he has seen me in operation recently; since we are closely collaborating on the project conferences between American and Russian scientists. Leghorn is a member of the operating committee that has been set up by The American Academy of Arts and Sciences at my request, and he is actually running the committee, even though nominally I am its chairman. Colonel Leghorn can be reached during office hours in Boston either at: TWINBROOK 3-3550 or at CORTNEY 7-1051.

The ITEK Corporation is a commercial corporation concerned with problems relating to the national defense and is controlled by Lawrence Rockefeller.

* * *

I am inclined to think that it would be better to limit yourself to this formal step of contacting the references which I gave rather than to embark on a really thorough investigation. My reason for thinking so is the general principle that if one has one good argument--which I believe I have in this particular case--it is a mistake to raise any other issue. The formal inquiries I am suggesting above fall, however, within the normal range of your duties as an administrator and can, therefore, do no harm.

LS

HOTEL
DUPONT
PLAZA

DUPONT CIRCLE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

September 29, 1958

JOHN J. COST
GENERAL MANAGER

HUdson 3-6000

Mr. Robert B. Livingston
The National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Bob:

Yesterday I wrote you an eight-page letter discussing the first sentence of your letter of September 24 which reads "I very much regret that I must renege on the formal offer extended to you on June 13, 1958."

Today I am writing you briefly with reference to the second sentence of your letter which reads "Please be assured this action in no way diminishes my high regard for you, your work and what you stand for." This is tantamount to saying that even though you are doing me wrong, you are not holding this against me. It seems to me that in saying this, you are acting contrary to standard operational practice and are betraying a generosity of sentiment which might disqualify you from holding down a major position in the administrative setup of a large government research organization.

You have asked me what I would plan to do if you failed to renege on the renegeing. I still have not given this

HOTEL
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DUPONT CIRCLE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

JOHN J. COST
GENERAL MANAGER

HUdson 3-6000

Mr. Robert B. Livingston
Page 2
September 29, 1958

possibility any thought. But, if I did anything at all, I should certainly first seek advice from those who are more familiar with the operations of governmental agencies than I am. Thus, I might seek the advice of Bob Merriam and Mary Lasker. This should cover two of the three branches of the government. The third branch I should scrupulously avoid contacting at this time, for otherwise friends of mine sitting on the Supreme Court would be compelled to disqualify themselves if my case eventually reaches that August Body for final adjudication -- twenty years hence, perhaps.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Archives

STATEMENT

FROM: Leo Szilard

Sunday, October 26, 1958

TO: Robert B. Livingston

Enclosed is a letter addressed to Dr. Shannon, to which there is attached a memorandum. I have tried to reach Dr. Bronk on Friday all day over the telephone in order to clear with him whether by writing this letter I might not prejudice my chances of receiving an offer from the Rockefeller Institute. He called me back yesterday, but he did not reach me and left a message saying that he is enroute to Europe. I understand from his office that he is not expected back in New York until the 7th of November and that he will be there then only for one day and will be away until November 13th. In these circumstances, I am mailing my letter to Dr. Shannon today so that he may receive it on Monday.

I wanted to avoid making my letter to Dr. Shannon overlong and, therefore, I did not cover fully all the circumstances which might be relevant. I want to give you, however, as complete a picture of the situation as I can.

Last year I received a letter from Max von Laue -- who was my "teacher" when I was a graduate student at the University of Berlin in 1922 -- asking me whether I might be interested in the directorship of an Institute to be built in Berlin. I pointed out to him in my answer why I might not be very suitable

for this position, but I did not flatly say that I wouldn't be interested.

His letter came at a time when I was very seriously distressed by the prospects of the financial situation that would face me upon retirement, at 65, from my position at the University of Chicago. Upon retirement, I would expect to receive, in addition to Social Security, a retirement income from Teachers' Annuity in the amount of less than \$115.00 per month. My retirement income from Teachers' Annuity would be so low because I was not on the regular staff of the University of Chicago while working at the University during the war and also, because after the war, when I changed over from physics to biology, I took a salary cut of about 50%. Since I had an established position as a physicist but not as a biologist, such a salary cut did not seem at that time inappropriate. My salary was of course repeatedly raised since that time and lately the University's contribution to the retirement fund has been raised also, but all this comes too late to provide me with an adequate retirement income from Teachers' Annuity.

In contrast to this, a German professor retires at his full salary and, moreover, Berlin would probably give me a special contract that would enable me to retain a position in the new laboratory for a period of ten years, after reaching the retirement age there at 68 years of age. Since I am not

only concerned about my financial position upon retirement, but also about having adequate facilities to work beyond the retirement ages of 65 or 68, the possibilities offered in this respect by Berlin has for me a considerable attraction.

Perhaps I wouldn't have been quite as distressed about my retirement problem if it hadn't been for the fact that my father lived up to the age of 95 and remained in full possession of his mental vigor up to his death.

Even though I may now be able to make definite statements about the correlation between the life expectancy of an individual and the age of his parents at their death, from what I can see the odds are still heavily against, rather than in favor of, my living even up to the age of 85. Having passed my 60th birthday, I shouldn't even be surprised if I were to drop dead tomorrow. However, these rational considerations do not seem fully to penetrate into my subconscious. In any case, my retirement problem was weighing heavily on my mind at the time when I received Max von Laue's letter.

While I was still in Germany looking over the situation in Berlin, I received a note from the German Federal Government saying that I have been granted the status of a retired German professor with the German professor's full salary.

Even though I never held a regular staff position at any German university, the German Federal Government has made

the ruling -- on the basis of legislation that has been passed a few years earlier -- that in the course of my university career I would have become a full professor in Germany had I not been forced to leave Germany by Hitler's Government. Considering to what great efforts I had gone in order to make sure that Germany may not win the war, I read this note with mixed feelings. When I opened the note, I happened to be in the lobby of my hotel and, as I was reading it, I heard someone laugh. When I turned around to look, there was nobody to be seen in the lobby and I thought then that perhaps it was the devil, laughing in his belly.

This award by the German Federal Government relieved my immediate anxiety concerning my financial situation upon retirement. It did not mean that upon retirement I would have enough income to be able to live and lead an active life in the United States, but it did mean that I could live comfortably in Germany, where living expenses are about half of those in the United States. In this respect, I would then be in a position no different from that of Max Born or Erwin Schroedinger and others who left Germany in 1933 to accept a university position in England. Upon their retirement, they were forced to return to Germany or to Austria because their retirement income was not sufficient to enable them to live in England.

The idea of changing my residence from one country to another at the age of 65 does not appeal to me however, and if I am forced to make a change, I would much rather do it now when I am still flexible enough to adapt to living under new conditions.

It is, of course, conceivable that I might receive a substantial compensation for inventions which I put at the disposal of the United States Government during the war. The first patent that was issued in the United States in the atomic energy field lists Enrico Fermi and me as joint inventors. This patent is assigned to the U.S. Government. It covers the reactor which was built at Hanford during the war for the production of plutonium. Because my contribution to this invention antedates the government's interest in this field, I might have a claim for compensation. However, such a claim would have to be ruled upon by the Patent Compensation Board of the Atomic Energy Commission, and I would have to submit a claim for their adjudication. In order to do this, I would first have to prepare the "case" and this would involve spending perhaps three months of my time.

It might well be that I shall ultimately decide to do this, but I would first have to overcome my aversion against diverting my attention to activities of this sort. I have always felt that the earning of money should come somehow as

a by-product of some constructive activity. There would be nothing constructive in my spending months preparing a claim for financial compensation, which at best would accomplish a shift of a sum of money from the Treasury into my own pocket.

I am mentioning all this, because all these considerations enter into the decisions which I may be called upon to make in the near future.

While I was still in Germany, the news of Sputnik was splashed across the pages of the newspapers. I was asked again and again whether I thought that the American government will now reorganize its "research", and thus, in short order, close the gap that appears to exist between the Russian and American advances in certain fields. I told my friends in Europe that if it were merely a question of reorganizing governmental laboratories, the problem would be comparatively simple, but that I was afraid that the trouble may lie, not as much in any weakness of the organizational structure as it may lie in certain, rather deep-seated, attitudes. Attitudes are far more difficult to change than organizational structures.

In Germany and in some other countries of Europe, there is a long-established tradition of research at universities or other establishments which are organs of the government. In America, prior to the war, most research was carried out in private institutions and the problem of conducting research in governmental laboratories is comparatively new.

On my way home, I stopped at the Institute Pasteur in Paris and Horecker told me on that occasion of his decision to leave the NIH. He also told me of Kalckar's decision to leave. I was particularly struck by the case of Kalckar. When I last saw him, he appeared to be perfectly happy in Washington and he told me of his forthcoming visit to Japan. I thereupon arranged for him to be invited by the Indian Government to pay a visit to India and I had received a thank-you note from him, upon the completion of his visit, in which there was nothing to indicate that he had decided to leave the NIH. I understood from Horecker that Kalckar had made his decision in spite of the personal inconvenience that would be involved, since he would have to commute between Baltimore and Bethesda where his family will remain.

It seems clear that, if the NIH cannot keep people of this calibre permanently, it will not be able to acquire the kind of identity which attracts the ablest of the young research workers. If a young man decides to accept an offer from Harvard, he knows what he is getting into. There he can be reasonably certain that the scientists whose presence at Harvard attracts him would remain at Harvard. Thus, he has an incentive to accept the offer from Harvard and to try to stay on at Harvard. But at a place like the NIH, if there is a substantial turnover among the key scientists, then younger people cannot know what

they are getting into if they join the NIH, with a view of staying there permanently.

The NIH seems to offer in many respects more favorable working conditions than do most universities and, in addition, the Bethesda area offers to young married couples with children living conditions which are far more attractive than those of most cities in which our leading universities are located; therefore, there seems to be no inherent reason why the NIH should not be able to compete for gifted young research workers.

What might be the reason for the leaving of the NIH by people like Kalckar?

Thoughts like these passed through my mind while I was in Paris and, my curiosity awakened, I decided then and there that I would take you up on your invitation to spend some time at the NIH. You had extended this invitation to me perhaps a year earlier but there was always something else that appeared to me more important or more urgent to do than to visit Bethesda.

When I got back to America, I first had to attend the so-called Second Pugwash Meeting at Lac Beauport, Quebec, and then I had to spend two weeks at M.I.T., having accepted the Arthur D. Little Lectureship for 1958. As soon as this was over, I came to Bethesda. Here, I greatly enjoyed my scientific contacts with the staff members of your Institutes and I also found leisure to work on two manuscripts which are both, as

yet, incomplete. But, in the meantime, I was also trying to discover what the "trouble" was.

It was quickly apparent to me that the trouble didn't come from anything that was very obvious. Any of the apparent "grievances" that I heard explicitly stated appeared to me to be trivial. Neither the organizational setup nor the general rules which govern its operations appear to be at fault. I am still in the process of pondering the imponderable and I am certainly far from knowing all the answers as yet. I know however some of the answers, and in my letter to Dr. Shannon, I have dealt in extenso with one of them when discussing the relative merits of a \$19,000 salary vs. a \$17,000 salary.

What is it that one may say about attitudes which might be at fault?

There is a certain democratic spirit in the Institutes which I personally like but which also has its drawbacks, particularly if there is no clear awareness of what these drawbacks may be. You may say in the true democratic spirit that one man is as good as another -- which sort of implies that one moron is as good as one genius -- and I would be prepared to go along thus far. One must, however, be careful not to apply too much logic to this thesis, lest one may go one step further and conclude that two morons are better than one genius.

When I was in Bethesda in June, you talked to me, on and off, of the future of the NIH, as you saw it, and you succeeded to transmit to me some of your infectious enthusiasm. You stressed that the NIH needed men like me and I agreed with you that this might perhaps be so.

However, it is possible to take the position that while the NIH needed men like me, it does not need me. This is, in fact, the conclusion which, I thought, the Administration of the NIH must have reached when I received your letter reneging on the formal offer that you had made to me in June. Naturally, I couldn't help but try to make a guess as to what the trouble might be. I thought that maybe I was considered a controversial figure and that it might be the policy of the NIH to keep controversial figures out of the air-conditioned paradise of the Clinical Center building.

People who talk about me may contradict each other, and a few may even contradict themselves; this may make me a controversial figure. Controversial or not, even though I am fond of exercising my Constitutional rights, I have not, as yet, pleaded the Fifth Amendment before any Congressional Committee. Frankly, I came very near to doing so when I testified at a hearing concerned with legislation on atomic energy. I was asked whether it was true that I had been instrumental in getting the United States Government started

on its wartime development of atomic energy, and it appeared to me that my answer might incriminate me -- in the Heavenly Court of Justice.

When I received Dr. Shannon's letter of October 8th, I entered upon a new guessing game.

On receiving it, my first impression was that Dr. Shannon is offering me a livelihood but no real opportunity to be productive. This, in fact, literally would be the only conclusion I could draw were I to interpret everything the letter says. On re-reading the letter, however, I thought that perhaps the letter need not be interpreted literally.

Dr. Shannon writes, for instance: "Since we are an agency of the Federal Government, it is not possible for us to arrange for our scientists to spend part of their time here at Bethesda and part at another research institution." It is difficult for me to assume that this passage expresses what Dr. Shannon really meant to say. If it did, I would have either to assume that Dr. Smadel does not know the rules under which the NIH operates, or else that Dr. Shannon does not know of the exceptions. Neither of these two assumptions are likely to be correct. I think rather that Dr. Shannon perhaps meant to say that there is no precedent for a man holding down two full-time positions, one at NIH and another at another institution, both positions on a leave of absence without pay basis -- half of the time.

Clearly, if there is no precedent for this, the administration ought to be reluctant to create a precedent unless there are compelling reasons in a particular case. Whether there are such compelling reasons in my case, I shall be glad to examine together with Dr. Shannon or Dr. Smadel at a later time when all the facts are in. Clearly, not all the facts are in at the present time. ^PAlso, holding down two full-time jobs may not be the only way to accomplish the desired objective.

Since I cannot count on any substantial laboratory space at Bethesda and since even if you were able to free such space piecemeal, I should be reluctant to build up a working team piecemeal, I ~~may~~ ^{would} be faced with a "problem" if the time came when I want to set up experiments of my own. I do not think that it would be practicable for me to carry out such experiments by inducing some members of the present staff, working in the various laboratories, to drop what they are doing in favor of experiments that I may suggest. Experience shows that it is usually the more or less trivial experiments, (where you can virtually guarantee publishable results), that can be easily "sold" to others. I am more interested, however, in really imaginative experiments, where the reward may be great, but where also the risk would be great that several years of work may be spent and then ultimately no publishable

results may be obtained. Experiments of this sort are difficult, if not impossible, to "sell".

I must, therefore, think in terms of working with young scientists, of my own choosing, who are congenial. Such I must try to find and if I can find them, I must have some place for them where they can work under my guidance, even though I need not necessarily be in charge of their work -- in an administrative sense. Thus, it is conceivable that I might arrange with Dr. Bronk that the Rockefeller Institute will employ such men at my request, that some Member of the Rockefeller Institute assumes responsibility for them from the administrative point of view, and that I assume the responsibility for guiding their work. If this were arranged, I could be full-time employed at Bethesda and look after these young men one or two days a week, conceivably Saturdays and Sundays. The NIH might give me travel orders for trips to New York, or, if my salary were high enough, I could absorb the expenses myself.

With respect to the memorandum attached to the letter addressed to Dr. Shannon, there are not many remarks that I need to make since this memorandum speaks for itself.

The last paragraph of the memorandum reads:

"The mode of operation described above would require close collaboration with some of the establishments of the

A.E.C. for the next five or six years. I have some reason to believe that no insurmountable difficulties would stand in the way of my working out such an arrangement with one or several of these establishments." The underlined sentence is based on the following facts:

I know Alvin Weinberg, the Director of the Oak Ridge Laboratory, well -- better than I know anyone in the Biology Division there -- and I assume that he would encourage any arrangements which may be desirable. Dr. Curtis, who is in charge of Biology at Brookhaven and whom I know fairly well, would, I believe, also be receptive to my approach to the aging problem and I think I could count on his help in getting the required experiments set up at Brookhaven.)

→ I know, of course, all those concerned in the Argonne National Laboratory from Norman Hilberry down, but I am not very keen on locating an experimental program there unless it should turn out that they have equipment which is more suitable for a particular experiment than I could find in the other establishments of the A.E.C. Finally, just a short while ago, I received a telegram from James Tuck, who is in charge of the Controlled Fusion Program at Los Alamos, saying that Bradbury wondered if I could have some discussions with them in the not too distant future. Thereupon I told Tuck, whom I know well, of my current negotiations with the NIH and said

that I should be able to visit Los Alamos in about four weeks time. Following this conversation, I received a telegram from Bradbury which reads: "Delighted to hear of possibility you can visit Los Alamos. Would like to discuss with you general possibilities of starting up a useful and growing research program in biophysics at Los Alamos and believe your suggestions and help will be invaluable. -- N. F. Bradbury, Director of Los Alamos Scientific Lab."

This much for the background of the last paragraph of my memorandum to Dr. Shannon.

The kind of operation which I outline in that memorandum is very much dependent on my being able to find some younger scientist to lean on, in whom I can have full confidence. Dr. Conant Webb would be a person ideally suited for this purpose. He had agreed to work with me prior to the present "mix-up", but under the circumstances that have arisen, it is only fair that he should have an opportunity to reconsider if he desires to do so. If we should decide to operate along the lines of my memorandum, then I would attempt to groom Dr. Webb as the potential future head of the "laboratory" when it is set up in Bethesda. I believe he would be ideally suited for that purpose. If I could find someone like Dr. Webb to head up the laboratory, I would much prefer not to head up the laboratory myself, but rather to be in charge of a section

and be correspondingly freer of administrative duties. As far as the experimental program of the laboratory is concerned, I would not want my ideas to prevail because I happen to be in the controlling administrative position, and I would much rather have them prevail -- as I would hope they would -- because of their intrinsic merits.

The letter in which you told me that you were reneging on the formal offer that had been extended to me and that I had accepted, raised a rather interesting question upon which I should like to submit to you a few considerations.

While I had assumed that your offer to me was made with the approval of Dr. Shannon, it is now apparent that this offer had his tacit consent either before or shortly after it was made, but that it did not have his wholehearted approval. I learned about this situation only when I called you over the telephone from Vienna. I then cancelled my projected trip to Germany and came back to this country.

There is no reason why the Government should not have the same right as any private corporation to abrogate an agreement if there are compelling reasons to do so. If an agreement is abrogated, there might arise a claim for damages, but this is a legal claim rather than what you might term a "grievance".

A formal offer extended and accepted, if it were made by a private corporation, would constitute a contract. A

formal offer made by the Government, however, must be understood, I am told, as a letter of intent. ^R It would be difficult for private corporations to cooperate with the Government if they had to wait each time until a contract is drawn, signed and sealed. In many cases, however, private corporations start working and incurring expenditures on the basis of a letter of intent, which represents a promise of a contract.

What, then, can the Government do if it changes its mind after it has given a letter of intent? It seems to me the only solution in such a case is for the Government to enter into the contract and then to abrogate that contract.

If private corporations could not count with certainty on a letter of intent to be followed by a contract (even if the head of the government agency should change his mind or be replaced by someone else who is of a different mind), they would risk being left "holding the bag" -- without having any legal recourse.

I do not know whether there is any precedent for the NIH or any other Government agency ever to have reneged on a letter of intent. If there is no such precedent, then I would submit that it might perhaps be better to avoid creating one in this instance.

If my application were to be processed now, I understand that it should pass the Civil Service Commission by the end of

December. In the meantime, we shall know better where we stand and I may have an opportunity to discuss some of these issues with either Dr. Shannon or Dr. Smadel. I should know further by the end of January whether the Rockefeller Institute may offer me a position along the lines which Dr. Bronk and I have discussed.

If, in the meantime, it should turn out that no modus vivendi could be worked out at the NIH, I could then accept an appointment at the NIH and resign it shortly thereafter. Or, alternatively, if it is preferred that I do so, I could decline the offered appointment on the ground of a "posterior" commitment.

On the other hand, if a modus vivendi can be worked out at the NIH, I would then be prepared to start working, say, on April 1st of next year.

The considerations mentioned above represent but one of the reasons why it seemed to me best that I accept Dr. Shannon's offer -- prior to the expiration of its deadline on November 1st. Another, perhaps more important, reason is that none of the alternative offers, that I have, are sufficiently far advanced, as well as sufficiently well explored, at this time.

The offer from Berlin is still open. But because I am a naturalized citizen, I should lose my U. S. citizenship after five years if I reside in Germany. I have discussed this point

with the American Cultural Attache in Berlin, Mr. Weyl, and he suggested that I try to find out if this difficulty could not be resolved through the passage of a private bill in Congress. I had planned to look into this question in July, but dropped this plan in June when I received the offer of the NIH. I would not now be able to clarify this issue until Congress reconvenes in January.

In order to receive a formal offer from the Rockefeller Institute for a tenure position, a proposed appointment would have to clear several committees. As a result of the "mix-up", we have missed the deadline for the October meeting and Dr. Bronk told me then that the earliest meeting at which the Board of Trustees ~~that~~ could pass upon my appointment, is the one scheduled for the third week of January.

I have sort of burned my bridges at the University of Chicago when I advised them in June that I intended to accept the offer from the NIH. I could conceivably straighten out matters with the University of Chicago, but for this I would have to give a full and frank explanation of the misunderstanding that has arisen between two different administrative levels within the NIH, and this I would have to do at all three levels -- at the level of the Director of the Institute of Nuclear Studies to whom I report, at the Office of the Dean of the Physical Sciences Division, and at the level of the Central Administration of the University.

At the Institute of Nuclear Studies, I am among friends, many of whom have followed my work since 1939. I need not hesitate to go back to them now and reopen matters if I were willing to say that I had decided to remain with the University of Chicago for an indefinite period of time. But, this I am not prepared to say.

I understand that it might take several months to process my application for employment at the NIH. It would not be entirely fair to the University of Chicago for me to remain longer than necessary on its payroll and it seemed preferable to accept Dr. Shannon's offer rather than to attempt to obtain an extension of his deadline, set for November 1st.

If, after further reflection, the NIH should prefer that I amend my application and change the salary back from \$17,000 to \$19,000, please feel authorized to enter such an amendment for me. As I wrote to Dr. Shannon, I am prepared to make a formal commitment not to draw actually more than \$16,000 a year -- on the average. -- If I were employed by the NIH, I would count on being on leave of absence without pay for two months a year -- on the average, provided I can afford it.

January 6, 1959

Dear Cody:

I am thrilled about the plans for additional space to accommodate our present crowding and to develop a few new strong programs such as the one in which you and Leo are interested.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

CC: ✓ Prof. Leo Szilard

RBL:md



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

January 6, 1959

Professor Leo Szilard
The Quadrangle Club
The University of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Leo:

NIH has agreed to request, on behalf of the Basic Research Program, NIMH-NINDB, a new building of approximately 40,000 sq. ft. research space. I would estimate that this might be available for occupancy as early as 1962, probably in 1963, and perhaps as late as 1964. I am looking forward to your next visit in hope of discussing rather completely your plans and needs with respect to this new construction. It is not as much as all of us would like, but it is more assuring than a dream.

With all best wishes and many thanks for sending the excerpts of your paper, which have just arrived and which I am looking forward to reading after lunch.

Sincerely yours,

Bob.

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.
Director of Basic Research
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness

Love miss you.

CC: Dr. N. Conant Webb

ROBERT B. LIVINGSTON, M.D.
9201 BURNING TREE ROAD
BETHESDA 14, MARYLAND

12-3-59

Dear Leo =

It was very good of you to
call. Please do so whenever you feel
like it — particularly do not hesitate
if there is anything you think we might
be able to do to help you.

It was good to hear from Trudy & you
that you took off down the hall & gave both
to telephone when you feel like it!

We look forward to seeing you. There is
much news about various research findings here &
elsewhere. Mandy joins & love.

Bob.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
O Liver 6-4000

December 8, 1959

Professor Leo Szilard
New York Hospital, H-9
New York, N. Y.

Dear Leo:

Received a note from Alfred Wallenstein this morning saying he sent a letter to the Vice President on December 5th. In brief, he pointed out the two most important problems in need of solution facing the world today were i) how to get rid of the bomb, and ii) how to live with it. Wally indicated you were the most knowledgeable person in this sphere and suggested Nixon arrange to talk with you reasonably soon. Since Wally is leaving for Los Angeles and will be away for six weeks or more, he suggested that Nixon get in touch with me. As soon as I have any word, I shall let you know.

Meantime, my sincere fond wishes.

Sincerely,

Bob -

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

ROBERT B. LIVINGSTON, M.D.
9201 BURNING TREE ROAD
BETHESDA 14, MARYLAND

January 6, 1960

Dr. Leo Szilard
New York Hospital
H-9
New York, N.Y.

Dear Leo:

General Cushman is General Robert E. Cushman, in the office of Vice-President Nixon, who does staff work for the Vice President in some areas of State and Defense Departments purview. His address is Room 361, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. His phone number: CA 4-3121, ext. 2121.

I took the liberty of calling him immediately after our conversation. He was pleased to know that your article would appear the The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists and will read it and bring it to the attention of the Vice-President as soon as it is available. Moreover, he said if he could possibly arrange it, probably not before the latter part of this month, he would like to go to New York for the express purpose of discussing this subject with you.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Bob

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

August 31, 1960.

Dr. Robert B. Livingston,
c/o Alfred Wallerstein,
West Gilgo Beach, N.Y.

Dear Bob,

Enclosed I am sending you the new new pages 18 - 27,
the new pages 35, 36 and 37 and Appendix 1. The Appendix
which you now have should be called Appendix 2.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Enclosures

file

December 19, 1961

Mr. Carl F. Stover
Assistant to the Chairman
Encyclopaedia Britannica
Box 4068
Santa Barbara; California

Dear Carl:

Enclosed is a paper (now being further revised) by Professor Leo Szilard. It has been extremely well received by students and faculty at Harvard, Brandeis, Swarthmore, Northwestern and Chicago, inter alia, and by the press, radio and T.V.

Dr. Szilard is going to make a speaking tour through Western universities at Stanford, Berkeley, University of Oregon and Reed College during January.

If the responses to this "experiment" are compelling, he will set in motion a political movement. This will take political leadership and administrative adroitness of the kind you possess to a very high degree.

I have suggested to Dr. Szilard that he should try to arrange to meet you during his Western tour. Could the Center send you to Stanford or San Francisco for this purpose? You might as well communicate directly with Dr. Szilard to save time.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

cc: Dr. Leo Szilard
Dupont Plaza Hotel, Wash., D. C.

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.

Leo Szilard - *pol. engagements*

9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda 14, Maryland

December 29, 1961

Dr. Kenneth E. Livingston
806 SW Broadway
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Kenny:

Enclosed is a copy of a preliminary MSS written by Leo Szilard. He has given an improved version of this talk at Harvard, Brandeis, Swarthmore, Northwestern and Chicago among other places. It has been very well received by students for whom he holds a seminar follow-up to get their reactions and to answer more questions than might be feasible in any lecture hall that can contain the crowds who assemble to hear him.

He intends to speak in Los Angeles, at Stanford, Berkeley, Eugene, and in Portland at Reed College. When he comes to Portland, I hope he will look you up, and I hope you might be able to put him in touch with some of the groups and individuals most concerned about the issues he raises in the accompanying MSS. I think you and Tash and Bruce would all enjoy meeting him, as he would enjoy meeting you. He was with us at Christmas and missed the chance to meet Lisa then. He will be accompanied by his wife, Gertrude, Trude, who is an MD expert in public health. I think they will be in Portland around the end of January or early part of February.

He is trying to find ~~me~~ out whether there is a sufficiently active minority interested in trying to move in the direction of abolishing war. There are many indications that such a move is necessary. It does not look as though any of the great powers are moving in that direction. Leo will depend upon student reactions and the responses he gets back from their experience in raising the question among others, on their own part. If the response is evidently a strong one, he will set up a lobby. In the meantime, he is setting up a Council and beginning to design a political Advisory Group. I am helping him respond to his mail. He has had very cordial and powerful help from faculties, newspapers, and TV: the mail brings in money, promises of financial and moral support, etc. from a wide spectrum of people all'round the country.

I personally believe that not much good will come of trying to reform ~~modify~~ the tactics of war, but that working toward that end may bring people to a realization that "victory" is an out-moded concept; that we really do not know what we are doing with a policy of "deterrence" and that in many other ways we must overcome our primitive, essentially reflexive responses of threatening or resorting to war as a matter of national policy. You and I have long understood each other on all these matters without having to communicate them. I think you will like Leo. Did you read his "The Voice of the Dolphins"? In any case, another copy is enclosed.

All the best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year to you and the whole family. Much love, Mandy joins in, with all the kids, too.

U-3

January 21, 1962

Mr. Arthur Springer
19 Centre Street
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Springer:

Your letter of January 16 to Leo Szilard is being acknowledged in his absence. He has asked me to respond to urgent correspondence while he is continuing his survey of University students on the West Coast.

Thanks for your suggestion that Dr. Szilard communicate with Robert Pickus of Turn Toward Peace. We have heard from many persons interested in Turn Toward Peace and, no doubt, there is a community of interest.

When and if a Council and Lobby are instituted, we will get in touch with you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.

19 Centre St.

Cambridge 39, Mass.

16 January 1962

Dear Dr. Sjilard:

I've read your speech & have told Mike Brower that I'm 51% convinced. While I have many reservations about existing peace organizations, I strongly recommend that you talk with Robert Pickus about Turn Toward Peace.

Mr. Pickus can be reached at 1730 Grove St. Berkeley, California or 218 East 18th St, New York 3, N.Y. Though some of your ideas may require a new, independent organization, I suspect that many of your interests could be related effectively to Turn Toward Peace.

An active liberal ~~to~~ lobby is certainly needed in Washington. If it becomes clear that this need really can't be filled by Turn Toward Peace, you will probably get whatever personal & financial support I can muster.

Best wishes,
Arthur Springer

111-3

January 21, 1962

Mr. Leon M. Redler
Box 261
Albert Einstein College
of Medicine
Bronx, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Redler:

We have just learned of your interest in Leo Szilard's proposals through a letter from Joseph H. Berke and from your letter of January 16. I am responding to Dr. Szilard's urgent correspondence while he is still on the West Coast. We will communicate with you if and when the movement is instituted.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.

Box 261
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, N.Y.
Jan 16, 1962

Dr. Leo Szilard
Hotel DuPont Plaza
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Dr. Szilard,

I am a 4th year medical student interested in learning more about the peace research group you are forming - and most probably interested in participating in such a group. I heard of this from a 2nd year student at my college (Joseph H. Bertke).

Thank you,
Respectfully,
Leon M. Redler

U-3

January 22, 1962

Mr. Jesse Beer
1250 Hickory Lane
Mansfield, Ohio

Dear Mr. Beer:

While Leo Szilard is on the West Coast continuing his survey of University audiences concerning the practicability of an effective Council for abolishing war, he has asked me to answer his urgent correspondence. He will be pleased to know of your expression of interest and desire to help.

Whether Dr. Szilard has heard from Linus Pauling and Norman Cousins on this subject, I do not know. However, they are both good friends of his.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.

Mansfield, Ohio
Jan. 12, 1962

Dr. Leo Szilard
University of Chicago
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

In the Jan. 5 issue of the York Gazette and Daily, York, Pa. were excerpts from a recent address you delivered at the University of Chicago. You were purported "calling for a nationwide Council for Abolishing War".

Your name would be of great import to give potential to such a cause. With your leadership there is no doubt your goal for membership could be reached. Through such a movement infinitely more could be achieved toward ultimate security than can result from the millions our government is squandering in converting our poorly equipped schools into sepulchres of mental insecurity.

Have you tried to enlist the help of such men as Dr. Linus Pauling and Norman Cousins?

What can we, the rank and file, do to help your campaign get into high gear?

Sincerely,

Jesse Beer

Washington, D. C.
March 3, 1962

Dr. Robert B. Livingston
Department of Neurobiology
The National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Bob:

The attached letter is meant for you and those others whose names are listed in the memo, "The Next Step". I should be very grateful to you for reading the attached letter and the enclosures, and for advising me as soon as possible whether you are willing to serve as an Associate.

I hope very much that you are willing to serve as a Fellow and that you are not going to disqualify yourself from serving on the Board of Directors of the Council.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington 6, D. C.
Telephone: HUDson 3-6000

Enclosures

P.S. I am enclosing the revised and final version of my speech, which will be printed in the April issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

LS

File M

March 15, 1962

Mrs. Teru Hayashi
Marine Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Hayashi:

Rather than working on a shorter version of his address -- which would have some merits -- Dr. Szilard prefers to work on foundation of the Council. When the Council gets under way, it can become the source of information. Dr. Szilard hopes to attract 25,000 pledges through the first campaign of the Council. He now has about 1,000 firm pledges.

The Council, made up of scientists (Szilard is firm about this) will be backed up by a Panel of Political Advisors made up of non-scientists. In addition, the Board of Directors of the Lobby may include non-scientists. In any event, I believe Dr. Szilard wants to maximize usefulness of scientists and non-scientists alike in this movement.

When the Council gets to work, they may wish to communicate through you to all of the MBL mailing list, but that is for them to decide.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Robert B. Livingston, M. D.

Marine Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole, Mass.
March 1, 1962

Dear Dr. Livingston,

I am wondering if more supporters for Dr. Szilard's proposal could not be rounded up faster if a very short version of the proposal were made. This version to be only the proposal itself of the lobby and council, with a resume of the reasons. It could be reproduced faster and in greater quantities, and thus should reach a larger number of people more rapidly. What leads me to think that it is not getting the circulation it deserves is that some people from here were in NYC last week and talked to some people at Columbia--they were just beginning to be reached. And there is a good potential at Columbia.

If there were a short version of two pages, we could undertake here to send out copies to all the investigators who spend their summers here at MBL; that is, about 350. And they are in many parts of the country.

Does this suggestion have merit?

There is one thing I should like to ask about the proposal, and many others ask the same question. Why is the Council to be composed of only scientists? The problems involved in abolishing war require the contributions of thinking from several fields. There are many aspects of abolishing war, and should they not be worked on concurrently?

I have received only a few more answers within this community, all from non-scientists, and all no, for varying reasons. I expect we've gotten all the yesses we can. Although there is a great concentration of scientists in this little town, most of them are hampered because they are directly employed by the government or their income comes from government grants. I have not yet resolved the question of whether their fears are valid, or some of them use the fear to rationalize their desire not to act.

Sincerely,

Sully Hayashi

(Mrs. Teru Hayashi)

ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

EASTCHESTER ROAD AND MORRIS PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 61, N. Y.

M

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

February 28, 1962

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.
9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Bob:

Don't worry, this letter does not require a reply. I can imagine how chaotic things must be at present.

The purpose of this note is first to tell you how pleased and impressed I was to learn that you are devoting so much time and effort to getting the Szilard plan off the ground. Secondly to let you know that I was among those present when Dr. Szilard met with us in New York. In fact I am one of the group of people who have assumed some responsibility in the New York area. As you know all we have in mind at present is to develop adequate ways of making the movement understood once Council has declared itself and has formulated some of the more immediate objectives.

Thus if there is anything you would like us to do (or keep from doing) or if there is information you would find it easier to ask of someone whom you already know - here I am.

Cordially,

Bille

Sibylle K. Escalona

SKE/mb

*no reply
RBE*

October 12, 1962

Personal

Dr. Robert B. Livingston
9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Bob:

I visited Ambassador Dobrynin on October 9 and had a good conversation with him. I have asked him to transmit the enclosed document with such comments as he might care to make. As you may see, I have marked this document confidential. That does not mean that you may not discuss it with some of your friends if you have some reason for doing so. I believe, however, that this matter ought not to be unnecessarily talked around, because if the project is in fact set up, it would be important that there should be no publicity about it.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Enclosure

ADDRESS

LIVINGSTON 9102 BURNING TREE ROAD BETHESDA MARYLAND

KINDLY SHOW BOB MY LETTER WHEN CRISIS OVER STOP NEED TO KNOW HOW
IT AFFECTED ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROJECT

SZILARD

From: Leo Szilard
Hotel Bernina, Geneva.

30 October 1962

9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda 14, Maryland

November 9, 1962

Dr. Leo Szilard
c/o Professor Victor Weisskopf
CERN
Geneva 23, Switzerland

Dear Leo:

Your cable arrived and within 24 hours I talked at length with Bob over the telephone. I paraphrased your letter^{**} to him rather than reading all of it but communicated its excellent tone. He was obviously pleased with what you had done and recommended that you should proceed with what you would like to do in your program. He felt that the Cuban events had not diminished whatever hope might be staked on this activity. He suggested specifically that the opportunity might even be slightly improved. He was exceedingly gracious about you and about your intent. He was also positive about the unique position you represent in terms of doing anything of this sort. Twice in the conversation, however, he suggested that he was by no means assured that this program would have the outcome you seek. He felt it would do no harm and if it were successful, it would be of great usefulness. His pessimism was no sign of lack of regard for you or for the desirability of success from your efforts but rather a reflection of the uncontrollable odds in the situation.

Leo, we miss you and Trudy very much and look forward to your return. The election results seem to be generally for the good. I think the climate for effective long-range action by the Council is better than ever. Allan Forbes has done a terrific job.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,



Robert Livingston, M.D.

* Robert Mc Namara
** Letter to Chairman Khrushchev of Oct. 9th /62

9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda 14, Maryland

November 9, 1962

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c/o Professor Victor Weisskopf
CERN
Geneva 23, Switzerland

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With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Robert Livingston, M.D.

Dr. Robert Livingston,
9201 Burning Tree Road,
Bethesda, Maryland,
U.S.A.

Geneva, 16th November 1962

Dear Bob,

Enclosed is an unofficial translation of the letter of Chairman Khrushchev dated November 4th, and a copy of my reply to it dated November 15th.

Perhaps it might not be a bad thing if a set, composed of my letter to Chairman Khrushchev of October 9th and the enclosed correspondence were in the files of the US Government, and you might hand over such a set to Bob when you have an opportunity to do so.

I expect that the answer to my letter of November 15th will be short and that I will be able to communicate to you its essence by cable; you may then transmit the text of the cable to Bob also.

By keeping him fully informed it would then be possible to get his advice if something unexpected should turn up that makes it necessary to seek his advice.

As long as I am staying in Geneva the Government could communicate with me, if need be, through the US Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva.

I continue to receive mail and messages c/o Professor Victor Weisskopf, CERN, Geneva 23, Switzerland.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

Geneva, 30 November, 1962.

Dr. Robert B. Livingston,
9201 Burning Tree Road,
Bethesda, Maryland.

Dear Bob,

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory.
Please feel free to get it into the hands of McGeorge
Bundy, Wiesner and Bob. I hope nothing further
will be done in Washington about this matter until I
get there.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard.

Enc.

Geneva, 30 November, 1962.

Dr. Robert B. Livingston,
9201 Burning Tree Road,
Bethesda, Maryland.

Dear Bob,

I had purposely avoided discussing the 'Angels Project' with anyone in the direct chain of command in the Administration in order not to involve the U.S. Government, until it is clear that the project is fully understood in Moscow and that suitable Russian participants can be found - a point on which I am not reassured as yet. After you told me over the telephone, on the evening of the 24th that the matter had been discussed with McGeorge Bundy and that he had misgivings, I decided to cancel my trip, which had been set for the morning of the 26th.

On the 26th I sent a message to the Chairman and I received his reply forty-eight hours later. The door is left open for me to go to Moscow, if an objective re-examination of the project in Washington leads to the conclusion that the project would be useful. Thus, if it is decided to go forward with the project then I would be in a position to make certain that Moscow would play its part and that the project would have a fair chance to accomplish its objective.

It has been my thought that the discussions of the angels ought to last for two or three weeks and that it should be a prelude for negotiations rather than take place concurrently with active negotiations.

As things stand I am not going to pursue this matter any further with the Russians till there has been a careful examination of it in Washington. As you know I had hoped that this could be done without any official involvement of the U.S. Government and I still think that the private character of the exploration should be preserved as much as possible. I expect to be in Washington on December 14th at the latest.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard.

Original to J. Monod, Paris

9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda 14, Maryland

December 1, 1962

Professor Leo Szilard
c/o Professor Weisskopf and
c/o Professor Monod simultaneously

Dear Leo and Trude:

Allan Forbes telephoned me last night, and both he and Bill Doering called today after talking with you on the telephone. I gather that the information I communicated to you by telephone must have eroded its way into your thoughts about the usefulness of your plan to the point that it interrupted your going. I don't believe you would have had an equivalent impression if we had been able to discuss the matter fully and if I had followed through with later information. At the time of our telephone conversation I felt entirely satisfied that you would go ahead with your plan anyhow. I felt that another telephone call would be unnecessary in view of your immediate response and that a letter would not reach you because you were away from any address I could be certain of.

I was immensely pleased and relieved when you declared over the telephone that you were not asking anyone in the ~~Government~~ for this advice and that the question of whoever could participate or not would be a matter for discussion only after you returned. At that time it would likely be seen in an entirely different light. As you said, it would then be up to those desiring to participate to establish whether they could participate or not.

I impressed on Marc the need to communicate to his former boss that any telegram would tend to establish ~~px~~ a policy position limiting to future freedom of action by the administration, that they should wait at least until you returned after your trip: no commitment would be made until then, and at that time it would be possible to make a better evaluation of the potentialities of your plan. I also urged him to throw doubt on the certitude of his/~~three~~^{boss's} interdependent assumptions, namely, that the study would break into the news (and that this would have the following repercussions), that the resulting harrangue would damage individuals concerned and the administration, and that it would perhaps wreck future negotiations. I felt that none of these assumptions ~~were~~ likely to take place. If the first happened, the most serious damage would be to the success of the project itself; its effect on the individuals concerned and on the administration would be as likely to be constructive as destructive. I also felt strongly that even if the project were not completely successful, it might prove useful as a model, and ~~it~~ would most likely have a good rather than bad effect on future negotiations. It would help directly in getting both sides to move rather than sit on dead centers in a highly polarized relationship.

Marc did return visit with his former boss. The upshot of all of this was that no telegram or letter was sent. I had confirmation of this

that same evening, again in 48 hours and again today -- so there was no delayed action either.

Let me begin filling in details at an earlier moment. After you left, I was pleased that you kept in close touch. I kept our mutual friend fully informed at each step by telephone. His reaction was stable, always consistent with his reaction when you ~~first~~ presented the idea to him originally. He expressed the opinion that he doubted whether the scheme could be worked out completely favorably, but that it would be entirely worthwhile and he couldn't see any way in which it would interfere. He is ~~completely~~ ^{deeply} impressed with evidence of your unique relationship with the principals (and principles!) involved. The loss or ~~any~~ interference with your invaluable personal acquaintance and trust among important persons controlling both sides of the discourse would be a substantial loss to American interests and the longer range interests of all mankind. This he knows. This is also abundantly clear to a lot of other people. It was his impression, I am sure, that the most likely stumbling block to success of your plan lay beyond the reach of the administration. The results you obtained through personal action go a long way toward assuring success of your plan and also a long way toward illuminating the value of getting off dead center - especially through the means of technically competent and intellectually influential persons like yourself.

Allan Forbes and I had already discussed the fact that it might be wise to inform a few key people in the administration just where matters stood then. It was my idea that he, Feld and Doering should have copies of the correspondence and that a few extra copies be made for these key people. My impression was that if only one person knew the events as they unfolded, he might feel increasingly uneasy, but that if a few among those with whom you had talked or who were indirectly but closely ~~in~~ acquainted with your plan also were brought up to date, their mutuality of insight would be stabilizing on each of them. We talked about several persons and made six extra copies; however, only one copy ~~was~~ of this six was released -- this one to Marc. (Forbes, Feld and Doering and I had four additional copies - hence I still hold five.)

Marc assured me in a most serious weighing of the matter that he had been asked by you originally to explore the matter with his former boss, that he had shown him your letter of October 9, and that his boss seemed favorably inclined to the proposal. Since the letter of October 9 contained all features of the plan, I did not see that anything untoward would likely happen with the revelation to him of your grand progress. He saw Gerry the next day (Friday) on other matters and brought up this matter - receiving a reasonable response. The correspondence was then left by Marc for his former boss that night. Saturday morning Marc was called in. The boss's concern was threefold: i) that the project could not be kept out of the limelight, ii) that if it got out it would damage individuals and the administration, and iii) following that there would be damage wrought on future negotiations. When Marc reported this to me, I immediately telephoned Allan and asked whether he didn't think you should be informed. He thought so and I telephoned you right away. I talked at length with Marc (as give above). It came out in this more protracted conversation that

Marc had had some disagreement with you about the proposal itself. It seemed that he felt the persons involved should be entirely clear of the Government even as to consultant relationships. His expression was "I told Leo this 100 times." It thus becomes clear that Marc was not the best envoy to anyone on this matter because he ~~not only~~ did not see that it was essential to the success of the plan as you ~~immediately~~ conceived it that the individuals concerned would be "among the consultants to the Government and those who hold a junior position in the Government." Although they would not be "anyone who holds a key position in the Government", nevertheless, they would be able to make their position directly available to the Government and not indirectly through public discourse. I have the impression, therefore, that when Marc was confronted with someone who disapproved the participation of Government employees or consultants, he was not able to be very effective in response. He himself did not recognize the indispensable ~~feature~~ nature of this feature of your plan, nor did he approve it.

I ~~can~~^{could} well understand Marc's former boss getting upset if shown the correspondence de novo, but I cannot understand it after his having seen the letter of October 9, because the very feature he protests to is clearly laid out there. I have the impression that his review of the October 9 letter was not very thorough, or that now that some definite results were promising, that is, now that the most likely block did not materialize, he suddenly felt uneasy about it. I stressed with Marc most seriously to communicate the fact that uneasiness over this plan would hardly be consistent with taking the enormous risks so recently taken when the plan offers an opportunity to reduce those largest risks. Marc revealed also that there may be some personal jealousy ~~for~~ from a man in his position (and of his character) expressed against someone outside the Establishment who has a rationality and personal relations that are so effective on the grand stage of the world.

The upshot of these discussions was that no message was sent. However, since I did not inform you in any follow-up on this, I left you with the strong impression that perhaps a hard and far-reaching policy decision had been taken. I don't believe this is justified in the light of what I understand, although by my failure to communicate further, you were left in no doubt of it.

As I understand events since that time, you have communicated to the Chairman that there has been a hitch of some sort in Washington and asked him ~~if~~ whether, under the circumstances, you should come. He, of course, had no alternative but to say No.

The plan - and the progress you made - is more important than the hitch itself, I believe. There is certainly no diminution in the number of "angels" available - some are making their appearance now who were indifferent or antipathetic before the recent Cuban episode. My impression is that there is now a better atmosphere and a better foundation of understanding of the requirement than there was when you started. I believe we might well be able to obtain particular help in the matter now. The idea

* I mean for the first time.

is too good to abandon. My thought would be to explore on this side at the same level as you did there and then to go forward with the plan as originally conceived. It would seem to me possible to go back to the Chairman, when you have the information settled here, and inform him that the block is now relieved. His plainspoken reply, "I like your proposal" indicates, I believe, that his position is not likely to change. If you can establish that the hitch is removed, I believe you can go on with a more solid foundation than heretofore. Your instincts to go right to the top were and still are good. I think this can likely be arranged. Moreover, one of the main features of rational planning is that it is likely to have some endurance of value. This is a good idea for 1962 (after the November elections, and after the Cuban intervention), but it is also good for 1963. Better ~~than~~ 1963 than 1964, for reason of domestic politics. But my deeper impression is that Mr. Kennedy needs to have some substantial progress in the direction of your plan and that this will be ~~about~~ politically reinforcing rather than the opposite.

I am exceedingly impressed with progressively stronger response to the program you initiated for abolishing war through action of a Council and a Lobby. McGovern is definitely in, and he owes his success more to you than to anyone. I am confident that the administration is (or should be-- and will be if it is done ~~in~~ correctly) ~~is~~ immensely grateful for his reelection and for your role in political action. Certainly, the Lobby will be something to reckon with in the future. As compared with any other program for improvement of our long range destiny, there is nothing to compare with what you set in motion.

Have a look at the articles on McNamara in the recent issues of both Life and the Saturday Evening Post. The dates of the issues are ~~November~~ December 1 and December 3 I believe. This may give you firmer insight into how some useful things might be accomplished.

Leo and Trude, we miss you both very much. Did you have a chance to visit at all with the Dorets and Postersaks in Geneva? I should like you to meet some very dear friends of mine in Paris, but lets put that off until I see you again here.

With affectionate greetings to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Bob

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda 14, Maryland

December 1, 1962

Professor Leo Szilard
c/o Professor Weisskopf and
c/o Professor Monod simultaneously

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- 4 -

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With affectionate greetings to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Bob

Robert B. Livingston, M.B.

December 29, 1962

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

From: Leo Szilard

To: Dr. Robert B. Livingston

This memorandum describes the genesis of a project aimed at utilizing private channels of communications with the Russians for the purpose of finding out what kind of an agreement concerning arms control might be negotiable.

At the Pugwash meeting held last August in Cambridge, England, one of our Russian colleagues, R., talked to me about the need of making some progress on the issue of disarmament. There was a note of insistence and urgency in what he said to me which was not present in any of our previous conversations.

For a number of years I have attended the so-called Pugwash meetings; R. was one of our Russian colleagues whom I met repeatedly and we have a relationship of mutual trust. Whether he likes or dislikes what I say to him, R. knows that I say it because I believe it to be true and not for any other reason. Nor has R. ever said anything to me that he, personally, didn't believe to be true.

On this occasion, I told R. of a privately sponsored project aimed at getting around the current impasse in the disarmament negotiations. What struck me was his insistence that we do in a hurry whatever we intended to do. He said the Khrushchev had expected to reach an accommodation with the Kennedy Administration and that as long as he had hoped that this would be possible, he had kept the lid on the arms race, but that with this hope virtually gone, the lid was off now.

Re indicated to me a number of different lines along which technical development was proceeding in Russia. He thought that unless there were to arise some fresh hope that arms control may be obtained in the near future, before long we would reach a point of no return in an all out arms race. I have heard the same concern expressed before, by some of our American colleagues, but never before by any of our Russian colleagues.

When I got back to Washington I called on a few people in the Administration and told them about this conversation with R.

Everybody in the Administration knows that America cannot be made secure by trying to keep ahead in the arms race. Some of them are on the side of the Angels and would be willing to give up, if necessary, certain temporary advantages we hold at present for the sake of ending the arms race. Others seem to want to eat their cake and have it too; they would like us to have an agreement with Russia that would stop the arms race but they also want to hold on to any temporary superiority that we may have for as long as possible.

I found the Angels frustrated and groping in the dark. They were unsure whether Russia would be likely to accept any kind of an agreement providing for arms controls, nor did they know which of the various acceptable approaches to this problem would be most likely to find favor with the Russians. They told me that there had been occasionally very friendly informal conversations with Russian negotiators but that these had been wholly unproductive and didn't furnish any guidance as to what kind of arms control Russia would be most likely to accept.

Some of the obstacles that seem to block the road to arms control are rather formidable but perhaps they are not unsurmountable and it would be rather tragic if a failure in communications were to cause an impasse. Therefore I asked myself whether it might not be possible to explore, through privately arranged conversations with the Russians, what form of arms control may be negotiable.

Such conversations would be useful only if both the Americans and the Russians who participate in them feel free to speak their minds. The Russians are perfectly capable of speaking their minds freely but only if instructed to do so, and no one except Chairman Khrushchev is in a position to issue such instructions.

I have met Khrushchev about two years ago. Our conversation was scheduled to last fifteen minutes but went on for two hours. It was a good conversation and a month later when I attended the Pugwash meeting in Moscow I discovered that those of our Russian colleagues of the Soviet Academy of Sciences who participated in the meeting had a detailed report of this conversation.

Before writing to Chairman Khrushchev I outlined the project that I had in mind to a few people in the Administration. I also discussed the project with a number of those from among whom the participants in the project might be chosen.

Encouraged by the responses I then talked with Dobrynin and I had a good conversation with him. He drew my attention to a difficulty which had not previously occurred to me. He pointed out that in America there are a number of distinguished men, many of them scientists, who act as consultants or advisers to the Government on arms control, but who are not involved in the day to

day operations of the Government, and that there are no counterparts to these men in the Soviet Union. Dobrynin said further that the number of government employees who work full time on the problem of arms control is much smaller in Russia than in America; he said he could count on his ten fingers the people in Moscow who could participate in the proposed project and be good at it. Still, Dobrynin thought that the project ought to be seriously considered and he offered to transmit a letter from me to Chairman Khrushchev. The text of my letter dated October 9 is below:

CONFIDENTIAL COPY

Washington, D. C.
October 9, 1962

N. S. Khrushchev
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Mr. Khrushchev:

When I had the privilege of talking to you in New York, a year ago last October, I thought that no matter whether Nixon or Kennedy were elected, a fresh attempt would be made to reach an understanding with the Soviet Union that would end the arms race. Events have not borne me out so far. With President Kennedy, a number of young and exceptionally able men moved into the Administration; many of them are deeply concerned about our drifting into an all-out arms race, but so far matters have not taken a turn for the better. It would seem that something would have to be done at this time if the arms race is to be halted before it reaches a point of no return and it would appear that there is perhaps something that I myself could undertake at this particular point. The purpose of this letter is to find out whether what I propose to do would meet with your full approval.

First, I wish to say, if I may, the following:

Contrary to what one might think, most people closely connected with the Administration are keenly aware of the need of avoiding an all-out arms race. Moreover, there are a number of men among them who are "on the side of the angels" and who have consistently taken the position that the United States should be prepared to give up certain temporary advantages it holds, for the sake of attaining an agreement with the Soviet Union that would stop the arms race. These "angels" do not dominate the scene in Washington at present but, given certain favorable circumstances, their influence could be very considerable and perhaps decisive. Some of these "angels" hold key positions in the Administration; others hold junior positions in the White House, the Department of State and the Department of Defense and owe their influence not to their rank but to their ability and perseverance; and still others are consultants to the Government and owe their influence to the high respect in which their opinions are held.

Recently, I attended the Pugwash Conference in Cambridge, England, where I had good conversations with some of our Russian colleagues. Upon my return to Washington, I met with some of the "angels" who hold key positions and found that they were groping in the dark. They were quite uncertain just how far-reaching the reduction of armaments in the first stages of any proposed disarmament agreement would have to go and what form it would have to take in order to make the proposals acceptable to the Soviet Union. Moreover, some of them have begun to doubt whether Russia would accept any reasonable disarmament proposal, even if it were to provide for a very far-reaching reduction of armaments in the first stages.

In the past, many of these men have worked very hard trying to persuade the Government to put forward proposals in Geneva which the Soviet Union would be able to accept, as a basis of negotiations. On many occasions,

they did not prevail in Washington, and on the occasions when they did prevail, it turned out that the proposals which they had drafted were not acceptable to Russia. If their proposals are to be accepted in Washington, these men must put in long hours of work, must be willing to quarrel with their friends, must risk being politically exposed and must be ready to resign their jobs, if necessary. One cannot expect them to go on indefinitely putting up a fight again and again only to find, if they prevail in Washington, that their proposals are not acceptable to the Soviet Union.

The "angels" have not as yet given up the fight but they are rather close to it, and if they were to give up, we would be in serious trouble; for if these men cease to exert themselves in Washington, then there can no longer be any useful negotiations on disarmament.

In order to appraise the chances of the Geneva negotiations we must first of all realize that even though America may submit a good draft agreement on general and complete disarmament in Geneva, it would at present be impossible to give the Soviet Union any real assurance that America would in fact go through, stage by stage, all the way to general and complete disarmament; as long as Russia and America do not reach a meeting of the minds on the issue of how the peace may be secured in a disarmed world, the later stages of any draft agreement will remain couched in such general terms as to be virtually meaningless. (It is impossible to say how long it might take for Russia and America to reach a meeting of the minds on this issue, but something should be done now in order to prepare the ground for a constructive discussion of this problem. I have touched upon this point in a conversation with Ambassador Dobrynin and hope to pursue this topic with him further.)

At the present time, only the provisions of the first few stages of a disarmament agreement can be defined clearly enough to offer reasonable assurance that if the agreement were accepted, the provisions would be implemented on schedule. Therefore, the immediate concrete task before us is to try and devise a draft for an agreement which might be acceptable to America and which would provide in the first, clearly defined, stages for sufficiently far-reaching arms reduction to make the agreement attractive to Russia - even in the absence of any real assurance that disarmament would proceed beyond these first few stages in the predictable future.

The project which I propose to discuss addresses itself exclusively to this issue. Assuming your full approval, I would invite three of the American "angels" to meet for a period of two or three weeks with three of their Russian counterparts. I would not include among the American participants anyone who holds a key position in the Administration. Rather, I would select the American participants from among the consultants to the Government and those who hold a junior position in the Government. They would be expected to draft, together with their Russian counterparts, a proposal for the first stages of the disarmament agreement which they personally would be willing to advocate in Moscow and Washington. Presumably, they would examine various alternative proposals in the course of their discussions and they would be expected to state in each case frankly whether they are personally opposed to a particular proposal and, if so, why, or whether they would be personally

in favor of a given proposal but would be unwilling to advocate it because they saw no chance of being able to persuade their government to accept it. The draft agreement that would emerge would commit no one, except those who prepared it; they would be expected to advocate and, if necessary, to fight for the provisions which it contains.

The Russian participants would be expected to fulfill much the same function as the American participants. I propose to discuss tentatively the identity of the American participants with Ambassador Dobrynin and if the project is approved, I would need later on to discuss with him the precise instructions which the Russian and the American participants would have to receive in order to make it likely that the discussions would be productive.

Such a project would be bound to fail if either the participants, or their governments, were to regard these discussions as a negotiation. Certain precautions will have to be taken in order to avoid this pitfall and I would be somewhat reluctant to invite anyone holding a rank above that of a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Government to participate in the discussions on the American side.

I explained what I proposed to do to a number of men in high positions in the Administration whose opinions I respect. I made it clear to them that I am not seeking at this point the permission of the Government to go forward with this project. (Naturally, if invited to participate, Americans who are connected with an agency of the Government would need to clear their own participation with that agency.)

Having listened to what these men had to say, I saw Ambassador Dobrynin on September 18, told him what I proposed to do and had a good conversation with him.

Thereafter, I approached individually about ten of the "angels" about their possible participation in the proposed discussion. Because I met with a very encouraging response, I am now ready to take the next step. I shall see Ambassador Dobrynin, discuss with him some of the details with which I do not need to trouble you here and ask him to transmit this letter to you.

If this project meets with your full approval, I would want to go forward with it at once. Because of the forthcoming American elections, it would not be advisable to try to hold the meeting before November 8. It would be, however, desirable to hold the meeting as soon as possible thereafter, so that it may take place before the Berlin issue reaches a crisis stage.

If it were possible for me to discuss this project with you personally, I would be able to state in Washington with full assurance that the project is not being misunderstood by the Soviet Government and that it is not looked upon as a negotiation, so to speak, through the back door. This would greatly improve the chances of securing the participation of those who, among the men I have approached, have the greatest influence in Washington.

I understand that you might be coming to New York and, in this case, I would hope to have an opportunity to see you there; however, if this would mean a delay of more than two weeks, and if you were able to see me in Moscow at an early date, then I would prefer to fly to Moscow for the sake of avoiding such a delay.

The invitation to the American participants would be issued by me either personally or in my capacity as the Chairman of a committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston - a non-governmental institution which has been lately sponsoring the Pugwash meetings.

A reply would reach me fastest in care of your Ambassador in Washington, D. C.

Respectfully,

s/

Leo Szilard
Hotel DuPont Plaza
Washington 6, D. C.

My letter of October 9 was written before the Cuban crisis. The text of Khrushchev's reply which was written after the Cuban crisis on November 4, is below:

CONFIDENTIAL COPY

Unofficial translation

Dear Dr. Szilard,

I have received your letter and I am very glad that you are healthy and full of new ideas. I should say that I have read your letter with great satisfaction, I was especially pleased to learn that you display great concern over the intensification of the armaments race and seek ways toward safeguarding peace.

The international crisis that we have just survived reminds to all people of good will in a very acute form how actual and urgent is the question of a reasonable solution of the disarmament problem. Disarmament is necessary to exclude the danger of a destructive and devastating thermonuclear war, and during those days the world was practically on the brink of such a war.

I was interested in what you write about your "angels" who realize all the dangers of the continuing all-absorbing armaments race and feel responsibility before history.

For a great many years the disarmament negotiations have been carried on among the Governments at various levels but these negotiations bring no results whatsoever. It appears that the main reason for such a situation lies in the fact that the forces which determine the policy in the countries of capitalist world feel great uncertainty about their future. They seem to be afraid that disarmament may, so to say, bring nearer their end and they hope that the armaments race and the building up of the armed forces which they have created can prolong the existence of the capitalist system.

This is, of course, a dangerous delusion. How can one expect to retard the succession of one social system by another by the force of arms,

against the will of the peoples themselves?

In the era of rocket and nuclear weapons only a madman could pursue the objective of reaching his political ends by unleashing a thermonuclear war. The war between the states would lead to the total defeat of the aggressor. But it would bring untold sufferings to all the peoples of the world, because it would mean a nuclear war which would probably quickly develop into a world war.

But some statesmen seem to underestimate the consequences to which a war of today might lead. But even if they realize it they are unable to overpower the negative forces. Moreover, they themselves have no desire to make the necessary efforts for they are the product of the same environment and they are subject to the same delusion.

I have considered your proposal for an unofficial Soviet-American meeting at a non-governmental level to exchange views and examine the possibility of coming to an agreement on disarmament. I like this proposal. I also thought that perhaps there should be held a meeting on the disarmament problem with the participation of scientists or public figures. My understanding is that the participants of the meeting which you have in mind are not to be officials or representatives of governments of their respective countries. They are to hold their discussions without, if I may say so outsiders, without microphones, without short-hand typists, without correspondents, without representatives of television or radio corporations. And the conclusions to which they would come are to be considered as their personal views. But at the same time they are to be the people enjoying respect and confidence of the public opinion in their countries. Otherwise such a meeting could turn into an idle tea party talk and pastime and nobody would attach any importance to the agreement reached there.

It would be another matter if these persons were people of a definite reputation in public opinion. In that case they would be able to carry out some serious work. Their conclusions could greatly influence the public opinion and even officials and governments would have to listen to them.

If you are willing to undertake this task which, I would say, is rather a difficult one, - we welcome your idea and we are ready to try this as another possibility of strengthening the cause of peace. We leave it to you to decide how this could be done. You may forward your further considerations to our Ambassador to Washington, and should you wish, as you write, to come to Moscow, we shall be glad to welcome you on the Moscow soil and to see you.

With respect

N. KHRUSHCHEV

November 4, 1962

Khrushchev's letter of November 4 reached me on November 15 in Geneva. While it seems to be a warm personal letter and appears on the face of it very positive, it contains a passage which is not clear. This passage reads:

"It would be another matter if these persons were people of a definite reputation in public opinion. In that case they would be able to carry out some serious work. Their conclusions could greatly influence the public opinion and even officials and governments would have to listen to them."

I felt that I had to make sure that there was no serious misunderstanding before basing any further action on Khrushchev's letter. The text of the letter dated November 15 which I wrote in response is given below:

CONFIDENTIAL COPY

Geneva, 15th November 1962

N. S. Khrushchev,
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR,
Moscow.

Dear Mr. Khrushchev,

I was very much moved by your kind letter of November 4th which reached me last night in Geneva. Since I can imagine how disturbing the recent crisis must have been for you I am all the more grateful that you found the time to answer my letter of October 9th.

Your answer raises the issue of who the American participants in the proposed project ought to be in order to make the project really effective. You will find the names of those among whom I would propose to choose the American participants - and some other relevant information - in the Appendix which is attached to this letter.

As you will see most of those named are consultants to the Department of State, Department of Defense and the White House. Because of their special relationship to the US Government they could be very effective in fighting for specific disarmament proposals which would make sense, if the proposed project were carried out. However, because of this relationship they would have to fight for any such proposals in Washington and they would not be in a position to influence the Government through the pressure of public opinion. In spite of this limitation these men could be effective, I believe, because so many key people inside of the Administration know by now that America cannot be made secure by keeping ahead in the arms race.

If what I am saying makes sense to you, then I would propose to go from Geneva first to Moscow and to return thereafter from Moscow to Washington. In Moscow I would want to discuss with someone designated by you

who the American and Russian participants ought to be in order to make the project as effective as possible. In a preliminary conversation which I had with Ambassador Dobrynin on this subject we discussed the difficulty of finding the exact Russian counterparts to the American participants, which arises from the fact that the Soviet Government has very few, if any, consultants in the field of disarmament. I believe that Ambassador Dobrynin has communicated at that time with Federov, General Secretary of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, in this matter, and perhaps you would want me to talk to Federov also.

It is my thought that if I could discuss these matters in Moscow with someone designated by you, and if I were able to see you also, then on my return to Washington I would be in a good position to help the Americans invited to participate in the project in clearing their participation with the governmental agency with which they are connected. This is my main reason why I would prefer to visit Moscow before I return to Washington.

I trust that you will let me know if there is a date in the near future when you could be reasonably sure that you could see me, if I came to Moscow for a few days. My wife, who also functions as my doctor, would accompany me on the trip.

Your letter of November 4th was transmitted to me by Mr. Moliakov, Permanent Representative of the USSR, to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva. I am now asking him to transmit my letter to you and to transmit a copy of it to Ambassador Dobrynin. Mr. Moliakov could transmit a reply from you to me in Geneva.

Respectfully,

/s/
Leo Szilard

In response to my letter of November 15 the head of the Russian Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, N. J. Moliakov, conveyed to me, a few days later, the Chairman's invitation to come and see him in Moscow.

It was thereupon arranged that I would fly, with my wife, to Moscow on November 26.

Two days before that date you phoned me from Washington and told me that you had decided to advise a high Government official about the project because you felt that he ought to know about it at an early date. You told me that you approached this official through an intermediary and that you understood that this official had serious misgivings about the proposed project.

I decided thereupon to cancel my flight to Moscow. I explained to Chairman Khrushchev what had happened and left it up to him whether he preferred that I come to Moscow before I returned to Washington or whether he preferred that I clear matters in Washington first.

Khrushchev's reply reached me in the form of a telephone message brought to me by Moliakov. He said that Chairman Khrushchev thought that I would know best whether in the circumstances I would want to go to Moscow or whether I would rather go back to Washington and clear matters there first. The Chairman felt that perhaps it would be better for me to go first to Washington but that it was up to me to make this decision.

Thereupon I told Moliakov that I would return to Washington and communicate with the Chairman later on through Ambassador Dobrynin. Moliakov stressed that I was free to change my mind, my visa was valid for another two weeks and if I went to Moscow the

Chairman would see me.

I did not go to Moscow, but returned to Washington. I believe I can go to Moscow at any time, but I would want to do this only if I can bring with me the names of those who have definitely agreed to participate in the project, if invited to do so.

This is meant to be a non-governmental project and it would be well to involve the United States Government as little as possible. I do not, therefore, propose to ask that the Government officially take a stand on the project.

Those individuals, however, who may be invited to participate in the project and who are connected with a governmental agency would want to discuss their participation with that agency. If they are employed by a governmental agency they would, moreover, need to know that they would obtain a leave of absence for two or three weeks--the duration of their participation in the project. It is essential therefore that the Government smile on the project rather than frown on it and certain key people in the Administration would need to be informed of the project before anyone is asked to participate in it. Informal conversation with certain key people in the Administration might also be needed to provide guidance as to who the most desirable participants would be.

Everything would be done to protect those who participate in the project from unwanted publicity. Still, the usefulness to the Government of some men might be impaired if they were to participate. It is my hope that the governmental agencies would let each man decide for himself whether he would want to incur such a risk, for the sake of the potential benefit which the project might yield.

C O P Y

June 6, 1963

Dr. Robert B. Livingston
9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Bob:

I should very much appreciate your transmitting the attached memorandum to Secretary McNamara. The typewritten text of the specific proposal, which I have been currently discussing with a number of individuals within the Administration and some Members of the Senate, is clipped to the memorandum. Among those who responded favorably are Governor Harriman, who offered to arrange for a little dinner at which those who recognize the importance of the problem could discuss with each other what the best solution might be, and Senator George McGovern, who called me up a few days ago to say that he has re-read the memorandum and that he wondered if there was anything that he could do to move matters forward. My present inclination is to complete my present exploration as soon as possible and then perhaps hand over the ball to Senator George McGovern and let him carry it.

Sooner or later it will be necessary to decide who should present the proposition to the President. This ought to be somebody who is deeply concerned, and who feels that we are headed for trouble and that time is running out.

If Secretary McNamara is in agreement with the memorandum, I would appreciate an opportunity to talk with him during the week of June 17th. After that I shall be in Europe; for how long will depend on how much I could accomplish if I were to return to Washington in July.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

hls

Dr. Robert Livingstone
The National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland
United States of America.

Geneva, 16th August, 1963

Dear Bob,

Many thanks for your letter. I am sorry that we cannot count on your friend Bob. In the meantime I have received two letters from Adlai Stevenson, expressing interest in the project, so I intend to carry on.

The Angels project has been declined by the Soviet Government on the grounds that I was not able to obtain permission for the participation of Angels junior who are officials of the U.S. Government.

The trouble with Chicago has been straightened out, at least for the next year, but I have to visit Chicago in October.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have written to Frederick Stone. I should greatly appreciate if you were to call at his office and to find out whether this letter has been received and whether action has been taken on it.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

February 7, 1964

Dr. Robert B. Livingston
9201 Burning Tree Road
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Bob:

Having returned from California I called you today over the telephone but was told that you are out of town until Wednesday.

Attached is a Summary of my paper, of which I am enclosing two copies. This paper will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. If your friend, Bob, were to read it and if he had any questions, I should appreciate an opportunity to answer them at his convenience sometime before February 20. On that date I am leaving Washington for the West Coast, where I shall be thereafter "permanently".

I shall call you next week, or if I don't, please call me, at your convenience, at the Hotel Dupont Plaza.

I have met the new Dean of the Medical School of the University of California at La Jolla and am very much taken by him.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

March 15, 1964

Joseph Stokes III, M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine
University of California
San Diego, California

Dear Joe:

Many thanks for your good letter of March 4. I have been away giving lectures and hence have been unable to respond until now. It was a real pleasure to meet you and to see Bob Hamburger again. I was delighted to have an opportunity to visit with you both. You are certainly developing interesting concepts for the new school. From the national point of view, in relation to both education and research, your campus appears to enjoy the finest opportunity that is likely to become available in the foreseeable future. Dr. Stone and I will certainly follow your progress in ideas and activity with great interest. Please send along any program projections you prepare, even in preliminary form.

In relation to the need for a Division of Neurological Sciences and a Division of Behavioral Sciences, your suggestion for putting these two together seems wise. Research is rapidly joining what man has long separated in his thinking and practice. Patient care, research training and conceptual growth in the future are undoubtedly going to be oriented more toward man as a whole and toward the mind-brain combination.

Naturally, the first and most important question is how you are going to focus responsibility for developing this program. If you were to encounter difficulty in recruiting someone who could adequately represent both the neurobiological and the psychobehavioral sciences and who could assume central responsibility in this field from basic sciences to clinical research and care programs, then separate Divisions might be required. The complaint that you are not following traditional patterns is inadequate. I believe there are some individuals peculiarly fitted for such an appointment.

✓ My first choice would be Dr. Seymour S. Kety. He put together such a combined basic and clinical, mental and neurological program at the National Institutes of Health. This program involved about 350 scientists and some 1200 persons, with a direct research budget of more

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than \$5 million covering some twelve disciplines ranging from physical chemistry to sociology. Seymour began life as a pharmacologist but has performed distinguished service and research in physiology, biochemistry and clinical research. When he was an intern, he developed an entirely new method for clinical treatment of heavy metal poisoning. He developed methods for determining cerebral blood flow and oxygen consumption in man and partitioned (localized) cerebral blood flow and oxygen consumption in animals. He has had training in psychiatry, including psychoanalysis, and served for a while as Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychiatrist-In-Chief of the Phipps Clinic at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is now Chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Sciences of the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda.

✓ Another person I would recommend is Dr. Robert Galambos. For ten years he was Chief of the Department of Neurophysiology at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, in Washington. This became a world famous research organization. Bob is a most distinguished investigator and teacher. He recently went to Yale University where he is the Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology and Physiology.

✓ Horace W. Magoun, Dean of the Graduate Division at UCLA, is probably responsible, more than anyone else, for placing the keystone in the bridge between the biological and psychological sciences. His pioneering research revolutionized both neurophysiology and psychology, and led to the kind of unity within which psychopharmacology and other disciplines have made so much progress lately. I don't know whether you can invite him away from UCLA, but he would be ideally fitted intellectually and in terms of personal and professional qualifications and stature. Certainly he would be a good man to advise you on development of this Division.

✓ Two other persons would also be excellent choices: Dr. James Olds, who is now at Michigan, and Dr. Hans-Lukas Teuber, who is at MIT. Each has provided a unified conceptual approach to the nervous system from a behavioral point of view; each is a distinguished scientist and excellent teacher. Jim Olds is responsible for discovering central mechanisms relating to positive and negative reinforcement (reward and punishment) so fundamental to learning and memory. Luke Teuber has been interested in the entire brain-mind domain in a critical and scholarly fashion, and has pursued important studies on perceptual processes in brain damaged individuals. X

Each of these individuals would be good advisors to the Neurosciences Division and to you as Dean in relation to the Division's

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establishment. In addition, for purposes of advice in this area, I would add Stanley Cobb (Professor Emeritus, Neuropathology, Faculty of Medicine, Harvard University), Francis O. Schmitt (Institute Professor, Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Donald O. Hebb (Professor of Psychology, McGill University), Theodore H. Bullock (Professor of Zoology, UCLA), and Harry F. Harlow (Research Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin).

You asked also for a "list of names of individuals who might serve usefully in a conference to be held next fall which would bring here thoughtful individuals, none of whom work in schools of medicine or within the University of California system, but all of whom have been associated with medical science." You gave Francis Schmitt as a good example. I suggest the following: Francis Schmitt, Leo Szilard, Philip Handler (Professor and Chairman, Department of Biochemistry & Nutrition, Duke University School of Medicine), James Dixon (an M.D. who is President of Antioch College), Robert S. Morison (Director, for Medical and Natural Sciences, The Rockefeller Foundation), Hudson Hoagland (Director, Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, Shrewsbury, Mass., and President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences), Russell V. Lee (The Palo Alto Clinic), David L. Bazelon (Circuit Judge, U. S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.), Gerard Piel (Publisher, Scientific American), and Ernest M. Allen (Grants Policy Officer, Office of the Surgeon General, Public Health Service). You can depend on each of these men for excellent judgment and advice. You can quickly recognize numerous reasons for each of them being listed for such an advisory group.

Finally, you suggested that I try to supply a list of persons who could fit together in a Neurosciences Division covering both neurological and behavioral domains pertinent to the new medical school. It would seem desirable to pick persons who are individually great in their own right as investigators and teachers and who at the same time would enjoy the shared adventure of contributing to a theme or common denominator of interests extending throughout the whole complement of neuroscience disciplines. A theme I would suggest embraces the theoretical and practical unknowns relating to mechanisms controlling living processes. These controls are in evidence genetically, during development of the nervous system and development of behavior, and in relation to physical, psychical and social integration. This mind-brain-control theme can be molded around normal and abnormal states and disorders and can be man oriented. It has intellectual contents which run strongly through the physical and mathematical sciences and form conceptual and practical relations with all of the life sciences and clinical specialties.

4-Joseph Stokes III, M.D.

March 15, 1964

Enclosed is a sketch list of a "team," i.e., each individual fills more than any traditional disciplinary niche and would have close intellectual and working relations with other individuals on the list. Hence, if we got more serious about this, I would propose making up five or six complementary "team" lists from which particular cross individual or combined substitutions might be made. If you were to recruit according to such a scheme, recruitment en bloc would be advantageous; in fact, self-recruitment of individuals brought together as a group to discuss how to develop an ideal Neurosciences Division might be most effective.

It may well be that some of these individuals cannot be recruited. However, I would prefer to develop a list to do the best job, sound them out gingerly in the course of getting substantive advice and then establish whether they might not come as a team. This list was put together without knowing who would head up the Division, but with the presumption that the head of the Division might be one of the individuals suggested earlier. Any list of this kind can be picked apart as not covering the waterfront, not being symmetrically balanced, etc., which is true. Actually, a number of additional names that are likely to be volunteered have already come to mind in the course of preparing this draft "team" and appear on back-up lists, the discrimination of which is not open and shut. I will spare you, however, as this letter is already too lengthy.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.

Enc.

RBL:md

Draft Suggestions to Dean Stokes for Neurosciences
Division "team"

March 15, 1964

Eduardo DeRobertis	-	electron microscopist, cytochemist
Rita Montalcini	-	discovered specific growth factors controlling nervous tissue growth
Richard Sidman	-	tracer of cell migrations in developing nervous system of embryo
Walle J. H. Nauta	-	developed and exploited means to stain and trace pauci-myelinated fibers through- out the nervous system
Felix Strumwasser	-	electrophysiologist, interested in biological rhythms and other integrative mechanisms
Eugene Roberts	-	functional neurochemistry
Julius Axelrod	-	basic neuropharmacology
Neal Miller	-	experimental psychology
Abraham Wikler	-	clinical psychology, clinical psycho- pharmacology
George Szilow	-	eclectic psychiatrist
Cosimo Ajmone-Marsan	-	electroencephalographer
Rachmiel Levine	-	clinical endocrinologist
David Hamburg	-	psychiatrist, especially interested in endocrinology and coping behavior
Jerome Bruner	-	cognitive processes
Nikolaas Tinbergen	-	ethology
William Caudill	-	sociology of therapeutic settings

file U.C

March 16, 1964

Dear Leo and Trude:

Gee, it was good to have the visit with you in La Jolla. It is possible to visualize you at home and at work quite successfully now, and among old and new acquaintances of ours. We think of you a great deal.

Bill Grazier asked for your CV, Leo, which Marie will send off expeditiously.

Enclosed are copies of letters invited by Joe Stokes. When we talked last by telephone, he was quite outspoken and forward in his interests in my joining the new school. We shall see.

I have been trying to do something helpful respecting Roger Revelle's possible appointment as Chancellor to succeed Herb York. The applause given Roger when he spoke at the dedication of Walter Munk's new Geophysical Institute was quite moving. I gathered from talking to Carl Eckhart, Russell Raitt, Walter Munk, Gustav Arrhenius, Hugh Bradner and others that there has been a significant change of heart among leaders on the LJ campus in favor of Roger as ~~an~~ a chief executive for the new school. Evidently, they had a narrower concept of administrative talents when the post was first vacant than they do now. I gather that they now realize that Roger's capacity to dream and inspire and recruit talent is indispensable to their high aspirations for the place. I hope they have all spoken out if this is the way they feel, and that the President and the Regents will attend to what they say.

I recently met a Dr. Robert Nisbet from the Riverside campus. He has been with the university since student days. He is fairly close to Clark Kerr, I understand and was sent down to Riverside as Dean of the Faculties, etc. when that campus was first started. He is also pulling strongly for Roger. Incidentally, he is also urging that our mutual friend here in Washington become President of the University whenever he might be available. He says that Clark Kerr would be interested in retiring from the Presidency sometime in the future: not in a hurry, but not wanting to stay on indefinitely. He thinks Kerr would be more interested in an ideal transition than in any particular timing of the event. I don't know whether Kerr has been thinking about this particular candidate, or whether Kerr's wish in the matter would be given much priority by the Regents even if he did have a strong opinion.

Mandy and the girls have been ice skating at the Silver Spring rink. They went down the the Natural History Museum as a troop on Sunday and enjoyed the exhibits. We hear Johnson over the radio from time to time, but I get no sense of uplift. Art Waskow had a good letter in this a.m.'s Post, but nothing new to you. We all miss you treeeeeemendoussssly. Come visit us soon. The trees in the park are beginning to come out. When Spring arrives, it is mighty welcome and beautiful.

Love to you both,

Bob -



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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April 8, 1964
(Dictated April 1, 1964)

Dr. Leo Szilard
Salk Institute for Biological Studies
P. O. Box 9499
San Diego, California

Dear Leo:

Thanks for your call. It was good to hear your voice. Thanks, too, for suggesting that I read the Wooldridge book. I have just finished it and enjoyed it immensely. It is, as he says, a sight-seeing tour by a man unfamiliar to the country. But what a man and what a mind! He has really grasped the subject matter. Although his selections are narrow, he has interpreted the material excellently; he has carried in mind central questions of prime importance; he has done a very exciting thing by revealing the limitations and opportunities of electronic computers in relation to the brain mechanisms he is depicting. Altogether Wooldridge's is an excellent piece of work, amazing for so short a time of exposure. Although there are a number of mistakes, these are minor, none effectively biases his main points. What is most fascinating and compelling is his invitation to collaboration! Much has been written in the area of Cybernetics, a good deal of it undigested. Most of that literature is sterile compared with what Wooldridge envisions. It will be exciting to follow his career. He might be an interesting individual to consider for association with the Salk Institute.

Thanks for your comments respecting Joe Stokes. It will be interesting to see him on his visit to the NIH on April 8 (sic). Do you know his associate, Bob Hamburger? He was a student of mine at Yale, one I remember well and thought highly of. He devoted himself for a few years to the clinical practice of pediatrics and later decided on a career in research. I am not familiar with his research, but he has been associated with Dave Bonner for some years and it is through Dave that Bob came to La Jolla. You and Trude might enjoy getting acquainted with him.

How is Trude? And how is your new home? You sounded fine, and we are all delighted to hear about your new paper. Send it along as soon as you can. Are you coming East for the Board meeting this weekend?

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Robert B. Livingston, M.D.