

C O P Y

May 30, 1963

VIA AIR MAIL

Academician Igor Tamm
Soviet Academy of Sciences
Leninski Prospect, Moscow
U.S.S.R.

Dear Tamm:

Attached you will find a letter which I wrote to Harrison Brown, who is the Foreign Secretary of our National Academy. I should appreciate receiving your personal reaction to the proposal I make in this letter. I have suggested in my letter to Harrison Brown that he may be guided by your personal reactions in deciding on whether or not our National Academy ought to approach officially the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

I have not discussed this matter with our European colleagues, but if your personal response is favorable then I would raise the issue with them in Geneva at the end of June.

I would suggest that you write me in care of Victor Weisskopf, Director General, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland, and that you send a copy of your letter to Harrison Brown, Foreign Secretary, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D.C.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

copy to Dr. Harrison Brown

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May 31, 1963

Academician Igor Tamm
Soviet Academy of Sciences
Leninski Prospect
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Tamm:

I wrote you yesterday and with my letter I enclosed the copy of a letter which I wrote to Harrison Brown. To-day, I am writing in order to raise a related issue.

It might be that it would make politically more sense for the Soviet Union to set up a laboratory on molecular biology in Geneva, jointly with the other European nations, rather than to set up such a laboratory jointly with the United States. If you think that this would be preferable from the point of view of the U.S.S.R., I shall be very glad to discuss this possibility with our European colleagues at the end of June in Geneva.

Such a venture would impose a smaller financial burden on the Soviet Union, but it would be more difficult to manage than a joint venture of our National Academy and the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and - because it would involve many different governments - it might also take a much longer time to set it up. Still, if either your response or else Harrison Brown's response to the proposal of a joint U.S. - U.S.S.R. operation should be negative, then one would have nothing to lose by trying to set up in Geneva a laboratory for molecular biology operating under the auspices of the nations of Europe, including the Soviet Union.

If I have your personal response to this letter and the letter which I wrote you yesterday, then I would discuss the relevant issues with our European colleagues at the end of June in Geneva.

Your answer to this letter should be sent to me care of Victor Weisskopf, Director General, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

June 17, 1963

Academician Igor Tamm
Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.
Leninski Prospect
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Tamm:

Recently, I mailed you a copy of a letter which I sent to Harrison Brown. In response, I received a letter from the President of our Academy which you will find enclosed.

I am flying Monday, June 24th, to Geneva, Switzerland, and I could be reached there care of Professor Victor Weisskopf, Director General, CERN.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

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Automation Battles Disease

By Robert S. Kleckner
Sun-Times Correspondent

HOUSTON — Automation, the specter of unemployment in the minds of millions, is creating new jobs for thousands in the medical fields.

At the same time, Dr. R. Lee Clark, director of M. D. Anderson Hospital in the Texas Medical Center here, said Thursday the mechanical "brains" are pinpointing data to improve treatments and to make new information from the researchers quickly available for clinical application.

Information Stored

In the last few years, detailed information has been coded and stored for immediate IBM computer recall on 48,000 patients.

Information on heredity, medical history and treatments used on the individual patient thus can be compared quickly and evaluated.

Also, this knowledge can help forecast what may happen to other persons with the same backgrounds and ailments.

Data collected here through the comparatively new sciences of biomathematics and biocomputing already has cut in half deaths of patients from cancer of the bladder because the computers, after digesting treatment and other data on previous similar patients, now can furnish the information on what therapy is best for a given individual.

The IBM machines have solved questions on what type of radiation—cobalt 60 or various types of high energy rays—is best suited for the patients and the time and frequency of exposure at various stages of cancer of the bladder.

In other fields of general medicine, like applications of computer data can be utilized in drug selection, dosage and various forms of therapy for specific diseases.

Dr. Clark, addressing science writers from throughout the nation and abroad here on a tour

sponsored by IBM, said:

"We now are beginning to get a standardized code or language in the sciences to feed into the machines and come up with understandable answers."

"Statistical information is being harvested for purposeful goals from the bedsides to the laboratories and the classrooms."

At the M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, an 18-year statistical profile of cancer in El Paso County, covering 16,182 patients from 1944 to 1961, has just been completed.

Eleanor J. Macdonald, head of the department of epidemiology, said this marks the first time, in a defined population, that every cancer case, including skin cancer, has been registered and studied. The cases were studied from diagnosis through treatments and followups done over the years.

It took 12 years of research and computer analysis of the data to complete the exhaustive study.

Miss Macdonald said the study showed through statistical data that recurrence and mortality rates among apparently cured cancer patients can be reduced by followup treatment.

El Paso County, with 350,000 population, now has a declining cancer death rate. In most parts of Texas the rate has been increasing.

The report of Miss Macdonald's group, more than two inches thick, was produced with the aid of an IBM 1620 computer which calculated 157 pages of tables, including age-adjusted incidence and modified life table survival rates by year, sex, ethnic groups and type of cancer.

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Dear Szillard,

I am very sorry that I am so late in answering your letters, but I was absent from Moscow and returned only lately. I received two your letters and a telegraph from Geneva, but the copy of your letter to Harrison Brown you mailed me somehow went lost and did not reach me at all.

I, personally am very much in favour of establishing an international /in particular U.S.A. and U.S.S.R./ center of molecular biology, but of course I am only a private person. However, I do think that perspectives for such a joint venture are rather favourable. As far as I understand our authorities would strongly prefer that the financing of this establishment would be mainly achieved not by special grants of the participant countries [who of course will supply technical assistance] but mainly by appropriations from such international organisations as UNESCO, World Health Organization or IAEA.

Unfortunately we have now in Moscow a period of vacations and I myself am in few days going for some kind of "reduced" mountaineering in Caucasus.

I think that it would be best to discuss the whole matter in details with the leading members of our Academy during the Pugwash Conference in September in Yugoslavia. I very much hope to meet you there.

With the very best personal regards

sincerely yours

16/VII/63

from H. Amberg

Academician Igor Tamm
Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.
Leninski Prospect

Moscow

Geneva, 6th August, 1963

Dear Tamm,

I was sorry to hear that you did not receive my letter of May 30th and the copy of my letter to Harrison Brown of the same date, which was attached to that letter.

I am enclosing four copies of these documents and I would greatly appreciate it if, on your return to Moscow and if possible prior to the Dubrovnik meeting, you would discuss this matter with officials of your Academy. You could then at the Dubrovnik meeting inform either me or Harrison Brown of your views in this matter. Subsequently Harrison Brown might decide to take up the matter, unofficially or officially, in Dubrovnik with officials of your Academy.

I am also enclosing four copies of a letter which I have received in this matter from Seitz, President of our National Academy.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

cc. Harrison Brown

ACADEMICIAN TAMM ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USSR MOSCOW

PLEASE CABLE ME THURSDAY NIGHT CARE WEISSKOPF CERN INDICATING
YOUR RESPONSE TO MY LETTER TO HARRISON BROWN stop COUNCIL
OF OUR ACADEMY HAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO AWAIT YOUR RESPONSE
WITH INTEREST = LEO SZILARD