

October 13th, 1939

Mr. Jean E.V. Cattier
40 Wall Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Cattier:

I understand that Mr. Sengier will arrive to-morrow, and I am therefore enclosing a short memorandum for your information as well as for his.

I should be very glad if you could set an early date for the proposed interview with Mr. Sengier. It would then be possible perhaps to have a second interview, if necessary, before Mr. Sengier leaves, and I might arrange for him to meet the Head of the Physics Department at Columbia University and others who are interested in the future of uranium.

Yours sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

Hotel King's Crown
420 West 116th Street
New York City

October 18th, 1939

Mr. Jean E.V. Cattier
40 Wall Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Cattier:

Today I have been advised that the Administration in Washington decided to concern itself with the questions arising out of the experiments on uranium, of which I spoke to you. A committee has been appointed, and I have been asked to submit recommendations to this committee at a meeting which is being held on Saturday at Washington, D.C. Undoubtedly the question of a potential supply of uranium ore from Belgian Congo will come up for discussion. For this reason I wonder whether it would not be advisable for me to see Mr. Sengier before I submit any recommendations.

Yours very sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

October 18th, 1939

Mr. Jean E.V. Cattier
40 Wall Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Cattier:

I feel that I ought to inform you of the following:

Some of my colleagues decided that the Administration of this country ought to be informed of the results of our work on uranium, and that certain recommendations in this connection should be made to the Administration. As a result of their action the President has appointed a small committee in order to study the issue and to advise the President with regard to taking such action as might appear appropriate. The committee will meet this Saturday in Washington, and I have been asked to submit a report and to make certain recommendations.

One of the questions which will almost certainly come up for discussion is the potential possibility of obtaining uranium ore from Belgian Congo for the purpose of establishing a Government stock, possibly with the proviso that neither radium nor uranium be marketed by the Government. In the circumstances, I wonder whether it

would not be advisable for me to see Mr. Sengier before I leave for Washington. If you think that such an interview would be useful for clarifying the issues, would you be good enough to communicate the content of this letter to Mr. Sengier and let me know if Mr. Sengier can see me before Friday night.

You could reach me over the telephone at my hotel or leave a message there in my absence. You could also leave a message for me in the Physics Department of Columbia University with Professor Pegram's secretary.

May I ask you to treat this information as confidential and not to communicate its content to any third person with the exception of Mr. Sengier.

Yours very sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)