

March 6, 1943

Mr. Auger

Mr. Szilard

Dear Auger:

When Halban last visited Chicago our discussion touched upon many other things upon the question under what circumstances I abandoned the Clarendon Laboratory at Oxford in 1938. I have since come across the letter which I wrote at that time to Lindeman and I am inclosing its copy. This letter was written just before fission began to claim our attention. I wonder if you could give this letter to Halban and ask him to read it and to file it away for future reference.

L. Szilard

file

Shreaton - Park Hotel
Washington 8, D. C.
July 16, 1966
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Mr. Pierre Auger
United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
UNESCO
Paris, France

Dear Auger:

I am enclosing three documents marked 1, 2 and 3.

The response evoked by the Letter to the Editor (1) that appeared in the New York Times thrust upon me a mandate to try to set up an inquiry, which is described in Document No. 2.

The purpose of my letter to you is to find out whether, assuming that all conditions are favorable, you might be in a position to free yourself for six months or a year and make yourself available on a full-time basis as a member of the "working group," described in Document No. 2. This inquiry is tentative because at this time I do not know whether the project will in fact be set up.

Attached you will find a list of names of men whose availability I am slowly exploring. Attached you will also find one of the most interesting answers that I have received so far in this quest for available men.

The name of Sauvy, which you will find on the attached list, was suggested by Colin Clark, who has a very high opinion of his qualifications. Do you know him? I have so far not written to Sauvy because I wanted to await your reaction to the inclusion of his name.

The University of Chicago has given me a year in which to try to set up this operation. This does not mean that the University itself would assume responsibility for the project. There should be no difficulty however to find a suitable tax exempt institution to accept the sponsorship and the administration of the funds, if the funds can be obtained and good men make themselves available for the work.

Mr. Pierre Auger

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July 16, 1955

While I do not know whether we can set up the project, you may assume that if it is set up at all, members of the "working group" will be paid a compensation of about \$25,000. This, I am afraid, will not be tax free to those who receive the compensation.

In Document 2, on page 7, I have tentatively formulated seven points which might be acceptable to a group as a premise for their deliberations. This perhaps goes too far and it would perhaps be ^{rather} ~~sufficient~~ to set forth the first five points ^{and} to drop Nos. 6 and 7.

The memorandum (No. 3) is a very rough draft, not suitable in its present form for publication. I have prepared it mainly in order to facilitate the drafting of the premises upon which one might want a group to agree before the group is formally constituted. The details given are not carefully thought through, and I put them in only to illustrate the kind of spirit that I believe a general approach ought to embody. Inasmuch as the document goes beyond the seven points (or the first five), the memorandum need not concern the members of the "working group" at all. I have started to rewrite it, dropping many of the details and eventually I may get it into publishable form.

I would naturally appreciate any comments you would care to make. I would particularly appreciate to hear whether you think the seven points go too far and would interfere with our ability to get independent spirits assembled in the "working group."

With kind personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

LS:err

Leo Szilard

Enclosures

Paris, adress: P. Auger
12 rue Emile Faguet
Paris XIV.

July 24. 1955 ✓

Dear Szilard

I am answering your letter dated July 16. 1966 (sic!) which I received with some delay here in the "Côte d'Azur". This explains the long hand.

First I am glad to tell you that I consider Alfred Sauvy as a man capable of very clever and unprejudiced thinking. I know him well and admire greatly his achievements; you could not make a better choice.

Second, of your five first points I find myself in agreement, except perhaps point 3. I am not a competent economist, but it does not seem evident that disarmament is felt generally as a necessity ~~here~~ in the economic field. The development which accompanies armament is unsound,

lead to no happy future, but exists. Something must be found to make its faults more apparent perhaps by attaching the financing of armaments to "special" taxes, contrarily to the normal doctrine of total polyvalence of all taxes.

It is point 5 which seem to me to be the crucial one. The mechanism must be entirely automatic to work satisfactorily. No decisions to be taken, no deliberations or consultations. The best would be to make it so unapparent as to avoid the intervention of the press. (The press is a terrible amplifying power, preventing any stable equilibrium to work).

Points 6 and 7 are certainly more controversial. They are a kind of "super veto". I agree with you that the "democratic" system among nations ~~is~~ is ~~is~~ is necessarily fictitious, and poisons international relations. But then a completely different system should be found, not imitated from human relations. That might perhaps be the key to all the difficulties of the League, of the UN, of the next Confederation if any

Well, I hope this letter shows at least how important and interesting I find your endeavour. I will have to consider your proposal more thoroughly in a few weeks when back in Paris. Any way, I am proud that you have thought of me!

With kind regards, Yours, PM

August 16, 1957

Professor Pierre Auger
Scientific Director
UNESCO
19 Avenue Kleber
Paris 16, France

Dear Auger,

I should greatly appreciate your reading
the attached note when your time permits and giving me
your general reaction at your convenience.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

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Encl.