

ESTATE OF ALBERT EINSTEIN

55 East 10th Street
New York 3, N.Y.

February 16, 1957

Professor Leo Szilard
c/o Quadrangle Club of the University
of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Professor Szilard:

As far as I know, my associate advised you some time ago that we are engaged in preparing a volume for publication in which the many statements, letters, speeches and activities of Albert Einstein, bearing on his life-long interest in the fight against war, will be assembled. The last ten years of Einstein's life in which he was so much disturbed about the potential destructiveness of atomic bombs will, of course, be particularly important in that volume.

In the process of the detailed work I have come to realize that we should by all means include in the volume a statement appraising the work of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists and Einstein's part in the Committee's efforts. Since I know that you were largely responsible for the organization of the Committee and were one of its most active members during its existence, I wonder whether you would consider preparing a statement in which the importance of the Committee and the significance of Einstein's participation would be duly described. I feel sure that you would make a great contribution to the forthcoming volume on Einstein and also, to the historic record of those years.

Should you prepare such a statement I hope you will allow me to mention you as its author. Otherwise it would be indicated that the statement was prepared by a competent person who was very close to the work of the Emergency Committee.

It would be a great satisfaction to me if you were able to give favorable consideration to my suggestion. I should appreciate hearing from you at your early convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Otto Nathan
Otto Nathan
Executor

ESTATE OF ALBERT EINSTEIN

55 East 10th Street
New York 3, N.Y.

March 21, 1957

Professor Leo Szilard
c/o Quadrangle Club of the University
of Chicago
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Professor Szilard:

I trust that my letter of February 16, 1957 was promptly received. You may recall that I referred in that letter to a volume which is now in preparation and which will deal with Albert Einstein's life-long fight against war.

While I should like to repeat that I would be very grateful to receive from you, for inclusion in that volume, a statement analysing the work of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists and Einstein's part in the Committee's work, I should also like to refer to the communications which my associate in the editorial work, Mr. Heinz Norden, sent to you last Fall.

Mr. Norden particularly advised me of his letter to you of September 10, 1956 in which he inquired about a project that apparently was sponsored by you and was financially helped by the Foundation for World Government. Although your secretary, Mrs. Norene Mann, informed Mr. Norden that you had no useful recollection on the matter, Mr. Norden in a new letter of January 14, 1957 acquainted you with some other details of the project that he obtained from another source and asked for your confirmation. Since no reply has been received yet to Mr. Norden's letters I should like to suggest that, in attending to my own communications to you, you may be kind enough to say a word about Mr. Norden's inquiries. We are very anxious to use the utmost care and to comply with the most rigid requirements of scholarship in preparing the volume on Einstein. The publishers of the book, Simon & Schuster in New York, share our feelings that this may turn out to be a very important publication in the field. This is why I should be so grateful for your cooperation and should like to raise a few additional points on which your advice would be most welcome:

1. On March 31, 1930, H. Noel Brailsford wrote to Einstein about a meeting which Brailsford had with you concerning an organization, apparently not yet formed, that Brailsford was asked to support in England. Brailsford asked whether Einstein approved the plan and would support it himself. Einstein replied on April 24, 1930, apparently from Berlin, with words of high praise for you. On the plan itself he was rather vague. Can you shed any light on what was involved in that matter?

2. On the question of Einstein's famous letter of August 2, 1939, to President Roosevelt, we are, of course, acquainted with your account published in Carl Seelig's HELLE ZEIT--DUNKLE ZEIT. Several details of this historic incident are not entirely clear yet. I should like to enumerate them:

(a) Wigner, in his account in the Seelig volume, tells of his belief that the U.S. Government should be apprised of the then recognized possibilities; that, after some hesitation, you agreed with this view; and that it was then your suggestion to talk with Einstein and advise him to write a personal letter to Roosevelt (p. 103). Your own account does not mention this in connection with the first visit you paid to Einstein together with Wigner, but only in connection with the second visit which you paid Einstein in company with Teller and after you had spoken to Sachs. Indeed, you seem to attribute the idea of writing to Roosevelt to Sachs (p. 100). Can you throw any further light on who first mentioned writing to Roosevelt? In particular, do you know whether Sachs had any association with the whole matter prior to your meeting him?

(b) Wigner says Einstein dictated the well-known letter at the first meeting at which he, Wigner, was present (p. 105). You, however, state that Einstein dictated to Teller in German during the second visit, that you used this text to draft two letters (presumably in English?), one longer than the other, and that Einstein chose the longer version. Now, we have the text of a much shorter letter than the one which was actually mailed. It is in English, and clearly and closely related. Einstein's secretary believes it dates from the first call, with Wigner. Could you perhaps clarify this? Do you know of any German texts of either or both letters? If you did not translate them, do you know who did? And where there any changes or revisions in the letter subsequent to the visits to Einstein?

3. We have a report of an incident after the war that may very well result from hearsay or misunderstanding. It is to the effect that you and Einstein worked on a plan to arrange for a meeting of Russian and U.S. scientists on a Caribbean island for a peaceful exchange of views, and that matters went so far that a call was made on the Soviet Embassy. It may very well be that this is a garbled version of the publication of the little book "One World or None" to which both you and Einstein contributed. You may recall that an unsuccessful attempt was made, over Einstein's signature, to get a Soviet contribution to that volume. Possibly the report may also relate to your plan for getting distinguished lawyers to represent the cases of East and West, about which Mr. Norden inquired. Can you throw any light on this matter?

4. It appears likely that over the long period during which you knew Einstein, you may have accumulated other documents or recall incidents bearing on Einstein's views and activities in the fields of pacifism, world government, etc. If you now care to make any such material available, I should of course be most grateful.

I am sure you will appreciate that I am not only interested in securing the most comprehensive and accurate presentation of Einstein's activities, but that I am also anxious to do full justice to your own important and constructive efforts in those matters. Your cooperation will be indispensable in both respects and would be highly appreciated.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Otto Nathan.

Otto Nathan
Executor

ON:kw

ESTATE OF ALBERT EINSTEIN

55 East 10th Street
New York 3, N. Y.
March 30, 1961

Dr. Leo Szilard
Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I just received your kind letter and was happy to learn that you liked those parts of EINSTEIN ON PEACE which you so far have been able to study. I hope the balance of the book will also be satisfactory.

Many thanks for your kindness in sending me page proofs of your own book, which will be published towards the end of the coming month. I shall be reading it immediately and am sure that I shall enjoy doing so.

I am told that you come to New York from time to time. If your schedule should permit, I should be very pleased to meet you again on such an occasion. Should you not be able to advise me in advance, you could call me at GRamercy 7-2948 or, in the event there is no reply, leave a message at ORegon 7-51000.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Otto Nathan.

Otto Nathan
Trustee

Otto Nathan
55 E. 10th St.
New York 3, N. Y.



COOPER
STATION



Dr. Leo Szilard
Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington, D. C.

DATE

2-8-62

ROUTE SLIP

CONSTIT. ORGAN. BLDG. ROOM

- TO:
1. Dr. Leo Szilard
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR INFORMATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATE AND REPORT | <input type="checkbox"/> RETURN WITH MORE DETAILS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND SEE ME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF: | |

REMARKS

No response needed.

Fold Here for Return

From	PHONE
To <i>Dr. R.B. Livingston</i>	<i>4864</i>
BUILDING	ROOM
<i>10-CC</i>	<i>070-23</i>

Duplo copy

ESTATE OF ALBERT EINSTEIN
55 EAST 10TH STREET
NEW YORK 3, NEW YORK

January 31, 1962

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

Dear Dr. Livingston:

Many thanks for your letter of January 21, 1962 and for your kindness in asking Mr. Michael Brower of Cambridge, Massachusetts to send me a copy of Dr. Szilard's address. I am looking forward to the paper with great interest and am certain it will be received in the next few days.

I sincerely appreciate your kind remarks about **EINSTEIN ON PEACE**, of which I had the privilege of being a co-editor. Since the book, unfortunately, has not found the distribution which I feel Einstein's views merit, I am very gratified whenever I receive a communication from someone who has actually seen and read the book. That is why your letter pleased me so particularly.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Otto Nathan

Otto Nathan
Trustee

Draft copy

2925 Corydon Road
Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio
January 30, 1962

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

Dear Dr. Livingston:

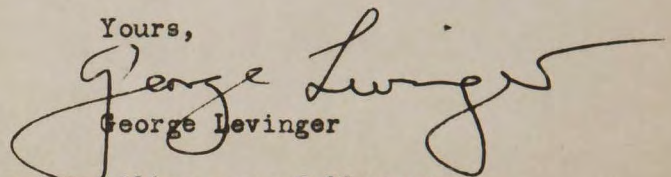
Thank you for your recent reply to my letter to Leo Szilard. I appreciate the fact that he needs help to cope with his correspondence while he is out beating the bushes. I hope you will show him this letter.

While I was glad to get the further clarification of Dr. Szilard's plans from you, I would like to reiterate two points. The Movement should not be a personal thing, to be dependent on Dr. Szilard's own physical resources, nor upon his personal evaluation of the "experiment's" results. That might be the fastest way to get it off the ground, but it would not carry on in that manner.

Secondly, while I understood that Dr. Szilard was not trying to "convince" anyone who wasn't already in sympathy with him, the enthusiasm of those who listened to him was tempered by many factors regarding the presentation. I, personally, was most interested and ready to commit myself--yet a number of friends were repelled by certain features of the plan and of the speaker's manner which will definitely show up in the correspondingly smaller number of returns from the experiment. What is really needed, let me repeat my statement from the earlier letter, is the competent assessment of the "Szilard plan" by some expert political scientists with "behavioral orientation" such as Miller or Stokes at Michigan. These people are certainly in a position to assess public opinion on this issue in a reasonably accurate way.

All that I ask is that Leo Szilard should not squander his heroic efforts by failing to get the most competent advice possible. With best wishes,

Yours,


George Levinger

P.S. My wife and Rosi Kuerti, who are handling some follow-up work in Cleveland, are in the process of sending all recorded recipients of the speech a return postcard to indicate their interest and those of others.