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University of Miami, Marine Laboratory

February 12, 1955

Prof. Leo Szilard
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

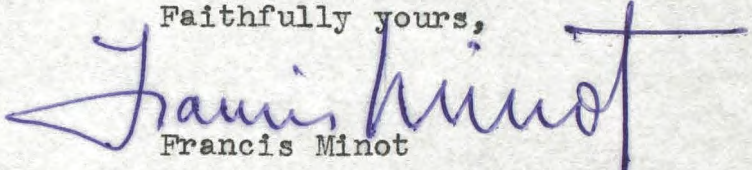
Dear Prof. Szilard:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have just written to the *New York Times*, in support of your timely letter which was published in last Sunday's edition.

Do you know Chester Bowles, the former Governor of Connecticut and our recent Ambassador to India? It seems to me that he is the kind of high minded, free thinking yet practically competent person around whom some such effort as you suggest might be built. He is, of course, but one of many, but the effort has to start somewhere and quickly.

I would gladly help in any way that I could: what is really needed, I suppose, is the vigorous support of one of the great philanthropic foundations, without their red tape and their time lag.

Faithfully yours,


Francis Minot

FM/m

MARINE AND FISHERIES ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.

WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

EXPLOITATION OF THE SEA

It is a surprising anomaly that no appreciable parallel to the recent technological revolution has extended to the three quarters of the surface of the world which is the sea. Despite the now generally accepted fact that many land resources are not unlimited and that much food and raw materials of industry are present in the sea, transportation is the sole world wide enterprise which both accepts the sea as a natural environment and enlists science and engineering in its service. Here even, the naval architect and the oceanographer, independently pursuing a theory of waves, have only just met and recognized their mutual interest. As yet, there is no counterpart to the agricultural experiment station and the industrial effort and investment which has made modern farming possible.

But while society has been unresponsive to the challenge of ocean exploitation, science has pushed back its sea frontier, and stimulated by the demands of the last war, now stands ready to play its part in the technological revolution which must soon come at sea. What is needed now is the creation of agencies which can give practical expression to the mounting store of knowledge and "know how" accumulated by science.

In recognition of this need, this Institute was founded in 1951 as a non-profit Massachusetts corporation, and dedicated to the purpose of initiating a real technology of the sea and of posing the social implications of so doing. Launched by a grant from the Friendship Fund Inc. of New York City and carried on by means of other small grants and research contracts, this Institute is gradually forming into a true marine resources research and development facility.

M Our concept of a marine resources and engineering facility is not, we believe, competitive with any other group or program. To our best knowledge, the only other like effort is that of the evenly more recent Institute of Marine Resources at the University of California. In view of the immensity of the field, we do not see how our respective efforts can be other than mutually helpful.

We recognize that our work and future depend upon the vigorous prosecution of the basic sciences and the progress of oceanography

and marine biology, but it is equally clear to us that our chosen role as an active catalyst between resources and society is of comparable importance.

The members of our Board of Trustees and Advisory Council have been chosen to afford this Institute a broad background of experience in science, engineering, economics and sociology. Our location associates us with the marine scientific community in Woods Hole and such organizations as the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Marine Biological Laboratory, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the many universities and scientific schools in the East are within easy reach.

This Institute has recently leased more adequate quarters which can accommodate the nucleus of a full time staff. These quarters also make it possible to offer facilities for summer or longer range study to individuals or small groups seeking encouragement, guidance and assistance in marine resources research.

We plan to convene a marine resources meeting in the late summer of 1955 to look hard at marine resources in terms of human needs, and to set up a constructive research program in which many laboratories and other agencies can participate. Subjects for discussion will include food, power, fresh water, minerals, chemicals, climate, waves, navigation, transportation, communications and the disposal of dangerous materials. The elements of what will become "ocean" engineering will also receive much consideration.

Since our founding in 1951, we have been occupied with certain fisheries investigations and with engineering studies of interest to the Navy. Contracts for similar short term projects are in prospect.

The specific projects which we have accomplished, and have in process and in prospect are, briefly:

The Relation of Oceanography and Engineering to an Expanding World Fishery--a study and report for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

A Survey of Potential Fisheries Resources with an Outline of the Scientific and Engineering Problems Involved in the Expansion of Future Fisheries Production--a study and report for the Friendship Fund Inc.

An investigation of the possibilities of the mass cultivation of food fish under controlled conditions--a study for the Friendship Fund Inc. still in process.

Report on a Pre-Design Engineering Study of the Development of Superior Ships for Oceanographic Research--for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Office of Naval Research.

The Oceanographic Research Vessel--a paper presented at the first International Fishing Boat Conference sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Ship motion studies in relation to natural waves; technical analysis and preparation of test launch RISK--a continuing program in collaboration with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and New York University for the David Taylor Model Basin, Department of the Navy.

Development of Mine Hunting Craft--a study and report for the Edwards Street Laboratory, Yale University, and the Office of Naval Research.

In addition to preparation for the marine resources conference above referred to, we have made, or are about to make, the following proposals:

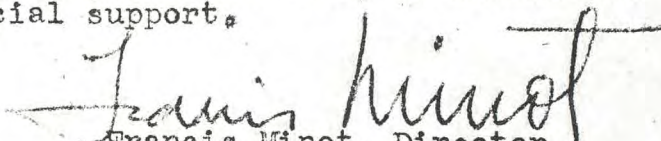
Survey of New England fishing operations with recommendations for more effective use of existing vessels and development of superior vessels.--for the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

Development of an Atlas of Submarine Geography and Climatology--in collaboration with the American Geographical Society and for use of those concerned with marine ecology.

Study of the life history of merchant ships to determine the causes of their ultimate fate.--a study for a Government office.

We feel that our short history and our progress have been such that both philanthropy and industry will now wish to know of our purposes and the qualifications and facilities which we can offer for service. To be so informed, we hope that representatives of both groups will visit us in such a way as to become thoroughly familiar with the work of the marine and scientific community in Woods Hole, and to understand its relation to society and to individual industries.

We need, and will continue to need, the interest and financial support of philanthropy and industry through grants and contracts. This memorandum is an outline of our purposes and work, an invitation to visit us and a request for financial support.


Francis Minot, Director

February 12, 1955

February 12, 1955

New York Times
220 West 43rd. Street
New York, N.Y.

To the Editor:

The letter of Prof. Leo Szilard which you published on Sunday, February 6th., is the most eloquent and lucid plea for action to prevent war that I have seen publicly expressed. It should encourage those true patriots to whom Prof. Szilard refers to bring their abilities and influence to bear on the formulation of a far reaching agreement which all nations will respect because it will be to their lasting advantage to do so.

But if we are to attack successfully the incomparably important problems which confront us, and which we must solve or pay the consequences, it seems to me that we must acquire a fresh point of view toward other people and other ways of life. We must neither claim nor feel any monopoly of ability, wisdom or virtue and we must be willing to revise many deeply rooted but no longer realistic attitudes toward the world in which we live. We must even grant our opponents the same sense of responsibility and intent which we claim for ourselves.

For instance, should we not assume that, disguised in many ways which make recognition difficult, there are able and high minded men in the Soviet Union who long for lasting peace as ardently as we do, and who might form the counterpart of our group of true patriots. Once, to our cost, we doubted the scientific abilities of the Russians: should we now be certain that their humanitarianism is inferior to ours?

Again, how can we expect to write a mutually acceptable contract when the contracting parties scarcely know each other and speak different languages in all senses. What could our President anticipate, other than universal respect and acclaim, if he abandoned

protocol, age old custom, red tape etc., and in very simple fashion invited himself to Moscow to discuss matters of paramount importance to humanity? What could he lose except perhaps, the next election?

Must we forever save a few faces at the possible expense of millions of lives? Let us at least attack the problems on a level which is consistent with its gravity; the fate of our civilization.

Faithfully yours,

Francis Minot

FM/m

King's Crown Hotel
420 West 116th Street
New York, N. Y.
February 22, 1955

Dr. Francis Minot, Director
Marine and Fisheries Engineering Research Institute, Inc.
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Minot:

I wish to thank you for your very kind letter of February 12th. I read with interest your letter to the New York Times. I do know Chester Bowles, and I think that your suggestion to enlist his cooperation is excellent. It is too early for me to say if any concrete course of action will develop, but I plan to keep you informed as soon as any practical ideas begin to crystallize.

I am spending most of my time these days in New York, where I stay at the King's Crown Hotel, 420 West 116th Street, telephone University 4-2700, and if you should visit New York, perhaps you could call me up. If I am in town, but not in when you call, perhaps you could leave a message where to call you back.

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

LS:hw

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*University of Miami, Marine
Laboratory*

March 7, 1955

Prof. Leo Szilard
c/o Knig's Crown Hotel
420 West 116th. Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Prof. Szilard:

It was nice of you to answer my letter and I should indeed enjoy a talk with you. I have a feeling of great concern and urgency on the subject matter of your letter to the Times, as you know, and a keen desire to do my bit toward some realistic approach to these problems.

I am in New York frequently; in fact I should be there now were I not trying to get rid of a slight bout with pneumonia; the only virtue of such enforced inactivity is some extra time in which to sort out ones thoughts.

I will most certainly telephone you during my next visit, which must be in the very near future; very likely next week. Perhaps the enclosed outline of our efforts in this little organization will be of interest to you; at least, we are trying to look at these problems through the right end of the telescope.

I look forward to seeing you with pleasure.

Yours faithfully,


Francis Minot

FM/m

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*University of Miami, Marine
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April 7, 1955

Prof. Leo Szilard
c/o King's Crown Hotel
420 West 116th. Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Prof. Szilard:

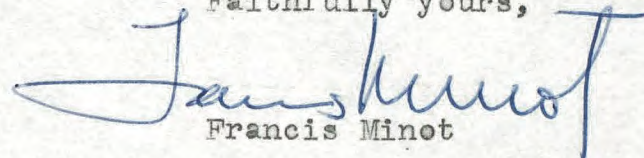
Robert Cutler will not be available until the end of April, and I am arranging to see him then.

Chester Bowles has no time until June although he and I have a long deferred engagement; he is finishing a book. You already know of his other activities since his return from his recent article and letter to the Times. As you remarked, I hope he is not so busy that he is unable to do anything.

I have not discovered anything noteworthy about the Fleishman Foundation, except that they have not yet made any extensive grants.

I shall be in New York from Tuesday, April 19th. throughout that week, if necessary. I shall be glad to meet with you if convenient; I do feel that time is becoming more important each day if anything is to be done to reverse present trends.

Faithfully yours,


Francis Minot

FM/m

MARINE AND FISHERIES ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.

WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

April 29, 1955

Dr. Leo Szilard
Sheraton Park Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I have just heard that Senator Kennedy has gone back to Florida to complete his convalescence; I have not been able to find out about his return to Washington.

I presume that you read Finletter's speech at Hofstra but enclose the clipping from the Times nevertheless.

I am puzzled, pleased and concerned all at one time by the sweetness and light which seems to be coming out of Washington, and the misunderstandings about Ferness policy and the Zhekef correspondence. But do they have any well conceived plan to propose if all this good will proves to be sincere?

I feel that I can write directly to Clarence Francis, and will do so just as soon as I can determine what his official capacity may be.

Faithfully yours,

FM/m

Francis Minot

MARINE AND FISHERIES ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.

WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

June 17, 1955

Hon. John F. Kennedy
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

Dr. Leo Szilard, on whose behalf I wrote you during your absence earlier in the spring, will be in Washington again the first of the coming week.

This note is just to refresh you on my previous correspondence, and to express the very real hope that you and Dr. Szilard will have a chance to meet and talk.

You have doubtless seen the enclosed which appeared in the Times on May 19th.

Faithfully yours,

FM/m

Francis Minot

Dear Dr. Szilard:

If you do not happen to have seen it, perhaps you would be interested in my letter to the Herald-Tribune which they published on June 16th.; I am sorry I do not have an additional copy to send you, but New York papers are scarce on Cape Cod.

It is in the same vein as your efforts.

F. M.

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University of Miami, Marine Laboratory

March 28, 1955

Prof. Leo Szilard
c/o King's Crown Hotel
420 West 116th. Street
New York, New York

Dear Prof. Szilard:

It almost goes without saying that our talk and your proposal and accompanying letter copies have been constantly in my mind. The necessity of somehow breaking through our current circle of frustration and of evolving a fresh approach seems to me so urgent that I feel compelled to give you my early reaction to the effort you are undertaking and your proposed procedure.

Practically, it seems to me possible that the necessary funds may be more difficult to secure-quickly-than the qualified men to form your Commission. A "right" man might find the required time provided suitable compensation could be provided. It certainly does not follow that the kind of person you seek is necessarily independent of both time and money. If any combination of such conditions should exist, then "money" must come first and "men" second in order of effort.

If money must be sought before men, then in order to attract money, the kind of men you are seeking must be described and so must the type of thinking which you hope to enlist on your Commission. It seems to me that it would be useful to go a little beyond the contents of your memorandum and give some indication of the kind of approach to the problem which you feel might succeed where past efforts have failed.

I think that your last paragraph on page 2 might arouse some antagonism in view of the present day atmosphere; it would seem to me self evident that any scheme which advances international good will is in the best interests of the United States.

I hope to see Bowles and Cutler shortly, and to learn more about the Fleishman Foundation. I wonder if Mr. Thomas J. Watson of the International Business Machines might be helpful?

Truly yours,
Francis Minot

MARINE AND FISHERIES ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.

WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

April 25, 1955

Hon. John F. Kennedy
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

I have recently had the privilege of working in a small way with Dr. Leo Szilard on a matter which seems to me of paramount importance; that is, the evolution of a fresh approach to the fearful international problems which we face today. You may have read Dr. Szilard's inspiring letter which was published in the New York Times on Sunday, February 6th. in which he outlines his views as to our present danger and offers his suggestions toward the formulation of a more effective attack on these problems.

Dr. Szilard is seeing and communicating with many thoughtful people and has received many encouraging responses. He has asked me to suggest some people among my friends and acquaintances whose views and advice will be helpful to him in his present efforts.

I have told Dr. Szilard of the high regard I have for you, and have suggested that he arrange to see you while he is in Washington; he is now staying at the Sheraton Park Hotel.

I do hope that you can work out a meeting which I am certain you will find mutually stimulating and gratifying. I also hope that you are really well recovered by now.

Faithfully yours,

FM/m

Francis Minot

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F. G. WALTON-SMITH
University of Miami, Marine Laboratory

May 25, 1955

Dr. Leo Szilard
King's Crown Hotel
420 West 116th. Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I am sorry to say that I have had no response from Robert Cutler and I do not feel that it is wise to push it. But I have a feeling that for some reason he does not wish to discuss the matter, perhaps because of his close relations with the President.

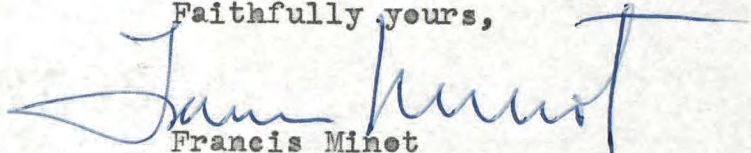
This negative result has made me cautious in writing Clarence Francis, who is now an adviser to the President with his address at the White House. If my caution is justifiable, it warns me that I do not have quite the relation with him that you need to broach a subject which can be considered critical of the Administration, if anyone is so inclined.

It is terribly unfortunate that George Sloan passed away, for many reasons. He would have been just the person to understand and to introduce you to Francis.

Perhaps after I have read your coming memorandum, I may change my mind, but I do not want to make any false moves.

Senator Kennedy has returned to Washington and resumed his duties; I very much hope that you will have an opportunity of seeing him. Meanwhile, if I see him on other matters, I will certainly introduce the subject.

Faithfully yours,



FM/m

Francis Minot

file

OCEAN RESOURCES INSTITUTE, INC.

WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE: FALMOUTH 2615

August 5, 1957

Prof. Leo Szilard
c/o The Quadrangle Club
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Prof. Szilard:

I have read what little has appeared in the press about the recent meeting at Pugwash N.S. and was gratified to see that you were one of the participants. Also I was reminded of our talks of a year or so ago in New York.

It seems to me that the present crisis continues and grows worse perhaps, because our leaders in government hope to solve problems of an unparallel nature by means of conventional thought and action. It seems to me that the present crisis demands a completely new approach.

It would be very refreshing to talk with you whenever you might be in New York. While I would expect to gain much more than I could subscribe, I do have some thoughts which I would like to talk over with you.

I do hope there may be an opportunity to meet in the near future and that you will let me know.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,

Francis Minot

Francis Minot
Director

August 9, 1957

Mr. Francis Minot
Director, Ocean Resources Institute, Inc.
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Minot:

Many thanks for your kind letter of August 5th. I am supposed to go to Europe late in August or early in September, and I do not expect to return before the middle of October. This will make it somewhat difficult for us to meet in New York.

I shall send you some material, under separate cover, which will give you information about some of my plans that were generated through the Pugwash meeting. It will also give you some information about the Pugwash meeting itself.

If you have some thoughts that you think are worth communicating, would it not be a good idea to write them down in the form of a memorandum? If you do this, I should appreciate receiving a copy.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

OCEAN RESOURCES INSTITUTE, INC.

WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE: FALMOUTH 2615

August 21, 1957

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

Dear Dr. Szilard,

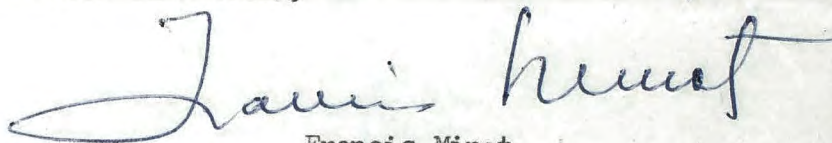
It was good to get your letter of August 9th. If, as reported in the press, the purpose of the Pugwash meeting was to consider the subject of survival, you were concerning yourselves with the topic of paramount importance today.

The New York Times published a letter of mine in May of which I enclose a copy. Perhaps we cannot disarm until we have enforceable agreements, but we cannot remain forever in a state in which we neither advance agreements nor commence to disarm.

I have had very little time to put my thoughts in order since receiving your letter but I hope the enclosed memorandum will help to show that a great many people are profoundly disturbed by the present crisis and by the evident inability of our administration, and of political leaders elsewhere, to cope with it.

Do let me hear from you again when you return from Europe.

Yours faithfully,



Francis Minot
Director

FM:ew