March 4, 1935 c/o. B. Liebowitz 420 Riverside Drive New York City, N.Y.

## Dear Professor Lindemann:

A few days ago I saw Professor Einstein in Princeton. When he heard that we planned that I should work in the Clarendon and that the financial question is not yet settled, he suggested, - before I could mention our conversation on this subject - that the sum which was reserved for him by Christ Church might be used for this purpose. Subsequently I told Prof. Einstein of our conversation and asked him, if it were convenient to him that he should write to Christ Church, if you and Prof. Schrödinger come to the conclusion that this is the best course to take, and that in this case you should let him know in what way to write to Christ Church. I think, this is in perfect order and Prof. Einstein will write you a few lines direct.

I have informed the chairman of the Department at New York University of the position in Oxford and was relieved to see that he took a very friendly attitude in the matter. They seem to think that I ought to accept their offer and wait until I hear from you that something definite has been settled at Oxford. They emphasize that I could leave here at twenty-four hours' notice if required. For the moment I refrained from discussing this point beyond thanking for this offer.

I wonder if you could kindly let me know by cable (night-letter) the result of the I.C.I. meeting together with such comment of yours, as you think necessary.

Bethe has developped a simple theory which can explain the large cross-section of certain elements for the capture of slow neutrons and following up this line a number of simple experiments present themselves. I enclose a further page on this point. Could you perhaps also pass it on together with my kind regards to Collie and Griffiths ?

Yours sincerely

Strand Palace Hotel, Strand, London W.C.2.

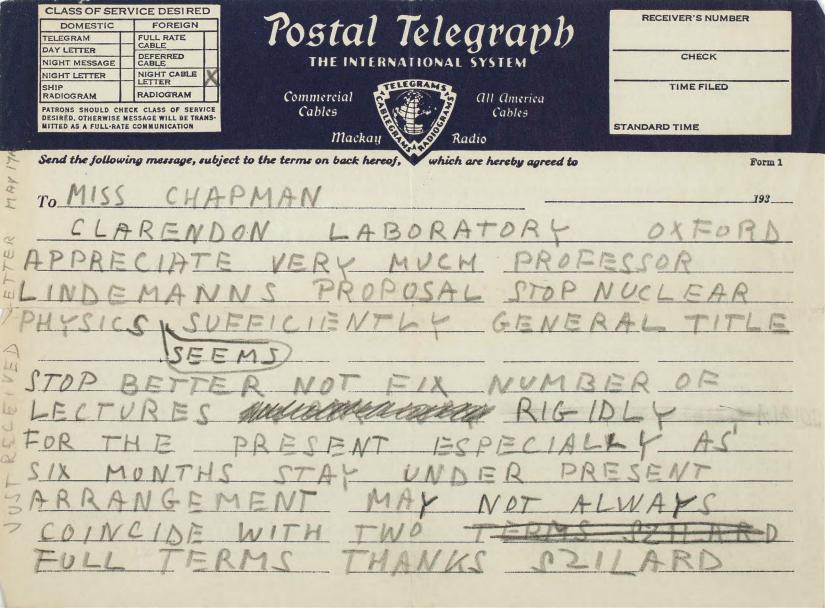
10th February, 1935.

Dear Professor Lindemann,

Enclosed you will find a few notes which I hope represent what you had in mind. If you would rather have something different, would you perhaps kindly let me know so that I can write something else?

Yours very sincerely,

P.S. The statement that one neutron can be obtained for 10<sup>4</sup> diplons if one uses canal rays of one million volt is based on the following: at 100,000 volts one obtains one neutron for about 10<sup>6</sup> diplons. (Published from the Cavendish). By exterpolating his observations Oliphant assumed that one would obtain one neutron for 10<sup>3</sup> diplons at one million volt (not published). I have therefore to be on the safe side assumed one neutron for 10<sup>4</sup> diplons at one million volt.



PERSONAL.

74, Gower Street, London, W.C.l. History A gus

3rd June, 1935.

Professor Lindemann, Clarendon Laboratory, <u>Oxford</u>.

Dear Professor Lindemann,

I hopevvery muchtto see you on Wednesday and talk to you about a matter which appears to me to be of great seriousness. For some time back I have suspected that the three radio-active periods which Chalmers and I found in the case of indium involved a new type of process in which a neutron

- a) either knocks out another neutron from indium 113 in a non-capture process, or
- b) liberates a neutron of the mass number 2 from indium 113 and gets captured in the process.

I have gradually come to the conviction that either a process of the type a) or, alternatively, a process of the type b) does occur and is possibly responsible for a number of other known radio-active periods, which I believe I can single out. I believe you will share this conviction after you have heard my arguments on Wednesday.

The question whether a neutron of the mass number 2 exists and can be liberated by fast neutrons cannot be answered offhand, but it is perhaps fair to say that since one of the two processes a) or b) certainly occurs, we have something like a fifty to fifty chance that such " double neutrons " are involved.

### 3.6.35.

It seems to me that the question whether or not the liberation of nuclear energy and the production of radio-active material on a large scale can be achieved in the immediate future, hinges on the question whether or not " double neutrons " can be produced. If " double neutrons " can be produced, then it is certainly less bold to expect this achievement in the immediate future than to believe the opposite.

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Even if I am grossly exaggerating the chances that these processes will work out as I envisage it at present, there is still enough left to be deeply concerned about what will happen if certain features of the matter become universally known. In the circumstances, I believe an attempt, whatever small chance of success it may have, ought to be made to control this development as long as possible.

There are two ways in which this can be attempted. The more important one is secrecy, if necessary, abtained by agreement among all those concerned that another form of publication should be used as far as the dangerous **Some** is concerned, which would make experimental results available to all those who work in the nuclear field in England, America and perhaps in one or two other countries, but otherwise keeping the result quiet, until those who are concerned ar satisfied that no " double neutron " is involved.

The other way, the less important one, is to take out patents. Early in Earch last year it seemed advisable to envisage the possibility that, contrary to current popular opinion, the release of large amounts of energy and the production of large amounts of radio-active material might be imminent. Realising to what extent this hinges on the " double neutron ".

3.6.35.

I have applied for a patent along these lines, including also the production of radio-active material by neutron bombardment. This was filed before Fermi started his fundamental experiments and was followed by a number of further patent applications along the same lines. Obviously it would be misplaced to consider patents in this field private property and pursue them with a view to commercial exploitation for private purposes. When the time is ripe some suitable body will have to be created to ensure their proper use. Also one has to avoid applying for patents wherever secrecy is endangered or in countries which are likely to misuse them; so far I have carefully observed this point.

Though I do not know for the present what will be the proper steps in this matter, I am very anxious to keep my full freedom of action in everything connected with it.

As far as experiments in this special field go, I should like to keep them, as far as possible, in my own hands and not merely act as a " catalyst ". As long as Collie, Griffithsaand I work alone in this field at Oxford, it is not quite easy for me to run these experiments in my own way and, without appearing pretentious, publish or not publish, according to what I think I should. I hesitate also to suggest that the whole Nuclear Department at Oxford should work in a field which may yield very little of purely scientific interest, if it turns out that we have to deal with a non-capture process after all.

If I know that it would be convenient to you, I should make an attempt to get a budget of £1,000 for

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### 3.6.36.

next year from private persons in order to be able to take on one or two helpers with whom I could work in this special field in the Clarendon Laboratory, while I would still, if it appears useful, work with Collie and Griffiths in the general field as envisaged hitherto.

Whether an attempt to get financial assistance will be successful or not, I cannot tell, but I feel justified in approaching a man of vision in this matter. Isshould be very happy if you, too, thought that Oxford is in many ways well suited for this type of work and that, conversely, this type of work could greatly accelerate the building up of muclear physics in Oxford.

There is another purely personal and therefore minor matter which I have to mention. I saw to-day in "Nature " a letter to the editor signed by Collie, Griffiths and syself. This is the first thing I knew of the experiments having been actually started, not to speak about the conclusions which Collie and Griffiths draw. I fully appreciate the good intentions which obviously actuated Collie and Griffiths and an anxious to avoid hurting their feelings. I am atam loss what to say. I am sorry that I have to speak about this at a time when there are so many more important things to worry about.

Yours sincerely,

THE CLARENDON LABORATORY, University Museum, Oxford.

England.

June 6th, 1938.

Dear Szilard,

TELEPHONE 3545.

Just a line, which I hope will catch the boat, to thank you for your letter and cable. Unfortunately the cable is not clear. The Board of Faculty insist on these conditions, and it is no use trying to vary them. All that I can now do is to try and cancel the whole thing if you are **not** prepared to accept their conditions. The University does not wish to make a lectureship if the lecturer is unable to give this number of lectures a year.

I am sorry you wish to postpone your return, but I think on the other hand it will be best to spend the six months from October to March here than to be away the whole of the winter; so this arrangement is probably the best. Please cable immediately and definitely whether or not you accept the lectureship.

With apologies for this hasty note, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

F. A. Lindemann.

Dr. Leo Szilard.

c/o Liebowitz.

420, Riverside Drive,

## New York.

P.S. We do not know yet what money will be available. The thing is to find out what we can do for different sums so that we can get the **f**ight amount of money for the apparatus when required.

THE CLARENDON LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD.

England.

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## 17th May, 1938.

Dear Dr. Szilard,

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TELEPHONE 3545.

Professor Lindemann has asked me to let you know that the question about your proposed Lectureship came before the last Board of Faculty meeting (May 10th), but it has, of course, also to go before the General Board.

The terms of the proposal are as follows, and the Professor would be glad if you could let me know by cable whether they meet with your approval.

> It is proposed that Dr. Szilard should 1. lecture eight times a term for two terms in the year on High Tension Physics and Nuclear Stability.

Dr. Szilard was Privatdozent at Berlin 2. University and is a man of great originality. He invented the apparatus for accelerating electrons, on which we are working and for which a special grant over a period of five years has been made by the Hebdomadal Council.

It is hoped that Dr. Szilard will be able 3. to go to America for several months in the year in order to keep in touch with developments there and so to speak act as liaison officer between the two countries. The subject is progressing so rapidly especially in the U.S.A., that an enormous amount of effort can be saved if some such arrangement is made. As he is receiving no salary from the University it would seem that there should be no objection to such a scheme of work which would be most beneficial to us and might even by an advantage to American Laboratories which he visits. 6.5.1938.

F.A.L.

Yours sincerely,

g.m. Chapman Socretary.

Dr. Leo Szilard.

c/o Ba Liebowitz, Esq.

420, Riverside Drive,



OXFORD 22 6 1314

CLW 4

NLT SZINARD C/O LIEBOWITZ 420 RIVERSIDEDRIVE NEWYÖRK MUST KNOW DIFINITELY WHETHER YOU ACCEPT LECTURESHIP STOP CONDITIONS PROSPOSED MINIMUM UNIVERSITY WILL AGREE LINDEMANN

> TELEPHONE YOUR REPLY GALL CIRCLE 7-6210-1-2

Telephone: HAnover 2-1811 To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

c/o Liebowitz 420 Riverside Drive New York City

History A pus

June 15, 1938

Dear Professor Lindemann,

I answered your cable from Rochester, but it was too late then for a letter to catch a fast baat. I am therefore making use of the first fast boat to-day to write you a more detailed explanation than it is possible to give you by wire.

As I gathered from your cable and see even more clearly from your letter of June 6, which I received this morning, the board of faculty has created a fait accompli, and it would be awkward trying to vary or to cancel it. The reason why I did not wish a rigid fixation of the terms for the present is the following. In order to be able to cover my living expenses it seems necessary to complement the two hundred pounds per year, which I would receive from the I.C.I. by an income from an American source. A rigid fixation if the Oxford terms reduces my flexibility towards such an American arrangement. Since I have so far not made any attempts in this direction , I am naturglly unable to foreseeif my presence in America during the summer is a sufficient basis for such an arrangement. Since we have no choice however. it seems best to try and see whether we can make the c/o Liebowitz 420 Riverside Drive New York City

Rislory A gus

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I appreciate very much the trouble which you have taken in this matter, and shall write you more within the next few days.

Yours very sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

THE CLARENDON LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, Oxford.

Rithery A PNS

England.

July 30th, 1938.

## Dear Szilard,

me,

TELEPHONE 3545.

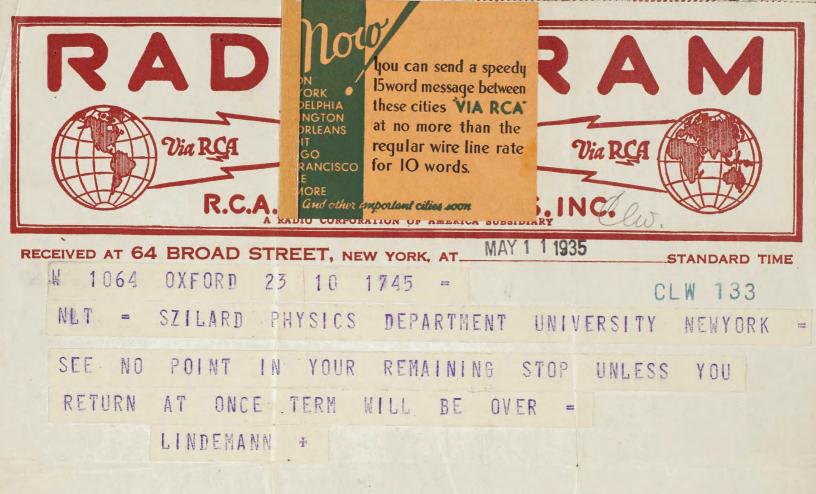
I thank you for your letter of the 22nd July. Everything is settled about your proposed lectureship, with the exception that it has to go before the General Board; but this is only a formality. The matter could have been settled straight off, but we did not hear from you definitely until after the last meeting of the Board of Faculty. Your name has been put down in the Lecture List for Michaelmas term, but the time of the lecture will have to be arranged later.

With regard to your application for an unwith regard to remain in England: I enclose a copy of a letter which I received from the Home Office last March although I understand that a copy has already been sent to you.

Please excuse this hasty note, and believe

Yours sincerely, F.A. Lindemann

Dr. Leo Szilard. c/o B. Liebowitz, Esq. 420, Riverside Drive, New York.



# Telephone Your Reply Call Circle 7-6210

(TRY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY )

**Telephone: HAnover 2-1811** To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

#### PERSONAL.

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If I knew that it would be convenient to you, I should make an attempt to get a budget of £1,000 for

-3-

### 3.6.35.

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Yours sincerely,

THE CLARENDON LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, Oxford.

January 31st, 1936.

Dear Sir Richard,

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TELEPHONE 3545.

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I enclose a note on "Anomalies in the Fermi Effect" by Dr. Leo Szilard, who is working in my laboratory, and should be glad if it could be published in "Nature" at an early date. Yours sincerely,

F. A. dindemann .

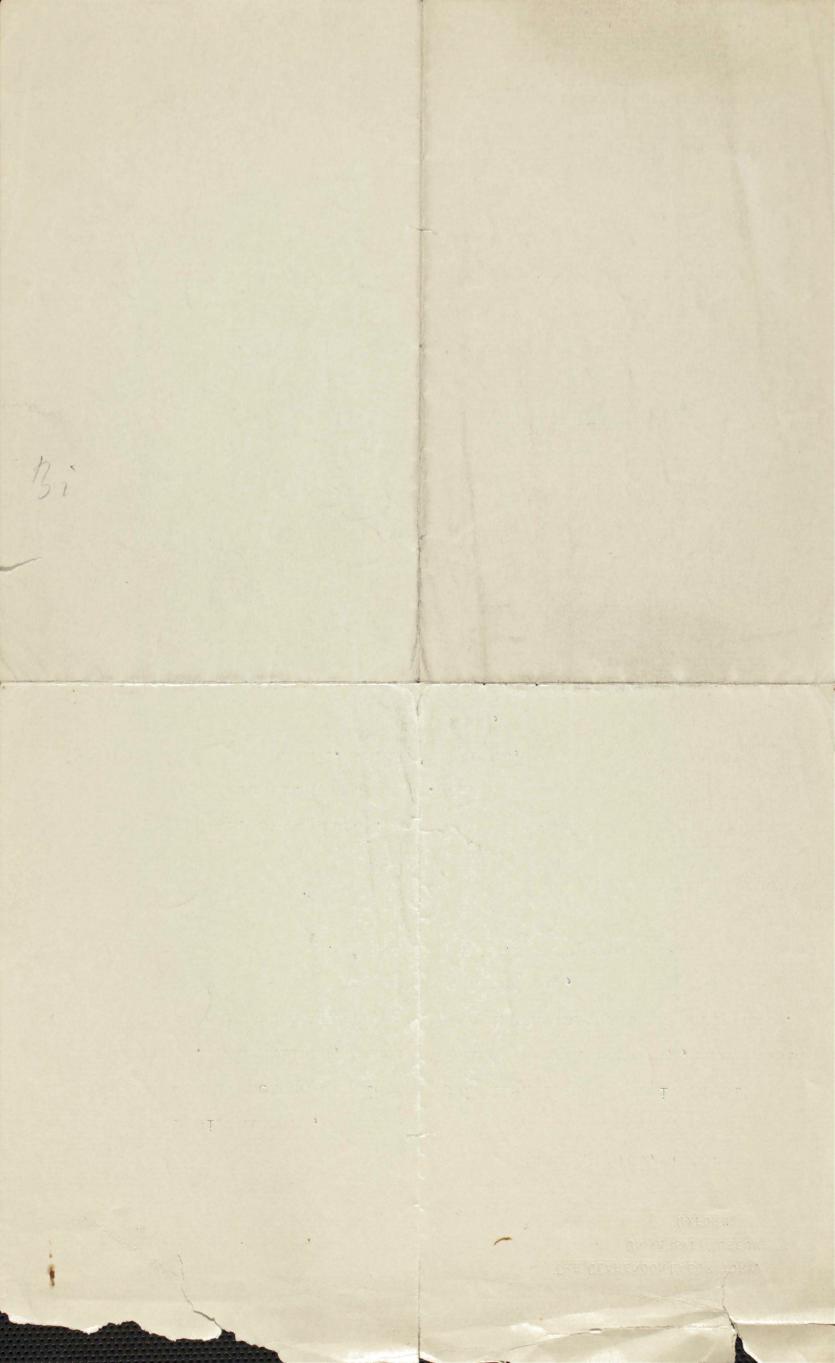
The Editor of "Nature".

Macmillan & Company.

St. Martin's Street,

London,

W.C. 1.



August 10th, 1936.

Dear Szilard,

As you know, the 500 odd mgs of Radium at present in the safe in the Clarendon Laboratory are insured only as long as they are used within the laboratory. You had a copy of the regulations as to their use, and will, I hope, conform with these.

I am entrusting you with the keys of the room and safe on condition that you will make sure that the Radium is returned and locked up in conformity with the regulations, before you leave at night. If this does not happen you will at once raise the alarm and notify the University Chest. I trust you will be prepared to accept this responsibility. If so, will you be good enough to confirm your receipt of this letter and that you agree with these terms.

Yours sincerely,

sd. F. A. Lindemanns,

Dr. Leo Szilard. Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford.

8. Keble rd. Oxford Bept. 15th-37. **9** / I

Dear Professor Lindemann,

the efficiency of the production of art. radioactiv elements increases rapidly with increasing voltage and it appears that large **XXXX** scale production becomes quite feasable at voltages of about 5 to 10 million volts. By using a discharge tube, worked out and tested by prasch and Lange **XX** in combination with a high voltage generator devised (but not yet built) by Brasch and me such a high voltage plant would (including tube) occupy a space of 5mx5mx5m and **XXXXXX** up to 1000 KW may be dissipated in one such unit.

At 10 million volt half of the cathode ray energy is transformed into X-rays, which produce neutrons from Be that can be used for the generation of art. radiaactive elements. We may for instance produce an element, having a half life time of one year and a Gamma radiation similar to that of radium, and use it as a substitute for radium for medical purposes (beam therapy, also substitute for X-ray therapy). Using the X-ray methode **Ex betweenx** 1000 to 10000 KWh will be required to produce one Aequ. gramm and one unit will produce (working 26 h per day) in 300 days 720 to 7200 Aequ. gramm. Assuming the **pricexafxkkexxtakexxxxx** 

of water power one KWh costs 0.5 Oere i.e. 1/8 cent so that lAequ. gramm requires 1.25 to 12.5 worth of power. If one gramm is supplied once a year maximum anguking the radiation intensity fluctuates between that of manaxima lgm maximum and 1.5gm of radium.

lgm of radium cossis at present more than 20000 and though it cannot be rented a reasonable rent would be 1000 per year this ought to be compared with the value of 1.25 xxxxx or 12.5. If the plant has to be paid off in ten years the cost of the art. radium is about the double of the power Muno value assumed. One may assume that if the price of Ra is decreas and the Art. Radium is sold for one tenth of the present price some 25000 gm could be taken up for medical purpos es representing a value of 5 000 000 and probably quit negligible expenditure on power price. This of course is not a very great object from the purely commercial point of view from which other applications might seem much more attractiv.

The X-ray methode has certain technical advantages and the heat is not produced in the tube but outside the tube, etc. Mutrix: texer fire but if no cheap power is available the use of the D+Be reaction is perhaps preferable.

**THEXENEXXXXX** About fifty times less power is required but the energy which can be dissipated in one unit is also decreased the rduchtion in price is therefore much less than fifty. Otherwise the same type of tube and high voltage generator can be used, and the peutrons produced are utilised in the same way in the case of both methods.

I hope that this information might be of interest to you.

Yours sincerely

( Leo Szilard )

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November 11, 1938

Dear Professor Lindemann,

I hoped to write to you a detailed letter and send it by the fast boat which is leaving to-morrow . Unfortunately I have been called away and could not finish it. I am leaving for Princeton now and will write you from there.

Please excuse this long delay.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

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c/o Liebowitz 420 Riverside Drive New York City

November 11th, 1938

Dear Professor Lindemann:

Enclosed please find manuscripts of two papers which are supposed to appear in the same issue of the Physical Review. I hope they settle definitely the problem of indium which worried us so much.

Yours sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

c/o Liebowitz 420 Riverside Drive New York City

January 13th, 1939

Professor F.A. Lindeman Christ Church Oxford, England

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Dear Professor Lindeman:

Three months have now passed since, acting on an impulse, I cabled you that I am postponing my sailing for an indefinite period on account & the international situation, and that I should be grateful if my further absence could be considered as leave without pay. I sent you this cable after Czechoslovakia was forced to accept the Berchtesgaden demands, and it must have reached you at a moment when many people believed that there was an immediate danger of general war. You may have therefore thought that this assumed danger prompted me to postpone my sailing, and you may then have wondered why I did not return to Oxford after the Munich agreement, that is if you gave any thought to my continued absence at a time when urgent political and defense questions must have been claiming most of your thoughts.

It seems to me that the Munich agreement created, or at the wery least demonstrated, a state of international relations which now threatens Europe and in the long run will threaten the whole civilized world. This cannot fail to claim the attention of all of us, and, if the situation is to be improved, the active cooperation of many of us. I greatly envy those of my colleagues at Oxford who in these circumstances are able to give their full attention to the work which has been carried on at the Clarendon Laboratory and who are able to do so without offending their sense of proportion. To my great **Market** / I am apparently quite incapable to follow/their example.

Since my collaboration in the work, for which you were good enough to win the support of Imperial Chemical Industries, would be of little value unless Itgave the work my full attention, it seems best in the circumstances that I should not embark upon it. This being so, I do not feel that I am entitled to keep any payments which Imperial Chemical Industries may have made to me under the new agreement, i.e. after January 1st of last year. I should be grateful if you could perhaps communicate on this subject with Dr. Slade and tell him how very thankful I am for the help I had from Imperial Chemical Industries in the past, and how very much I regret that the deterioration of the international situation which occured while I was abroad, makes it impossible for me to collaborate in the work which Dr. Slade kindly consented to support. If Dr. Slade wishes me to refund payments made to me after January 1st of last year, I shall be very glad to so. In this case Dr. Slade will have to let me know the amount which actually has been paid to my account, and also to what account and under what heading he wishes me to transfer this amount.

It seems to me that those who wish to continue to dedicate their work to the advancement of science would be well advised to move to America where they may hape for another ten or 15 years of undisturbed work. I myself find it very difficult, though, to elect such "individual salvation", and I may therefore return to

-2-

England if I can see my way of being of use, not only in science, but also in connection with the general situation. It is hardly necessary to state that, if I shall be in England and if you want me to do so, I shall be most happy again to cooperate with those who work in the Clarendon Laboratory. It may be best, however, that I should not receive financial support from the Laboratory, as such financial support is bound to be linked with fixed obligations which I would rather avoid.

For the time being, I do not yet see my way of being of use in England in connection with the general situation, though I see certain potential possiblities in this respect. In view of these I am at present not looking for a "job" on this side of the Atlantic. Perhaps I shall have an opportunity to talk to you about all this if I shall visit England in a not too distant future.

Naturally I regret that it will not be possible for me to collaborate in building up apparatus for the new Clarendon Laboratory. I trust that the spirit of inflation, which must necessarily accompany any armament race such as is on at present, will at least make it possible for you to obtain the funds necessary for carrying on research in the new laboratory.

Please excuse the three months' delay of this letter. Immediately after the Munich agreement it did not seem possible for me to have a sufficiently balance view, and I had to allow some time to elapse before I was able to write without bitterness of this event.

With kind regards to all, I am,

yours very sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

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September 11, 1944

Bush

Brigadier General Lindemann British Embassy Washington, D. C.

Dear General Lindemann:

About three weeks ago I talked over the telephone to you and accordingly wrote you the following day. My letter, which contained an enclosure, was mailed on August 25th from Chicago, "registered mail with return receipt". Since up to now the return receipt has not reached me, I am writing to inquire whether my letter dated August 25th did in fact reach you.

Sorry to bother you with this, but in view of the content of the enclosure I feel that I ought to have the letter traced by the Post Office in case you did not receive it.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS:s

## BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

September 12th, 1944

Mr. Leo Szilard, Metallurgical Laboratory, P.O. Box 5207, Chicago, 80; Illinois.

Dear Szilard,

Your letter was received here and I heard yesterday duly reached its destination. I cannot understand your not getting a receipt, as it was signed this end. Yours sincerely,

Cuhlindensam

CLL/em.

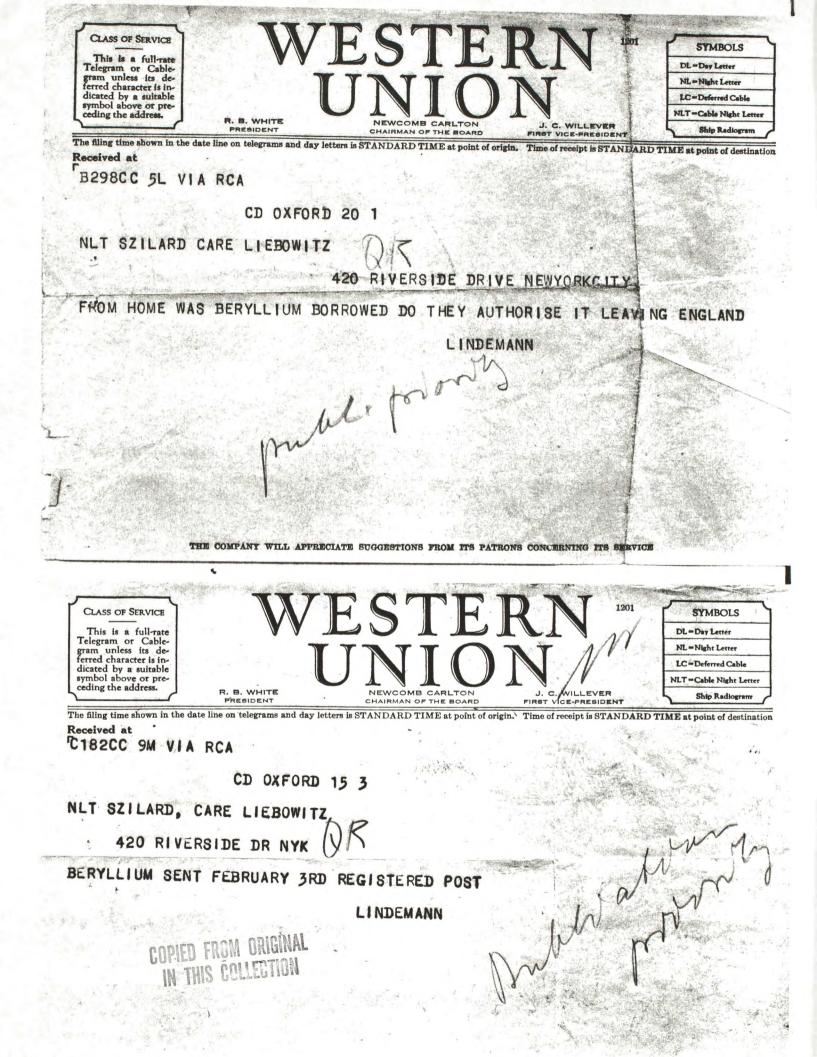
PANNER SALTING VALLES INVAS & 2100 DEFERRE AVANTE LINDEMANN CLARENDON LABORATORY MATINGS INTIGNOR FORD ENGLAND FREE TO SAIL ANY. TIME IN DESIRABLE STOP INTEND BOOKING PASSAGE STATENDAM SAILING. JUNE 4 STOP PLEASE ADVISE 15 EARLIER SAILING DESIRED KIND REGARDS TO ALL SZILARD SZILARD NEW YORK CITY INTERNA MINAL HOUSE

She was a service of the man and a statistic

ASTA ANAMA CAL

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED DOMESTIC CABLE TELEGRAM ORDINARY **STE** 1207-B CHECK URGENT DAY DEFERRED SERIAL ACCOUNTING INFORMATION NIGHT NIGHT LETTER SHIP RADIOGRAM check class of see e the message will as a telegram or y cablerram. SPECIAL SERVICE ns sho d, othe TIME FILED R. B. WHITE NEWCOMB CARLTON CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD J. C. WILLEVER Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to To\_ ann n 19 Street and No. Place mile ne 0 Sender's address Sender's telephone for reference number





LINDEMANN CHRIST CHURCH OXFORD, ENGLAND

HAVE ON ACCOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WITH GREAT REGRET POSTPONED MY SAILING FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD STOP WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CONSIDER ABSENCE AS LEAVE WITHOUT PAY STOP WRITING STOP PLEASE COMMUNICATE MY SINCERELY FELT GOOD WISHES TO ALL IN THESE DAYS OF GRAVE DECISIONS

SZILARD

DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS JANUARY 26, 1939 ADMIRALTY LONDON, S.W. 1

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REFERRING TO CPIO PATENTS 8142/36 KINDLY DISREGARD MY RECENT LETTER STOP WRITING

LEO SZILARD

NLT SZILARD CARE OF LIEBOWITZ 420 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK CITY

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FROM WHOM WAS BERYLLIUM BORROWED? DO THEY AUTHORIZE IT LEAVING ENGLAND?

LINDEMANN

NLT SZILARD CARE LIEBOWITZ L20 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK CITY

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BERYLLIUM SENT FEBRUARY THIRD REGISTERED POST

LINDEMANN

-1207-A CHECK CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRE VESTERN DOMESTIC CABLE TELEGRAM FULL RATE DAY LETTER DEFERRED ACCT'G INFMN. NIGHT NIGHT MESSAGE LETTER NIGHT SHIP I FTTFR RADIOGRAM TIME FILED Patrons should check class of servi desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication R. B. WHITE J. C. WILLEVER PRESIDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to NLT. 19 LINDEMANN To Street and No. CLARENDON LABORATORY OXFORD Place MANY THANKS FOR CABLE STOP -- OWA-BERYLLIUM BLOCK STOP KINPLY HARYXXX MAY CABLE ANT MAKENX OF POSTING DATE SZILARD

Sender's address for reference WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS. Sender's telephone number

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BERYLLIUM SENT FEBRUARY THIRD REGISTERED POST

LINDEMANN

LINDEMANN CHRIST CHURCH OXFORD, ENGLAND

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