

August 21, 1961

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

Dear Dr. Szilard:

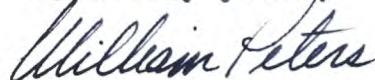
I have been waiting to write you until I could say that a copy of the article on the Ten Commandments is on its way to you. It is now. You should be receiving it shortly from Redbook Magazine with my request for your corrections, if any.

My eagerness to write separately stems from the excitement with which I read The Voice of the Dolphins. I think the stories are marvelous and have already recommended the book to dozens of people.

I thought as I was reading each of the stories what a marvelous play could be made from it; but by the time I had finished the last, I decided that a play should -- must, really -- be written based on several of them at once. As I see it, the story about the Mark Gable Foundation could provide the continuing thread for the entire play. Act One would end with the scientist being put to sleep, having also established the beginnings of the Vienna Institute and their work with the dolphins. Act Two would consist of the return to wakefulness and a long look at the world of that time. Act three could contain a number of things: awakening again in the world of Grand Central Terminal, the world of the end of The Voice of the Dolphins, etc. The possibilities, it seems to me, are almost endless.

On the odd chance that you are not yourself working on such a play -- or planning to -- or that someone else has not seen these possibilities in the book, what chance is there that I might do so? I am really serious about it, and I would love nothing better than to start thinking about it in much greater detail. Let me know what you think, and meanwhile, my congratulations on a marvelous book.

Cordially yours,



William Peters

44 Witherbee Avenue
Pelham Manor, New York

August 30,, 1961

Mr. William Peters
44 Witherbee Avenue
Pelham Manor, New York

Dear Mr. Peters:

I am sorry that the wrong enclosure was attached to the letter which I sent you. Enclosed you will find the corrected manuscript.

Concerning the issue raised in your letter of August 28, you could say, if you wish, that I came from a Hungarian-Jewish family and became a U.S. citizen in 1943. I am at present a professor of biophysics at the University of Chicago.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Enclosure

September 4, 1961

Dr. Leo Szilard
Hotel DuPont Plaza
DuPont Circle and New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Thank you for the corrected copy of the manuscript on the Ten Commandments. I am enclosing, at Mrs. Szilard's request, the copy of the transcript which was sent by mistake.

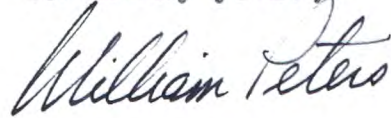
I have only a single comment on your corrections, and I thought perhaps I owed it to you to let you make the final decision after hearing it. I made the changes in your relating the story from Back to Methuselah after checking the book to be sure you had the quotation correct. The reconstruction in the article is the way it appears in the book, and I went ahead and made these changes in the thought that you would prefer it that way. I'll be happy to let it stand as you have changed it, if you prefer. Let's leave it this way: if I don't hear from you to the contrary, I will let it stand as you have corrected it. If you wish it changed back to the way I had it, just let me know -- but soon, please!

I am in the midst of a book at the moment and have time for nothing else. However, I do want you to know that I am definitely interested in the possibility of trying to adapt the contents of your book, The Voice of the Dolphins, as a play. I have looked over the outline you sent me, and while I think it suggests a number of possibilities I had not thought of, it seems to me far too openly political to sustain the interest of the average audience. What is needed, it seems to me, is a dramatic vehicle that will have suspense and drama through which the political points are made as subtly as possible. They must, by all means, be made -- that is the purpose, after all, of the play; but I think great care needs to be exercised to see that they do not threaten to make the entire play nothing but a sort of political lecture.

If you don't mind carrying this discussion of the possibility of my trying an adaptation a bit further, I'd like to talk about it with my literary agent Miss Claire S. Degener, of Curtis Brown, Ltd., to get her suggestions of a possible way of proceeding. Then, if we can work out an agreeable arrangement, I would like to get at it as soon as I have this book out of the way, probably late this fall. Let me know what you think of this idea, will you?

Thanks again for your work on the article. I will use the description you suggested in your letter to introduce you.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Peters". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

William Peters

44 Witherbee Avenue
Pelham Manor, New York



HOTEL CONTINENTAL

facing the beautiful Capitol Plaza

WASHINGTON 1, D. C.
TELEPHONE NATIONAL 8-1672

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Fundraising

April 10, 1962

Dear Dr. Szilard,

The clippings are wonderful, but the letters are fantastic! I'll probably be leaving Washington tomorrow (Wednesday) for Langley Field and the Astronauts, but I should be home in Pelham either on or just after the weekend. I hope you will let Dr. Fox know about our talk and that I'll hear from him before I leave for North Carolina on April 18th for ten days on the beach with my family.

My best to Mrs. Szilard. I enjoyed our dinner together immensely, and she has promised that you will both visit

American hospitality in the Continental manner

us in Pelham on your next trip to New
York.

Cordially yours,

Bill Peters

44 Witherbee Avenue
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Pelham 8-3034