

August 16th, 1939

Colonel Charles Lindbergh
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Lindbergh:

I had the pleasure of meeting you at lunch about seven years ago at the Rockefeller Institute, but I assume that you do not remember me, and I am therefore enclosing an introduction by Prof. Albert Einstein.

Experiments on uranium, which we have recently performed, lead to the conclusion that a nuclear chain reaction could be maintained under certain specific conditions in a large mass of uranium. Large quantities of energy would be liberated, and great amounts of new radio-active elements would be generated in such a chain reaction. The experiments have reached a point where it becomes necessary to work with tons of material rather than with kilograms hitherto used. The path along which we have to walk is clearly defined, but it requires some courage to embark on the journey.

At recent discussions, which took place at the house of Prof. Einstein and in which Prof. E.P. Wigner of Princeton University and Professor E. Teller of George Washington University participated, there was a feeling that this matter has taken proportions which make it somewhat difficult for us to cope with the problems

connected with it. It has therefore been decided to make an attempt to inform the Administration of the United States of the situation which has arisen. This will probably be done in the near future. In this connection it appeared that it might be of value to discuss the problems with you, and we should certainly appreciate having your advice or help in this matter. You might perhaps find some difficulty in getting acquainted with the details, but it will perhaps interest you to obtain a general idea of the outlines and to learn of the new facts which came to light during the last few months and which seem to lead to such a dramatic development.

Should you happen to visit New York or to stay not too far away from New York, would you be kind enough to let me know if you care to see me?

Yours very truly,

(Leo Szilard)

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Sehr geehrter Herr Lindbergh!

Ich moechte Sie freundlich bitten, meinen Freund Dr. Szilard zu empfangen und sorgfaeltig zu ueberlegen, was er Ihnen zu sagen hat. Einem der Wissenschaft Fernstehenden mag der von ihm vorzubringende Gegenstand phantastisch erscheinen. Sie aber werden gewiss bald zu der Ueberzeugung kommen, dass hier eine Moeglichkeit vorliegt, die im oeffentlichen Interesse sorgfaeltig im Auge behalten werden muss, wenn auch die bisherigen Ergebnisse nicht unmittelbar eindrucksvoll sind.

Mit aller Hochachtung und freundlichen Wuenschen

Ihr

A. Einstein.

September 13th, 1939

Colonel Charles Lindbergh
c/o Dwight Morrow
Englewood, N.J.

Dear Colonel Lindbergh:

About three weeks ago I wrote to you c/o Colgate Estate, Lloyd Neck, Huntington, L.I., enclosing a letter of introduction from Professor Albert Einstein. As my letter has not been acknowledged, may I enquire whether it has reached you?

Yours very truly,

(Leo Szilard)

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