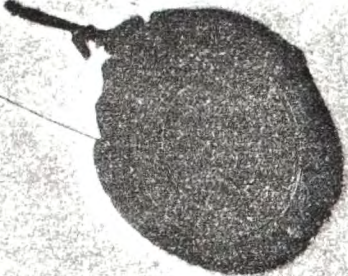


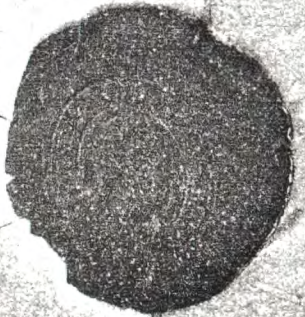
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ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

SECRET

L. Szilard, Esq.,

C/o The Clarendon Laboratory,

Parks Road,

OXFORD.

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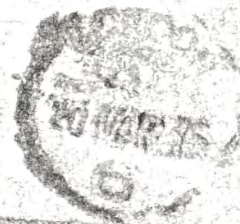
R ADMIRALTY 1
No 4018

L. Szilard Esq.,

c/o The Clarendon Laboratory,

Parks Road,

Oxford.



SECRET

Please address reply—

THE DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS,
ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1,

and quote—

C.P. Branch 10.

Patents/S.R.E.246/36.



Telegraphic Address:—

CONTRACTS, ADMIRALTY, LONDON.

Telephone No. WHITEHALL 9000, EXTENSION. 70.

ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1.

20 March, 1936.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 26th February to the Director of Scientific Research concerning your British Patent Application No. 19157/34 and cognate applications, I have to inform you that the complete specification has been examined and the Department is pleased to accept your offer to assign the patent to the Admiralty, without financial charge for assignment, in order that it may be kept secret at least until such time as your further investigations have shewn whether the invention is of value for defence purposes.

The Treasury Solicitor has accordingly been instructed to communicate with you regarding the assignment of the invention and in order that the requisite certificate of secrecy may be filed at the Patent Office before the last date for acceptance of the complete specification viz: 28th March it is essential that the formal deed of assignment shall be executed within the next few days.

While the terms of the formal assignment will enjoin secrecy upon you it is noted that you wish to retain freedom of action concerning the applications of the invention to commercial purposes. In the circumstances you will be free at any time to request Admiralty permission to proceed with commercial exploitation of the invention with or without re-assignment of the patent and the question whether secrecy of the whole invention and of the patent (on terms to be agreed) will continue to be necessary, would be considered if and when such a request is received.

The Department accordingly desire that you will consult them before communicating any part of the invention to other parties.


L. Szilard, Esq.,
C/o The Clarendon Laboratory,
Parks Road,
OXFORD.

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It is desired to make clear to you ^{that} the sealing of the British patent as secret will of course be contingent upon your abandoning the corresponding patent application in America and any other foreign patent applications you may have made, without the Admiralty becoming liable for any compensation, and you are requested to confirm that this will in fact be done. In the event of secrecy being waived, however, the act of waiver could be withheld, at your request, in order not to prejudice any foreign patent applications you might then wish to make.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,



W
DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS.

Please address reply—
THE DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS,
ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1,



Telegraphic Address:—
CONTRACTS, ADMIRALTY, LONDON.
Telephone No. WHITEHALL 9000, EXTENSION, 70.

and quote—

C.P. Branch 10.
Patents 8142/36.

ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1.

24 March, 1936.


Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24th March and to inform you that although your proposals therein concerning your invention are to a large extent unobjectionable some misapprehension appears to exist concerning the effect of sealing a patent as secret.

I would draw your attention to the fact that no record of a secret patent would exist in the Patent Office Register and it would thus be impossible for a firm interested in the invention either to obtain a copy of the specification or even to satisfy itself that the patent existed. Nor would registration of any manufacturing licence be possible. While it might be possible for you to interest manufacturers in the non-warlike applications of your inventions, the patent could thus not be used as the basis of a licence as suggested in paragraph 3 of your letter nor as a means of raising funds for further research work without stultifying the certificate of secrecy.

I note that you have signed the deed of assignment on the understanding expressed in your letter. If in the light of the above information you are still willing to assign the patent to the Admiralty arrangements will be made for the certificate of secrecy to be deposited.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,


DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS.

L. Szilard, Esq.,
C/o Clarendon Laboratory,
Parks Road,
OXFORD.

Please address reply—

THE DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS,
ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1,

and quote—

C.P. Branch 10.
Patents 8142/36.



Telegraphic Address:—

CONTRACTS, ADMIRALTY, LONDON.

Telephone No. WHITEHALL 9000, EXTENSION, 70.

ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1.

26 March, 1936.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 25th March I note that you are in agreement with the terms of paragraph 2 of Admiralty letter dated 24th March, C.P. Patents 8142/36 and that you are agreeable to the certificate of secrecy being lodged. Arrangements to lodge this certificate have now been made.

It is confirmed that the patent will be reassigned to you if and when secrecy of the patent is waived.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS.

L. Szilard, Esq.,
C/o Clarendon Laboratory,
Parks Road,
OXFORD.

c/o Clarendon Laboratory
Parks Road
Oxford,

~~December~~
November 21st, 1938

Director of Navy Contracts,
Admiralty,
London S.W.1.

Ref. No. C.P. Branch 10,
Patents 8142/36

Sir:

I refer to your letter of March 26th, 1936, which bears the above reference number, and beg to inform you that further experiments, carried out in collaboration with Professor M. Goldhaber, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, and in cooperation with S.W. Barnes of the University of Rochester, have definitely cleared up the anomalies which I have observed in 1935. This work will be published in the Physical Review.

In view of this new work it does not now seem necessary to maintain the patent with which your letter deals, nor would the waiving of the secrecy of this patent serve any useful purpose. I beg therefore to suggest that the patent be withdrawn altogether.

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,

(Leo Szilard)

Jan 26 - 39
Referring to CP 10 Patents 8142/36
KINDLY DISREGARD MY RECENT
LETTER STOP WRITING: Leo Szilard

DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS
ADMIRALTY
LONDON, S.W. 1

JANUARY 26, 1939

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

LEO SZILARD

Please address reply—

THE DIRECTOR OF NAVY CONTRACTS,
ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1.

and quote—

C.P. Branch Patents 9512/39



Telegraphic Address:—

CONTRACTS, ADMIRALTY, LONDON.

Telephone No. WHITEHALL 9000, EXTENSION. 70

ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1.

28 February, 1939.

Sir,

With reference to your letter 2nd February 1939, I have to inform you that your cablegram of 26th January reached this Department before any action had been taken on your letter of 21st December 1938 and the status of secret patent No.19157/34 therefore remains unchanged.

I would also state that unless secrecy is waived the patent will remain in force for the full term of sixteen years from the date of application. It is only in the event of secrecy being waived that the patent would be subject to renewal from year to year.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

P. H. Lyles
Director of Navy Contracts.

L. Szilard Esq.,
c/o Liebowitz,
420 Riverside Drive,
NEW YORK CITY.

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois.
March 22, 1949.

The Director of Navy Contracts
Admiralty
London S.W.1
England

REF: C.P. Branch Patents 9512/39

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 28th of February 1939, and also to the preceding correspondence in this case, I wish to inquire whether you are in the position to waive the secrecy and to return to me at my request the secret patent 19157/34. Because of legislation that has in the meantime been enacted both in England and in the United States, you might find it advisable to check both with the British Government and the United States Atomic Energy Commission before actually waiving secrecy of this patent.

Since, if the patent is now returned to me, I would wish to start prolongation proceedings and would have to do so rather soon, I would appreciate an early reply to this inquiry.

I have authorized Mr. George Meier, c/o Trubenised Ltd., 17/18 Old Bond Street, London W.1, to act on my behalf in this matter, and therefore I wish to ask you to give him or to any solicitor entrusted by him any information which he might request on my behalf.

Thanking you for the attention you are giving to this matter, I am

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

ROYAL NAVAL SCIENTIFIC SERVICE



DEPT. of RESEARCH PROGRAMMES & PLANNING,
ADMIRALTY.

Fanum House,
66A, Whitcomb Street,
~~Leicester-Square,~~

London, W.C.2.

20th May, 1949

TEL. : Whitehall 7888

Ex.

Your Ref. :

Our Ref. : DRPP.529/49

AIR MAIL

Dr. Leo Szilard,
1155 East 57th Street,
Chicago 37,
Illinois,
U.S.A.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter dated 22nd March, 1949 on the subject of Secret Patent No.19157/34. By arrangement with the Director of Navy Contracts, this Department has already commenced the procedure necessary if the patent in question is to be desecretised and re-assigned to yourself. Every effort will be made to complete the necessary action as soon as possible, but since this action involves reference of the matter to the United States Atomic Energy Commission, a certain amount of delay may have to be accepted.

A further communication will be sent to you in this matter as soon as possible when the question of publication has been cleared with the United States authorities.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

for DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES & PLANNING