

CORNELL  COLLEGE

MOUNT VERNON, IOWA

December 15, 1956

Department of
History and Political Science

E. C. Kollman

C. W. Heywood

J. C. Brown

C. F. Littell emeritus

Professor Leo Szilard
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

My dear Professor Szilard:

We are wondering whether you would consider accepting an invitation to appear in our Artist Lecture Series this coming April. Several of my colleagues who have heard you are enthusiastic about the idea of having you on our campus and I could assure you of a very appreciative audience of faculty and students; also many ^{people} from neighboring Iowa City and Cedar Rapids would highly welcome the opportunity of listening to you.

The College is not in session the first week in April so a date would have to be arranged preferably in the second or third week. As to the topic, we would be particularly interested in anything relating to the grave problems in the crucial relationship between physical science and contemporary society. I shall appreciate very much hearing from you at your early convenience whether you would be able to accept an invitation; also let us kindly know what honorarium you would expect.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Eric C. Kollman

Eric C. Kollman
Professor of History
and Chairman, Artist
Lecture Series *Committee*

ECK:az

answered

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
LABORATORY OF NUCLEAR STUDIES
ITHACA, NEW YORK

June 1, 1961

Dr. Leo Szilard
Hotel Dupont Plaza
1500 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Szilard:

We were very much interested in the petition to the President and the supporting documents which you sent to us. We agree, of course, with the spirit of your petition. We also were very much impressed with some of the supporting documents, especially with the article by Lippmann which had escaped our attention.

Both of us have felt strongly about the Cuban adventure, and we both signed a letter to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, a copy of which is enclosed. Its emphasis is rather more specific than that of your petition. Nevertheless, we feel that having signed one such letter to a high government official it would be inappropriate for us to sign another no matter how much we might agree with its spirit.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

H. A. Bethe

Hans A. Bethe

Robert R. Wilson

Robert R. Wilson

Enclosure

College of Arts and Sciences
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Ithaca, New York

Department of Economics

April 27, 1961

The Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The undersigned members of the Cornell University faculty feel strongly moved to express to you their anxieties on our current Cuban policies and to summarize their preoccupations and hopes as follows:

1. The United States government bears a large part of the blame for the exacerbation of United States relations with Cuba and for driving that country to seek Soviet military and economic aid. It appears to us, therefore, that the policy inherited from the previous administration is in need of revision by the new Administration, just as other Eisenhower policies dealing with other aspects of America's position in the world have been, or are in the process of being, revised.
2. The gain to the Soviet Union deriving from the establishment of a military base in Cuba would seem to be quite limited. Therefore Krushchev's denials in this connection can be taken at face value, at least until there is direct evidence to the contrary.
3. Cuba alone, no matter how well armed, can never become a serious threat to the military security of the United States.
4. Excessive concern with the Cuban problem will divert American attention and energy from more important efforts to meet the Soviet challenge throughout the world.
5. A mishandling of the Cuban situation will greatly impair our effectiveness in marshalling the support of uncommitted countries and retaining that of Latin American and other nations that fear and oppose all forms of foreign intervention.

We therefore feel that:

1. The previous Administration's policies of exerting maximum pressure on Cuba, and of attempting to bring the situation there to an early stage of crisis, must be abandoned in favor of new policies seeking to carry out within the larger Latin American framework the long range goals so well stated by President Kennedy since January 20th.
2. The constructive measures envisaged in the President's Inaugural Address, in his speech on the "Alliance for Progress", and elsewhere, must be made the basis of a positive and vigorous, yet patient, approach to the discharge of our foreign responsibilities and the achievement of our legitimate

international aims in Cuba, as well as in Latin America and throughout the world.

Yours respectfully,

Hans A. Bethe
John Wendell Anderson Professor of Physics

Morris A. Copeland
Robert Julius Thorne Professor of Economics

Mario Einaudi
Professor of Government and Chairman of the Department

Allan R. Holmberg
Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and Director of the Latin American Studies Program

George McT. Kahin
Professor of Government and Director of the Southeast Asia Program

Alfred E. Kahn
Professor of Economics and Chairman of the Department

Chandler Morse
Professor of Economics

Lauriston Sharp
Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and Far Eastern Studies

William F. Whyte
Professor of Industrial and Labor Relations and Director of the Social Science Research Center

Robin M. Williams, Jr.
Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and Chairman of the Department

Bertram F. Willcox
McRoberts Research Professor in Administration of the Law

Robert R. Wilson
Professor of Physics and Director of the Laboratory of Nuclear Studies

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
A CONTRACT COLLEGE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

Hold - to
answer later

F. C. STEWARD, DIRECTOR
LABORATORY FOR CELL PHYSIOLOGY,
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

257 PLANT SCIENCE BLDG.
AREA CODE 607
275-4491

February 25, 1964

Dr. L. Szilard
Enrico Fermi Institute
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I am writing this letter on behalf of a committee which is making arrangements for appropriate academic exercises to celebrate the centenary of Cornell University in the session 1964-65. As part of these exercises, it is planned to hold in the last week of April, 1965 a panel discussion and a group of lectures on a general scientific theme. The purpose of this letter is to acquaint you with our general intentions and to invite you to participate in this discussion. I will undertake to tell you what our general plans are, but first I should say that the Committee hope that you can be present on the Cornell campus for a minimum of two days, including April 28 and 29, though you will be extended full hospitality if you can stay until the Saturday of that week. If you inform me that you will be able to accept our invitation, you will later receive an official invitation to participate in the academic exercises, which will be extended by the President of the University; this invitation will state that your full traveling expenses will be covered, that you will be the guest of the University while on the campus, and that you will receive an honorarium of the order of \$500.00. While the main invitation is to participate in the panel discussion, the purpose of which I will outline below, we hope that you would be interested in giving a lecture on some specialized topic in your own field to an appropriate group of faculty and students while you are in Ithaca. We hope, therefore, that you will be able to accept our invitation, and in order that you may understand what is involved, I am endeavoring to explain this more fully below.

Because of the great interest of biology today, and because of the special interest aroused by the proposed reorganization of biology on the Cornell campus, the Committee have thought it appropriate to ask a distinguished biologist, in the person of Dr. P. B. Medawar, to open the panel discussion. We will ask him to try to say what is occurring in biological science at the present time, to venture an opinion not only upon what we are doing but what we ought to be doing, and to look ahead into the future in such a way as to raise provocative questions upon the appropriate steps that should now be taken to fit biological science for the tasks that lie ahead. Of necessity, Dr. Medawar will approach his assignment through the subject matter which he knows best. We shall therefore ask him to make the general lines of his

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presentation known at least a month before the panel discussion will take place, and this will also be made available to other members of the panel.

The panel will include representatives of the other natural sciences -- chemistry, physics, mathematics -- who, we hope, will have sufficient points of contact with biology to react to Dr. Medawar's contributions, but from the standpoint of their special disciplines. We will therefore ask the panelists to present a somewhat shorter statement, which will not only give their reactions to Professor Medawar but also to present their own subject in somewhat similar light, namely: what are the cardinal events that are occurring now, what should the science be doing, and how do we prepare for what lies ahead? Some appropriate local scientist will be asked to serve as moderator of this discussion, and we may ask one member of the Cornell faculty to join the panel as a discussant. At a time yet to be arranged, this discussion will occur publicly on the Cornell campus, and we hope it will arouse considerable interest amongst the students, the faculty and the public.

Other similar panels will occur in the same week, and there will also be a celebration of the granting of the charter of the University. At the end of that week -- that is on Saturday, May 1 -- we will ask a distinguished philosopher to try to summarize the outcome of the various panel discussions and draw some general conclusions. Those members of the panels who can remain for this summary discussion will certainly be welcome to do so.

The form of publication which will be adopted is not yet decided, but it can be assumed that we may place the results of this series of talks and discussions on record and make it available to a wider audience than those who actually attend.

We hope this assignment will interest you and that you will be sufficiently challenged by it to wish to join with the Cornell students and faculty in the centenary celebrations. If you are able to consent, please feel free to ask any questions that you may consider necessary, but as soon as we know that you can come, the official invitation will be issued.

Sincerely yours,



F. C. Steward

FCS.gso

To Tadot Gillin

We feel that the threat of global war, the effects of nuclear testing, and the attitude of helplessness in the face of these perils are subjects of the utmost importance. To demonstrate our concern we shall suspend our normal academic activities on November 17 and devote the day to discussion of these subjects.

We believe that it is appropriate for the academic community to express its anxiety. Civilization is in danger. The method of rational discourse which we are committed to uphold has been too long absent from the discussion of international problems. Our conscience dictates that, as part of our teaching obligation, we raise these issues as forcefully as we can.

At Cornell we shall announce to our students that instead of holding normal classes on November 17 we shall devote class time to a discussion of global war and nuclear testing. In the afternoon we shall join in a mass meeting of students and faculty to state our convictions publicly and to urge others to state theirs. We are sending this letter to all our friends in the profession, and we are asking them, in turn, to make copies for their friends. We hope that every college and university will participate.

Anthony Caputi
Paul De Man
Angus Fletcher
Allan Goldstein
Carl Herz
Peter Kahn
Walter Slatoff
Hal Smith
Taylor Stoehr
and other Cornell faculty members