

See Page #3

Kings Crown Hotel
420 W. 116th St.
New York, N.Y.
February 13, 1955

General Hugh B. Hester
Penn Sherwood Hotel
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear General Hester:

Enclosed is a copy of a "Letter to the Editor" which was printed in the New York Times last Sunday. The initial reaction seems to be quite favorable, as judged from the first batch of mail forwarded to me from Chicago, but it is too early to tell. The most interesting letter, so far, is from Fred. K. Hoehler, who was a member of Governor Stevenson's cabinet in Illinois. A copy of his letter is enclosed.

I am beginning to wonder whether I should take the responsibility of trying to put together a group, under some suitable sponsorship, that would devote practically full time to a study that ought to be completed within three months after it starts. The purpose of this study would be to produce, in some detail, the general picture of a set of arrangements that ought to be acceptable, and that might be acceptable, to the major nations involved. One could not aim in such a short time in spelling out all of the details and it would probably not be desirable to do so, even if it could be done. The next step would be to submit the result of the thinking of this group privately to some key persons within the American, British, Russian and, if possible, the Chinese Governments. The purpose of this would be to obtain some tentative and personal expression of opinion concerning the general philosophy of the solution and, also, the suitability of the particular devices which the plan may propose to utilize. There ought to be no difficulty for us in getting an informal and tentative

expression of opinion from some members of the American and British Governments, and I would hope that through my friend, Marshall MacDuffie, it might be possible to get such an informal reaction from Khrushchev. How to proceed with respect to the Chinese Government I do not know, but we can cross that bridge when we get to it. Only if we succeed in getting such private expressions of opinion could we know if we have produced something that might serve as a starting point for governmental negotiations.

Since the function of the group is not to come up with a new departure in American foreign policy, but rather to produce a picture of a satisfactory settlement that might be acceptable to a number of different governments, in selecting the members of the group the main emphasis would have to be put on ability and not on prestige within the American scene. If some members of the group are internationally known, that would help, of course, to command attention. I think we should, by all means, try to get Colonel Faymonville, if he is available, and Colin Clark (the most imaginative amongst the economists that I know), who despaired of making the Australian Government listen to reason and moved, I believe, to Oxford, England. The group ought to be as small as possible, in order to move fast, except that, of course, it must recruit talent from all fields that are involved.

I wonder what you think about all this and, if a serious attempt should be made to set up such a group, whether you would be willing to act as secretary of the group? I know no one who would be more suitable for this role and it is my hope that you are uncommitted at the present time, or else would be able to free yourself for such a task, that is assuming that we are indeed able to get off the ground.

All this, of course, very tentative and I have not really made up my mind as yet that I really want to do this thing. The decision will depend on the response and, above all, on your own response.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

LS/nr
Enc.

Dear Peggy and She-

Look this over and let me have your reactions; (1) Is it worthwhile to try; (2) Is the political climate in the U.S. suitable at this time; (3) Of (1) & (2) an assumption in the affirmative whom would you suggest as possible contributors to the development of a plan which might be submitted?

Do this something you think might be discussed with Kennan on a confidential basis? I am sure Leo would not object if done confidentially.

I have written Faymanville with Leo's permission, also Frank Graham at U N

Love to both of you from both of us
Cordially
Hugh B.

Leo Szilard

February 2, 1955

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In 1913, one year before the First World War, H. G. Wells wrote a book, THE WORLD SET FREE. In this book he describes the discovery of artificial radioactivity and puts it in the year 1933, the very year in which it was discovered. This is followed, in the book, by the development of atomic energy for peacetime uses and Atomic Bombs. The World War in which the cities of many nations are destroyed by these Bombs Wells puts in the year 1956. After the devastation of a large part of the World an attempt is made to set up a World Government which very nearly fails but in the end, somehow, miraculously succeeds.

It seems that all of these predictions -- even the dates -- may prove to be correct; for now it would appear that 1956 is the year most likely to see the advent of Atomic War.

It would take much imagination and resourcefulness -- no less perhaps than went into the development of the Bomb itself -- to devise a settlement that would resolve the power conflict between Russia and the United States and would not only postpone the next war, but create a situation in which war would not be likely to occur again. But up until now the public discussion of these issues has moved at a level of political thinking at which no solution is possible at all, and so far neither the Government nor any one else has presented even the principles on which an adequate settlement could be based.

If we have no concept of a real solution, almost any course of action can be argued, for and against, endlessly and inconclusively. Some military leaders seem to advocate that we take armed action in the Pacific while it

is still possible to keep Russia, through the threat of "massive retaliation," from intervening on a large scale. If we accept the premise that it is not too late for a preventive war and if we are willing to devastate China to such an extent that recovery may take one or two generations, then there may be nothing much wrong with the reasoning of these men, except that they leave God out of their equations.

According to press reports, Admiral Radford suggested in September that Chiang Kai-shek be permitted to bomb the mainland of China in defense of Quemoy Island and that the United States agree to intervene in the support of this action if necessary. At that time President Eisenhower vetoed this proposal. In doing so the President followed his instinct, and his instinct is to strive for peace.

It is generally known that the President ardently desires to keep the country out of war. He believes that a satisfactory general agreement could probably be drafted that the Russians would be likely to accept; but he does not know how to make sure that the Russians would keep such an agreement and therefore he is unable to steer a clear course which offers a chance of leading to peace. With many of his advisers in favor of taking calculated risks and having an early showdown, how long can the President be expected to hold out?

The day on which we bomb the Chinese mainland -- say in defense of Quemoy or Matsu -- is likely to turn out to be the first day of the Third World War. Those who think that the course of such a war can be predicted in any way are, I believe, sadly mistaken; and the war might very well end with the devastation of Russia and perhaps also of the United States, to the point where organized government in these two countries will cease to exist.

At the time of this writing it appears quite possible that we may have a reprieve. But such a reprieve can be only a short one; for we have now advanced close to the point of no return, and one of our next groping steps, unguided by a clear concept of the road to peace, could very well carry us beyond that point. This result, to me, seems indeed unavoidable unless the men within our Government who are shaping our policies will soon begin to see clearly some course of action that may lead us out of the present impasse.

To remove the instability inherent in the power conflict between Russia and the United States will take a far-reaching agreement that will settle all major outstanding issues. Such an agreement, if it offers Russia, ourselves, and several other nations strong continuing incentives for keeping it in operation, can create a setting in which the chance of war may be regarded as remote. Only in such a setting is it possible to dispose of the controversial issues which loom so large today. No progress can be made towards this goal piece-meal.

To outline such an agreement in some detail will require the kind of imagination and resourcefulness that cannot be expected from the Government. In our political system the intellectual leadership needed here can arise only through private initiative.

Our only remaining hope is, I believe, that under the sponsorship of universities, research foundations, and, above all, committees of citizens set up for the purpose, it may be possible to gather at this late hour several groups of highly qualified men who will think through the problems that are involved. Some of these groups might perhaps succeed in outlining for us in some detail, within the next few months, the kind of international arrangements that we could trust. The problem lies not

so much in working out all the details as in finding the right principles from which the details would follow more or less automatically. The details can wait but reaching a meeting of minds on the basic principles cannot. Only groups of like-minded men who can agree at the outset on basic premises can hope to come up with something really constructive that may catch -- as it must -- the imagination of the public, Congress and the Administration.

I am fairly confident that with the right kind of sponsorship to provide the necessary moral and financial support, the men needed to carry out this work could be found. We have great resources in men of ability, devotion, and -- yes, even courage; and such men would make themselves available in response to the proper invitation.

Will sponsorship, however, be forthcoming soon enough and on a sufficient scale? True, we are now faced with a clear and present danger, and it is in such times that patriots may rise to the challenge; but will there be men willing to assume responsibility when nobody in particular has assigned them such responsibility? This, of course, I cannot say. I am certain of one thing only: Unless we find the right answers soon, war will come; and maybe in the final analysis it will come because there was too much patriotism in the United States and there were too few patriots.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including names like "H. H. H.", "D. H. H.", "J. H. H.", "K. H. H.", "L. H. H.", "M. H. H.", "N. H. H.", "O. H. H.", "P. H. H.", "Q. H. H.", "R. H. H.", "S. H. H.", "T. H. H.", "U. H. H.", "V. H. H.", "W. H. H.", "X. H. H.", "Y. H. H.", "Z. H. H.", and various other initials and signatures.

so much in working out all the details as in finding the right principles from which the details would follow more or less automatically. The details can wait but reaching a meeting of minds on the basic principles cannot. Only groups of like-minded men who can agree at the outset on basic premises can hope to come up with something really constructive that may catch -- as it must -- the imagination of the public, Congress and the Administration. I am fairly confident that with the right kind of sponsorship

provide the necessary moral and financial support, the men needed to carry

Law
Economics
Politics
Business
Scientists
Clergy
Army
Navy
Lawyers
Each to have
his counterpart
in France,
England,
China, S. U.
Publish
Formula
it
Bout
Discipline for Peace

Learned Hand
Reinhold N. Baker
Faymonville
Lippman
James Warburg
Philip Graham
Ed. Hoover
Lombkin
Abraham St. John
Toynbee

Bowles or
Benton
Kennan
Oppenheimer
Hutchins
Paul Hoffman
Walter Lippman
Dean Acheson
L. B. Nichols
De Vogh
Huxley
Wigner
Von Neumann
Henry Wallace

Fred K. Hoehler
120 So. LaSalle St.
Chicago 3, Ill.
Financial 6-0614

February 9, 1955

Dr. Leo Szilard
Kings Crown Hotel
420 West 116th St.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

In the Sunday New York Times, I read your most excellent letter to the Editor.

Sometime when you are in Chicago I hope I will have an opportunity to talk to you. At the moment, I am serving as a consultant to the Trustees of the New World Foundation, which was founded by Mrs. Emmons Blaine. My function is to discuss fields of service with the Trustees. Although I am not sure when the money will be available, I should certainly think that for the "new world" a conference such as you propose would be most useful.

One of the fields of interest listed by Mrs. Blaine in her will was "the relationships between peoples and nations, and the avoidance of war." This may be one of the fields selected by the Trustees. While the principal sum will be something around twenty million and the income only moderate, I should think they might be interested in your proposal, if it were presented by a group or some university with tax exemptions. They had a bad experience in having to pay accumulated income tax on the money which was granted to Mr. Stringfellow Barr because of the failure, I understand, to set up a tax exempt group for the Foundation for World Government.

Sincerely yours,

Fred K. Hoehler

King's Crown Hotel
420 West 116th Street
New York, New York

February 25, 1955

General Hugh B. Hester
Penn-Sherwood Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear General Hester:

Enclosed you will find two copies of a memorandum which I propose to use in approaching Foundations. I am sending a copy to Fred K. Hoehler, whom I expect to see in Chicago early next week. One of the copies is for your own use. The other is attached to a letter addressed to Colonel Faymonville. I would appreciate your forwarding the letter to Colonel Faymonville if you have his address, together with a covering letter of your own, containing such comments as you would care to make.

I expect to be back in New York after March fifth, and will telephone you then.

I have asked Marshal MacDuffie to contact you when his schedule permits in the hope that when you are in New York next time, you two might get together and make each other's acquaintance.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Enclosures



RITTENHOUSE 6-3520

Penn D Herwood
~~CHAMBER OF COMMERCE~~
of Greater Philadelphia

Mar. 8, 1957 - 17TH AND SANSOM STREETS
PHILADELPHIA 3, PA.

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Dear Leo-

Herewith letter from Frank
Graham which is self explanatory. I
hope we can talk with him when we
are in N.Y. to- gether.

I will be in Wash Thursday
for funeral services of one of my closest
friends - write or call me here -

All the best -

Cordially,

Hugh B. Hester

tel: Evergreen 6-9000
Ext. 645



King's Crown Hotel
420 West 116th Street
New York, New York

March 14, 1955

General Hugh B. Hester
Penn-Sherwood Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear General Hester:

Many thanks for your letter of March 8th and the copies of the Letter to the Editor which you sent to the Times. Enclosed I am returning to you Frank Graham's letter.

I expect to be in New York in the course of this week and will then telephone you at your Hotel. In the meantime I want you to have copies of answers which I received from Father Cavanaugh, Colin Clark, and Marshall MacDuffie.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

Enclosures

August 5, 1955

General Hugh B. Hester
Penn Sherwood Hotel
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear General Hester:

As I told you by telephone, General Walter Bedell Smith, Chairman and President of the American Machinery and Foundry Co., has announced that A.M.F. Atomics, Inc., a subsidiary of the company, will build a reactor that will be solely devoted to research. Seven other large corporations will participate and the Industrial Reactor Laboratories will be located within commuting distance from New York City.

I am at present a Professor of the University of Chicago, but the Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics of which I was a member up until recently, has been discontinued by the University, and in addition, for personal reasons, I would much prefer to live East.

I am very much interested at present in a number of biological problems and have been engaged in biological research in the last few years. This new organization would be very attractive to me if conditions were such that I could conduct biological experiments and continue some of the program in this field in which I am interested.

- 2 -

All this is background information meant for you personally only. You may translate it any way you please.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

IS:srr

Leo Szilard

P. S.

General Bedell Smith has an office in Washington, but the telephone book only lists his home address: 4400 Garfield St., N.W., Washington, D. C. Telephone: Wo 6-2522. I could find out what is office address in Washington is though, if you need it since his office is in the same building as that of an acquaintance of mine - Gerhard Van Arkel, 1701 K Street, N. W., Telephone: St 3-7747. Enclosed is some material which you might send on.

IS

August 5, 1955

General Hugh B. Hester
Penn Sherwood Hotel
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear General Hester:

Since I wrote you, I found that General Walter Bedell Smith
has an office in Room 505, 1701 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
Why the telephone book does not show this listing, I do not know.

Sincerely,

LS:srr

Leo Szilard

**AMERICAN MACHINE & FOUNDRY COMPANY**

1701 K STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

WALTER BEDELL SMITH
Vice Chairman

August 10, 1955

Dear General Hester:

On behalf of General Smith, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of August 7 enclosing the material and information on Professor Leo Szilard.

General Smith is presently out of the office recuperating from a recent illness. You may be sure, however, your letter will be brought to his attention as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen Evans

(Mrs.) Eileen Evans
Secretary to General Smith

Brig. Gen. Hugh B. Hester, USA, Ret.,
The Penn Sherwood Hotel,
3900 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia 1, Pennsylvania.

*Dear Leo - I have acknowledged this.
Will keep you advised when I hear more -
Hope you find the group helpful
and the air invigorating
Cordially
Hugh B. Hester*

1977-1978

1979-1980

1981-1982

1983-1984

1985-1986

1987-1988

1989-1990

1991-1992

1993-1994

1995-1996

1997-1998

1999-2000

2001-2002

Mrs. German
SR 40496

X 1 ⁶⁰/₁₀₀

1665 Pa Filmore

Chapel Hill
N.C.

Chapel Hill N.C.
4-20-61

Dear Les -

I don't know how I missed so long the
front of the Humanist Magazine last week when
you in this May-June issue. I must have
been away on a sweeping tour & I really missed
it.

Both of us think of you often and the
wonderful work you have done for humanity.
That we misseventually be blown apart by
foolish people will not detract from your great
efforts.

We liked you so much and enjoyed our
visits very much. Wish there could have been
more. May God bless you. Our love.

Polly and Hugh Hester
Hugh B. Hester

File & Fundraising

3 May 1962

General Hugh B. Hester
c/o The Churchman
1074 - 23rd Avenue North
St. Petersburg 4, Florida

Dear General Hester:

I am anxious to talk to you over the telephone and was wondering where I could reach you. You can communicate with me at the above address but I expect to be away the coming week.

I was wondering whether you have seen the text of a speech which was reprinted by the Bulletin and which is enclosed.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

enclosure (1)

Until May 20

St. Petersburg, Florida

Orange 1-2834

101 Coffee pot Riviera

After May 20

c/o Pas. C.C. Wheeler

✓ 111 Forest Wood Shire
Durham, N.C.

Addresses

1-listed A

without disarming the rest of the world. And the President has precious little time left within which to do this.

Certainly disarmament, even with full inspection and world government with powers adequate to world needs, involves a risk. But pursuit of current policies involves more than a risk; it entails the certainty of world disaster.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Hugh B. Hester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hugh B. Hester

Brig. General U. S. Army Retired

NOTE: General Hester was Director of Procurement of Military Supplies under Reverse Lend Lease Agreement with Australia, for General MacArthur's forces, 1942-45, and Administrator for U. S. Food and Agricultural Program for Germany, 1945-47.

Dear Leo

5-10-62

Good to hear from you again.
Yes, I read "Are We on the Road to War?" in
the Bulletin.

You can reach me next week by phone
Orange 1-2834, or write me 101 Coffee Pot

Riviera, Pt. St. Petersburg, Florida - After
May 20th you can reach me through
Mrs C.C. Wheeler, 111 Forestwood Drive,
Durham, N.C.

I go to N.Y. Thursday for meeting
with Major Titov return Sunday

with warm regards.

Cordially
Thurs