

INTERNATIONAL

**SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

a Conover-Mast Publication / 205 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y. / MURray Hill 9-3250

March 8, 1962

Dr. Leo Szilard
Hotel DuPont Plaza
DuPont Circle
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I'm delighted that you are agreeable to sitting for an interview for INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. Let me tell you about our new magazine, its interview feature, and what we have in mind for the interview with you.

The magazine is new; it's monthly; issue number 1 was January, 1962. The magazine is addressed, on a controlled-circulation basis, to 120,000 scientists and engineers here and abroad. We bring to our readers information on developments in fields other than their own -- providing, by means of review articles, an interdisciplinary viewpoint in an age of specialization. As a second theme we seek to serve as a forum for the discussion of the problems of administering scientific enterprises and issues pertinent to the interaction of science and society. To that end we carry a nontechnical article each month, run scientific/political news, and carry an interview with a distinguished scientist or engineer. You can see this in the enclosed copies of our magazine.

That leads me to the interview feature. Thus far we've had H.B.G. Casimir of Philips, on the International Institute of Technology; Jerome Wiesner on various science-in-government issues; a group discussion on new developments needed in computers; and in April will carry an interview with Sir Harry Massey. (Incidentally, Massey is a member of our Editorial Board; E. U. Condon is its chairman.)

In the interview we would like to discuss such things as (1) the future of physics (2) your interests in molecular biology (3) the disarmament problem. I know of your intense concern with the last topic, and do want to cover such matters as your Movement and your views on the current U. S. position, but I consciously put it last because I don't want to neglect other areas in which you are active. But these are just starting points; our experience is that the interviews propel themselves.

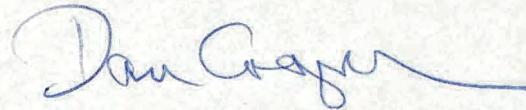
Dr. Leo Szilard

March 8, 1962

We could conduct the interview in your hotel rooms or in any other place of your choosing. We bring a tape recorder to get the conversation down and a photographer (who will remain unobtrusive). We edit the discussion and print the result in an early issue, if we get what we thought we were getting.

Our Editor, Robert Colborn, and I would like to come to Washington on Tuesday (March 13) to conduct the interview; two hours should suffice. I will call you on Monday to see if that is still agreeable and learn what time of day is best for you. Meanwhile, I'd be grateful for such background material as you think appropriate on your current scientific and political activities.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel I. Cooper
Executive Editor

DIC/gw

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Washington, D.C.
9 March 1962

Daniel I. Cooper
International Science and Technology
205 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Many thanks for your kind letter of March 8. I am enclosing two copies of my speech which I have recently given at various universities, and of my little book which is now in its fourth printing.

There appeared recently an article about me in Pageant Magazine which you might be able to pick up in New York and in 1960 there was an article in Harpers by Alice Smith.

I shall keep Tuesday free for you. I think we had better schedule the whole day rather than just two hours. I will expect to hear from you Monday morning.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard
Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington 6, D.C.

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OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

March 20, 1962

Dear Prof. Szilard

Here is the edited version of our interview with you, in the form in which I propose to publish it. I am enclosing two copies, one for your records and one on which to mark any essential-seeming changes. I trust not many will be needed -- and hope that you will send me any that are needed as promptly as may be (to that end, I enclose a return envelope). I'd direct your attention to a couple of things, particularly:

1. The section dealing with your biological papers. Recording tape is sometimes an unreliable record of technical terms, and I don't want to put any errors in your mouth.
2. The section at the end on disarmament. I found that our questioning, in this area, had led to a rather disorganized structure. I have re-arranged some of the material to clarify the thought. The quotations are accurate, but I want to be sure I haven't distorted your ideas.

It will be helpful if you will send, with the corrected manuscript, the list of your more significant writings which you promised me. I think I mentioned to you that this can be an annotated listing;

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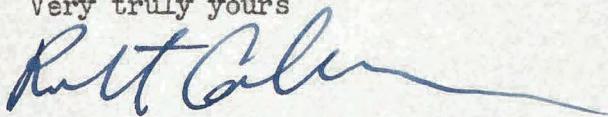
OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

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I'll welcome any remarks you want to make about particular publications as to their significance in your thinking or particular use to a reader.

Please tell Mrs. Szilard that I will be sending her shortly the complete un-edited transcript and the original tape which I promised her. Tell her also, if you will, how much Mrs. Davis and I enjoyed our conversation with her.

Very truly yours


Robert Colborn

Washington, D.C.
22 March 1962

Robert Colburn
Science and Technology
205 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Colburn:

Many thanks for your letter of 20 March. Attached I am sending you the bibliography which you wanted to have. I felt that it would be better to keep it short and to restrict it to the recent past --- to the last five years. This should perhaps be indicated in the headlining of the bibliography.

I have made just a few simple corrections in the manuscript which you sent me and which I am returning enclosed.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard
Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington 6, D.C.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Work published by Leo Szilard in the last five years.

In the January issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy, 1959, Szilard published a theory of the aging process in mammals. The theory interprets the observed shape of the mortality curve of the population of the United States. It cannot make any statements regarding the life shortening suffered by a population which has been exposed to ionizing radiation but it can predict the life shortening of the off-spring of such a population. Because of its quantitative nature it ought to be possible to prove by suitable experiments whether the theory is wrong or right.

In the March issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, 1960, Szilard published two closely related papers -- one on the formation of inducible enzymes in bacteria and the other on the formation of antibodies in mammals. If an antigen is injected into a rabbit for a second time the anti-body response of the rabbit shows that the anti-body forming system of the rabbit remembers that it has been exposed to that specific antigen before. Szilard gives a molecular model for this "memory". In a letter to Nature, Professor Herbert Anker, recently raised the question whether the model proposed by Szilard might not furnish the explanation also for the "memory" stored in the brain.

In the February issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 1960, Szilard published a major article which is based on the premise that the nations of the world may continue to use force but must realize that henceforth the use of force can be aimed only at the extraction of a price

from the enemy and cannot be aimed at victory over the enemy. He develops the thesis that if this is realised -- killing of people, soldiers and civilians might be replaced by destruction of property, and that in this sense war might disappear while the use of force is still retained.

In 1961 Szilard published a paperback -- five stories of social and political satire -- "The Voice of the Dolphins". The lead story which he wrote as his political testament, was written in the hospital when he was not expected to live. This story intends to show what it would take to achieve peace through disarmament.

In the April issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 1962, Szilard published the text of a speech, "Are We On the Road to War?", which was delivered -- as an experiment at universities and colleges. The purpose of this experiment, which is being continued, is to determine if there is a minority which could work on a set of attainable foreign policy objectives and be politically effective by making 2% of its income available for campaign contributions and thus make up for its inferiority in numbers.