

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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THE ENRICO FERMI INSTITUTE
FOR NUCLEAR STUDIES

July 26, 1957

Professor D. F. Skobeltzyn
Academy of Sciences
B. Kaluzhskaya 14
Moscow, USSR

Dear Professor Skobeltzyn:

I am in the process of exploring what kind of reactions others might have to a proposal of holding in the future a sequence of meetings somewhat similar to the Pugwash meeting. Attached you will find a memorandum which I have written on the subject and sent to a number of people whose names are attached. This being vacation time, I do not expect an early response but when there is a significant response that is worth discussing I shall write you again.

In the meantime, could you jot down just a few lines and give me your own personal views on the subject of the memorandum?

With kind personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

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Encl.

P.S. Enclosed you will also find a copy of a covering letter to the memorandum that I sent to Professor Topchiev.

Pugwash

15 October 1957

Professor D.F. Skobeltzyn
Academy of Sciences
B. Kaluzhskaya 14
M O S C O W, USSR

Dear Professor Skobeltzyn:

Many thanks for your letter (undated) which you sent to Berlin. Before I left Chicago I arranged a meeting with Eugene Rabinowitch and Morton Gredzins (who will be in charge of arranging the meeting if the University of Chicago is to arrange a meeting) and Dr. Gredzins will keep in touch with Rabinowitch, and through him with the team elected at Pugwash.

As a general remark I should like to add the following: we ought to think in terms of several meetings to be held within a year, and at each meeting could be held under different auspices and might have a somewhat different character. We ought to look at each such meeting as an experiment from which we can learn how to make the next meeting more effective.

This way each group which arranges a meeting will have a chance to try out its own idea concerning how to make a meeting effective. Thus if for instance the University of Chicago is arranging a meeting the number of participants, incl. observers, may have to be limited to 30, both because we believe that it is

not possible to have a thorough discussion of difficult problems in a larger group and also because it would be difficult to finance, privately, a such larger meeting.

Further we would not want to attempt to issue a proclamation representing the consensus of the participants. On the other hand there ought to be a communiqué listing the topics which the meeting considered important and which were discussed at the meeting. Opinions that have been expressed and views that were presented by individuals could be described in ^{an} appendix that is attached, either with or without attribution.

The participants who wish to summarize conclusions which they themselves have reached during the meeting would be free to do so, and such summaries could be attached to the official communiqué. The meetings, in order to be productive, ought take 10 days or 2 weeks and should not be overburdened with organized sessions.

Rotblat, in a letter which I received from him in Berlin, raised questions concerning the participation of "newspapermen" as observers, and I am enclosing a letter of my answer to him.

With best wishes

Sincerely yours

(Leo Szilard)

Copy to: Prof. Morton Grossins
Prof. A.V. Topchiev
Prof. Eugene Rabinowitch
Prof. J. Rotblat
Prof. E.M. Purcell

August 22, 1957

Professor D. F. Skobeltzyn
Academy of Sciences
B. Kaluzhskaya 14
Moscow, USSR

Dear Professor Skobeltzyn:

I believe you are one of those designated at Pugwash to serve on a continuing committee. I should appreciate your reading the attached note and letting me have your reaction as soon as convenient.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

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Encl.

Dear Professor Szilard,

I received your letter of August 22-th, 1957 together with the memorandum and appendix.

Earlier we (prof.Topchiev and myself) sent a letter to prof.Powell stressing the desirability of arranging a new international meeting (and a larger one) on the problem that you have in mind.

We have not yet received an answer from prof.Powell.

So I fully agree with you about the necessity of new steps in continuation of our work that began in Pugwash.

But I am not prepared to state my own view about the organisational arrangements because before to do so I would like to consult my colleagues of the team selected at Pugwash to take care of such arrangements.

Yours sincerely

academician

D. Skobel'tzyn

(D. Skobel'tzyn)