

May 23, 1957

Dr. Joseph Rotblatt
Physics Department
Medical College
St. Bartholemew's Hospital
London, England

Dear Dr. Rotblatt:

On the suggestion of Eugene Rabinowitch, I am sending you enclosed a copy of a letter which I wrote today to Lord Russell.

With kind personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard

m
Encl.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
THE ENRICO FERMI INSTITUTE
FOR NUCLEAR STUDIES

July 26, 1957

Professor J. Rotblat
Physics Department
The Medical College of
St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Charterhouse Square, E.C. 1
London, England

Dear Professor Rotblat:

As a sequel to the Pugwash meeting, I am in the process of conducting an inquiry. The purpose of the inquiry is to find out whether others feel that it would be desirable to hold in the future a sequence of meetings that, I personally believe, might serve some useful purpose. The purpose to be accomplished and the nature of the meeting are described in the attached memorandum.

A list of those to whom this memorandum is sent is enclosed.

If your time permits I should be grateful if you could write me a few lines and give me your reaction to the kind of meeting I propose.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

m
Encl.

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

August 22, 1957

Professor J. Rotblat
Physics Department
The Medical College of
St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Charterhouse Square, E.C. 1
London, England

Dear Rotblat:

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

m
Encl.

PROFESSOR J. ROTBLAT

TELEPHONES:
CLERKENWELL 9875
CLERKENWELL 0661 EXT. 14
MONARCH 7777 EXT. 142

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT,
THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL,
CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE, E.C.1.

18 Oct
3rd October, 1957.

Dear Szilard,

Many thanks for your letters of September 20th and 25th, as well as for your previous communication and memo which arrived while I was away in the Far East.

I was hoping that Powell and I might meet Bertrand Russell and discuss your suggestions, but Powell is still away and I am not quite sure when he is coming back to England. My own view is that the University of Chicago would be an excellent sponsor ~~again~~, but only for one meeting. The representatives from the East might, perhaps, not like it if a series of meetings were held under the aegis of an American institute. The venue of the meetings would, of course, have to be outside the United States, since otherwise some members might be excluded from attendance. I also feel that West Germany would not be the proper place to hold such a meeting under the present political conditions. The original idea about Canada or the West Indies seems to me to be a good one. It might perhaps be even better if the meeting were held in a completely neutral territory, such as India; but of course this would depend on finances. Do you think the University would be able to obtain the required finance?

With regards to the scope of the meeting, I am on the whole in agreement with your memorandum; but some of your suggestions seem to me to be somewhat contradictory; for example, you say that no statement should be issued after the meeting; yet you suggest inviting as observers people from the press. My own feeling is, that at least the first meeting should be restricted to scientists only and the question of observers should be left for discussion at the first meeting.

These are only general remarks. I hope to discuss the suggestions with Bertrand Russell at greater length.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Leo Szilard,
c/o Professor Max Von Laue,
Fritz-Haber-Institut der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft,
Faradayweg 4,
Berlin-Dahlem,
Germany.

*Paymaster
Holt*

Berlin-Dahlem, 7.10.1957

Dear Rotblat:

I just received your kind letter of October 3rd. Let me first of all clear up one point. My thought is that the proposed meeting must not aim at issuing a proclamation purporting to represent the consensus of the meeting. However it would seem advisable to issue a communique at the end of the meeting, listing the topics discussed and perhaps even some of the views that have been expressed either with, or without, attribution.

A second point which I would like to clear up is the question of observers. We surely do not want newspapermen. But men like Walter Lipman are not newspapermen; they do not function as reporters. They are columnists who express their own opinions and might regard the proposed meeting - if they are willing to attend it at all - as an opportunity for clarifying their own thoughts. We surely would not want any other kind of columnists and, admittedly, there are only very few of this kind.

I am forwarding your letter to Morton Grodzins. I should perhaps add that I have a very high regard for Grodzins - and so does everyone else at Chicago - and I am reasonably sure that you will like him also. I believe he is quite uniquely suited for the "job" and very much convinced that ^{there} is an important function which scientists can fulfil, better than any other group, at this time.

Yours sincerely,

LS

(Leo Szilard)

PROFESSOR J. ROTBLAT

TELEPHONES:
CLERKENWELL 9875
CLERKENWELL 0661 EXT. 14
MONARCH 7777 EXT. 142

Rotblat

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT,
THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL,
CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE, E.C.1.

25th November, 1957.

Dear Szilard,

Many thanks for your letter of the 15th November. The difficulties about the meeting of the Steering Committee are not just money and visas, but also time. As you know yourself it is very difficult to find a time convenient to all concerned, even for a very small number of people. In this case it so happens that the times convenient to Skobeltzyn are not convenient to Rabinowitch and vice-versa. The date agreed on, December 18th, seems to be the earliest convenient.

With regard to your suggestion that the Steering Committee should meet in Berlin; the only difficulty about this is that it would make it impossible for Bertrand Russell to attend, because he is too ill to go abroad. He hopes to take part in the meeting in London on December 18th.

Once we held our first meeting any future discussions would be decided by correspondence or telephone, so I hope there will be no more hold-up.

I am going to put all your suggestions to the meeting; if you have any further proposals to make, I should like to hear from you between now and the 18th December.

Let me assure you once again, that I personally feel very strongly the urgency of the situation.

With best regards,
Yours sincerely,

Rotblat

Professor Leo Szilard,
c/o Professor v Laue,
Faradayweg 4,
Berlin,
Dahlen.

December 3rd, 1957

Professor
J. Rotblat
Physics Department
The Medical College of St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Charterhouse Square
London E.C. 1
England

Dear Rotblat,

Since we talked over the telephone I received your letter. I also discussed with Weisskopf further your thought of using your Steering Committee Meeting for gathering a somewhat larger group and issuing a "proclamation". Both, Weisskopf and I believe that it may be very difficult to say anything sensible with adequate force through such an improvised meeting.

In the meantime I have also given some thought to whether there is a simple message on which a large number of scientists could agree after an adequate discussion of the issue, (for which the next "thinking meeting" should afford an opportunity). I am communicating my tentative conclusions to you and a few others so that you may consider it at your leisure well ahead of any meeting.

It seems to me that we scientists have to put down our feet somewhere and say "so far and no further", but just where should we draw that line? Perhaps we might demand from the governments a pledge that they will not resort to the use of atomic bombs against "enemy" territory, while they may reserve the right to use atomic bombs for purposes of defense within their own territory (or the territory of their allies). As you remember the Russians have always demanded that the governments be pledged not to use atomic bombs, and that this was rejected by the Americans (and others) on the ground

that Russia could overrun Europe with an army equipped with conventional weapons. Accordingly the Western nations are claiming the right to defend themselves with atomic bombs used in combat against an "agression".

This, of course, won't do, for it is not possible to know who is the agressor. Therefore, if we want to distinguish between attack and defense we can do it only in the manner indicated above. If a nation wants to defend its own territory by exploding atomic bombs within its own territory, well and good. But no nation shall have the right to drop atomic bombs on someone else's territory as long as the other nation does not herself violate this principle.

I do not believe of course that very much could be gained by the "prohibition" here proposed. But I think it would be a good first step and I think no harm could come from scientists asking for it. The standard American objection to the standard Russian demand would in any case not apply to this principle.

I trust you will let me know if you think it would be useful if I were in London when your Steering Committee meets.

I may not be in Berlin all the time but you can reach me c/o Professor von Laue, Berlin-Dahlem, Faraday Weg 4-6.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard.

PROFESSOR J. ROTBLAT

TELEPHONES:

CLERKENWELL 9875
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PHYSICS DEPARTMENT,
THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL,
CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE, E.C.1.

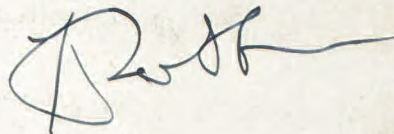
30th December, 1957.

Dear Szilard,

I enclose for your information the draft of a letter of invitation which I am circulating to the members of the committee.

Would you please let me know if you have any comments on it?

With best regards,
Yours sincerely,



Professor Leo Szilard,
Kensington Palace Hotel,
Kensington,
LONDON.

Telephone: Penrhyndeudraeth 242.

Plas Penryn,
Penrhyndeudraeth,
Merioneth,
North Wales.

Dear

You may know that in July last, an international meeting of scientists was held in Pugwash, Nova Scotia to discuss the dangers which had arisen as a result of the development of weapons of mass destruction. This meeting took place through the generous support of Mr. Cyrus Eaton, and was attended by 22 scientists from 10 countries.

As a result of the Pugwash meeting a Continuing Committee was set up to arrange for further meetings, should they appear desirable. This committee, of which the members are Professors Powell, Rabinowitch, Retblat and Skobeltzyn, and of which I am the Chairman, met in London on December 16th - 18th. It had the benefit of advice from Professors von Weizsäcker and Szilard.

The committee had before it the results of a questionnaire addressed to a number of scientists in the U.S.A. and in Britain. This made it clear that there is among scientists of these countries a widespread sense of the grave urgency of the present situation and a desire to contribute to diminishing the dangers. Evidence was also presented for the existence of similar sentiments in other countries, particularly U.S.S.R., Germany and Japan. The Committee found that there is a general consensus of opinion that it was no longer sufficient for scientists to issue general

warnings, but that it was necessary to attempt to make a contribution to the resolution of present problems.

In the light of the evidence, the committee took a number of decisions, among which was one to hold a small private meeting in Canada from March 31st to April 11th, 1958. Again, we are greatly indebted to Mr. Cyrus Eaton who has given a most generous promise of support.

The theme of the proposed meeting is "The dangers of the present situation in the atomic arms race, and ways and means of diminishing them". The intention is that the conference should be attended by about 25 people, representing different countries and opinions; they should meet to discuss in private some of the issues which might contribute to the reduction in international tension and the diminishing of the dangers. A list of suggested topics for discussion is enclosed. The purpose of the meeting is to give an opportunity for discussion and reflection on these topics with a view to the possibility of making a contribution to international thinking on these issues. To allow time for reflection and private discussion, the meeting has been planned to take nearly two weeks, with formal sessions limited to a few hours in the mornings.

It is not intended that any public statement should be issued at the conclusion of the meeting, other than a description of the

subjects that were discussed.

I should be very glad if you would be able to attend this meeting.

Further, the committee would be grateful if you would comment on the topics enclosed and make any suggestions you think fit for other subjects of discussion. Should you be able to attend we shall make arrangements for your subsistence whilst in Canada, as well as for your travelling expenses if required.

Yours sincerely,

The above is a draft of a letter to those who did not come to Pugwash. For those who were at Pugwash the first paragraph will be omitted and the following inserted:

"As you know the Pugwash Meeting set up a Continuing Committee to arrange for further meetings, should they appear desirable".

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

At the Meeting on "The Dangers of the Present Situation in the Atomic Arms Race, and Ways and Means to Diminish them".

1. Self-imposed restraints in the use of weapons in the present situation in the armaments race; e.g. the possibility of prohibiting the use of atomic armaments, or agreement to limit their use to particular circumstances.
2. The possibility of establishing international agencies; e.g. United Nations Police Force; the possibility of exchange of information on atomic weapons between the Great Powers coupled with an exchange of scientists and technical personnel.
3. Solution of local problems by local measures; regional settlements such as the neutralization of Germany.
4. Ways of dealing with the dangers arising from the existence of large amounts of fissile material among many nations, in connection with the widespread use of nuclear power.
5. The possibility of widespread exchange of students and scientists between different countries.
6. Minimum requirements in the control of atomic weapons -- method of control.



HAVE
TAKE
YOUR
FOR R



Professor Leo Szilard,
The Enrico Fermi Institute for
Nuclear Studies,
The University of Chicago,
CHICAGO 37,
ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

↑ First fold here ↓

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: Professor J. Rotblat,
Physics Department,
St. Bartholomew's Medical College,
Charterhouse Square,
London, E.C.1.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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PROFESSOR J. ROTBLAT

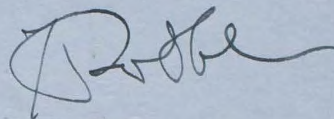
Physics Department,
St. Bartholomew's Medical
College,
Charterhouse Square,
LONDON, E.C.4.

4th March, 1958.

Dear Szilard,

Apart from an acknowledgement from your Secretary, there has been no formal reply from you yet about your participation in the April meeting in Canada. As time is getting short I should be glad to know whether you will be coming, and if so when do you expect to arrive. As you probably know the meeting will take place in the Manoir Saint Castin, which is about half an hour's drive from Quebec City.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Leo Szilard,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago 37,
ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

Night Letter
Telegram to:

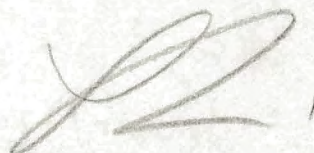
12th. March, 1958.

Prof. Rotblat
St. Bartholomew's Medical College,
LONDON.

ARRIVING QUEBEC SATURDAY PRECEDING MEETING IF SECRETARIAL
FACILITIES AVAILABLE OVER WEEKEND

REGARDS

SZILARD



Night Letter to:

March 14, 1958.

Prof. Rotblat
St. Bartholomew's Medical College,
LONDON.

AM GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT SMALL SIZE OF RUSSIAN DELEGATION
TO QUEBEC MEETING STOP UNLESS THIS IS REMEDIED ORGANIZATION
OF FUTURE CONFERENCES OF THIS SORT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT
STOP COLONEL LEGHORN AND JEROME WIESNER ARE EXPERTS WHO
KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE DANGER OF ACCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT
PRECIPITATE AN ATOMIC WAR THAT NOBODY WANTS STOP SUGGEST
YOU URGE THE RUSSIANS TO ENLARGE THEIR DELEGATION TO INCLUDE
SUCH EXPERTS AND ~~IF POSSIBLE~~ AT LEAST ONE THEORETICAL
PHYSICIST OF STANDING

REGARDS

SZILARD