

January 6, 1948

Professor Pierre Auger  
Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique  
41 Avenue Foch  
Paris 16e, France

Dear Auger:

The Emergency Committee has tentatively discussed plans to call a conference composed of British, French and American scientists, and Czechoslovakian, Russian and Polish scientists on the other--all together perhaps twenty persons--to discuss the real reasons for a failure to make progress on the problem of international control of atomic energy. Such a conference would serve no useful purpose unless people like you and Kowarski were willing to speak freely and say at the conference what you would say privately in talking to some of us, that is, unless you felt free to give your personal opinions as distinguished from the official point of view of the French Delegation.

While the conference would be closed, there would be open meetings also with the press admitted, or else the results of the conference would in some form or other be released to the public.

The purpose of this letter is to find out whether you and Kowarski would feel free to attend such a conference and would feel free to speak your minds at it. I am sending a copy of this letter to Kowarski. Naturally, if the conference takes place, Joliot would be among those invited from France. I am not raising the same question with him because I assume he would not hesitate to state his opinion, being in a special position.

If the conference takes place at all, it would probably be sometime toward the end of May or early in June and all expenses would, of course, be paid from this side.

I believe that the decision whether or not to hold such a conference will essentially turn on your and Kowarski's response since it should not be difficult to get from England enough people who will speak their minds.

I was very sorry to have missed you in New York. Your office changed its telephone number and the old number did not respond.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard



January 6, 1948

Dr. L. Kowarski  
Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique  
41 Avenue Foch  
Paris 16e, France

Dear Kowarski:

The enclosed letter addressed to Auger holds equally for you, and I would be very anxious to have your response before the end of January when we will have a meeting of the Emergency Committee and will talk these things over again.

I was exceedingly sorry not to be able to go to Paris to the Rutherford Commemoration. I got as far as New York and had everything arranged when I had to cancel my trip to return to Chicago. As it now turns out, I could have gone without any ill effects, but this did not look so at the time.

Hope to see you one way or the other soon.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard



Presidence Du Conseil

COMMISSARIAT

A

L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE  
41, Avenue Foch (XVI)

Tel.: Passy 56-36, 56-51  
56-68, 56-79

Paris, Le January 14th 1948

Dr. Leo Szilard  
c/o Atomic Scientists of Chicago, Inc.  
1126 East Fifty-Ninth Street  
Chicago 37, Ill.  
(U.S.A.)

Dear Szilard,

After a careful consideration given to your letter of January 6th, Kowarski and I feel entitled to say that we would be quite free to state our personal opinions at the closed meetings of the conference. As for open meetings, the same freedom may require some qualification depending on the general trend of the conference as revealed by its closed meetings.

We did not quite understand the last sentence of your third paragraph. Do the words "Special position" refer to Joliot's atomic standing, his post at the head of the French Atomic Energy Authority, his declared political allegiance, or his status of Alternate Delegate to the UNAEC, and which one, or several, of these factors, in your opinion, are likely to ensure an unhesitating frankness of his statements?

We think that the suggested conference, if successful, could make a useful contribution to the enlightenment of the public opinion and to our own understanding of the problem, but we cannot view with much hope the chances of getting a representative and truly expressive participation from some of the countries mentioned in your letter. In this respect it might be found useful to convene the conference in some European country not already too much involved in these problems, or at the very least in some unobtrusive place such as Montreal or the Bermudas.

Please keep us informed about the further developments.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed: P Auger)

P. AUGER.



Presidence Du Conseil

REPUBLICQUE FRANCAISE

COMMISSARIAT

A

L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE

41, Avenue Foch (XVI)

Paris, Le 14 Janvier 1948

Tel.: Passy 56-36, 56-51  
56-68, 56-79

Dr Leo Szilard  
c/o Atomic Scientists of Chicago, Inc.  
1126 East 59th Street  
Chicago 37, Ill.

Dear Szilard,

Auger's letter, giving our joint affirmative response to your letter of January 6th, has reached you or will reach you shortly. It expresses our official attitude, so to speak; I need hardly stress, in private, how much we are in agreement with the idea of this Conference. Even if no definitely constructive proposal comes out of it, the Conference will afford some of the Emergency Committee tycoons (I don't mean you) an opportunity to learn some facts of life about European attitudes; we may be able to make a useful contribution towards this task of information.

If the Conference is convened (contrary to our suggestion) on American soil, it might be useful to couple it in time with some attractive event, such as the Washington meeting of the Physical Society. This would indicate mid-May rather than end of May.

Very sincerely yours

(Signed: L Kowarski)

L. Kowarski



E  
1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois  
April 4, 1949

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer  
Director, Institute for Advanced Study  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Oppenheimer:

The Emergency Committee had a Trustees Meeting yesterday, which was called because we understood that the Bulletin's financial position was rather desperate. \$1,636.91 was allocated at that time; a rather small sum which, we know of course will not go very far. At that meeting Dr. Urey brought up the following point. The Emergency Committee is going to send out letters to about 20,000 contributors in the near future. In this letter we will advise them that the Emergency Committee has ceased to raise funds, and that the Bulletin will continue, under new sponsorship. Urey wondered whether the Bulletin would not like to make use of this mailing to enclose, with the Emergency Committee's letter, an appeal for funds for the Bulletin, which would be signed by you. If the Bulletin wishes to make use of this opportunity to mail an appeal it will be necessary for you or some other representative of the Bulletin to make the necessary arrangements with Mr. Oram immediately, since the sending out of the Emergency Committee letter cannot be delayed much longer.

I assume that in about a month or so you will know better whether the particular method of financing the Bulletin which has been adopted is going to work out or not. In case you should come to the conclusion that it is not working out, and that it does not constitute a sound basis for maintaining the Bulletin, I should appreciate your dropping me a line.



I have communicated Urey's suggestion to Harrison Davies, who says that he will communicate with you about it. I assume he will keep the Emergency Committee office in Chicago informed about the Bulletin's intentions in this connection.

It was nice seeing you again.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

PS: Funds have been appropriated for the forthcoming mailing of the Emergency Committee with the proviso that the total expenditure may not exceed \$2000. It is conceivable that this sum would be sufficient to take care of printing the Bulletin's mailing piece, and if so, the Emergency Committee would be glad to finance the entire mailing, including the Bulletin's part of it.

L. S.

cc: Mayer ✓  
Hogness  
Urey  
Davies



1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois  
April 19, 1949

Dr. Joseph E. Mayer  
Institute for Nuclear Studies  
University of Chicago

Dear Mayer:

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has raised the question of whether we could change the letter which we planned to send to our contributors. Enclosed you will find a draft which presents my proposal for a changed letter which, in my opinion, might fill the bill.

Please advise our office (Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, 1126 E. 59th St., phone Ex. 1785) whether this text meets with your approval.

Sincerely yours,

*Angie Mcbane*  
Leo Szilard for L.S.

Enclosure

cc: Brown  
Davies  
Hogness  
Mayer  
Urey

*Approve J.E. Mayer*



DRAFT

April 19, 1949

Dear friend of the Emergency Committee:

For over two years, the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists has attempted to carry out a broad program to arouse the American public to the realities of atomic energy and the problems posed by the existence of atomic bombs. The Committee sponsored and financed the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, arranged numerous conferences and public lectures, and carried out an educational campaign through various media of mass communication.

Perhpas the most important issue raised by the advent of atomic energy is that of the establishment of international control. Today it is evident that this issue is not capable of a solution except within the framework of a general settlement of most of the other outstanding postwar issues. Any fruitful discussion of it will, therefore, involve taking a stand on political questions which, of necessity, must be of a controversial nature. The Emergency Committee does not consider it its task to deal with controversial issues, and we have therefore decided to curtail our activities.

It is not <sup>our</sup> intention to dissolve as an organization. If, during the coming year, problems arise with which we are peculiarly suited to deal, we shall do so. For the present, however, the Emergency Committee will remain dormant and will solicit no additional funds.

A major responsibility for continuing our original task will fall to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The Bulletin is the most important organ of the atomic scientists, and is a journal whose pages attract the contributions of statemen and scientists the world over. It will continue under the sponsorship of a broadly representative group of distinguished scientists under the chairmanship of J. Robert Oppenheimer. We urge you to support their efforts in the future as you have supported ours in the past.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that you have given the Emergency Committee. Without your help little could have been accomplished. The generosity and awareness shown by you and our other supporters give us hope that somehow men the world over may come together and establish a rule of peace, based upon justice and law.



1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois  
April 18, 1950

Dr. Reuben Gustavson  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dr. Gustavson:

We were very sorry that you could not attend the last Princeton meeting. The enclosed memorandum will inform you what the Emergency Committee is up to. At the last meeting, the Emergency Committee appointed a "Committee of Arrangements" consisting of Joe Mayer, Harrison Brown, and myself and authorized us to raise half a million dollars for the purposes of the project. We plan to bring into existence an organization which we propose to call "Council of Inquiry into the Conditions of Peace," which will consist of a Board and a Commission as outlined in the enclosed memorandum.

This "Council" will have a corporate existence, separate from the Emergency Committee, and will be organized on a tax-exempt basis. We have asked Mr. Hutchins to act as chairman of the Board and to invite at the outset a few other persons to serve as Board members. We have received a tentative acceptance from Mr. Hutchins, prior to his clearing the matter with the Trustees of the University. We made the following recommendations to him concerning other Board members to be initially approached:

Laird Bell, Bell, Boyd, Marshall & Lloyd, Chicago  
Henry B. Cabot, Boston  
Crenville Clark, Dublin, New Hampshire  
Marshall Field, Chicago  
Reuben Gustavson, University of Nebraska  
Fowler McCormick, International Harvester, Chicago



R. L. Stearns, University of Colorado  
Clarence Pickett, Friends Service Committee  
James G. Patton, National Farmers' Union, Denver

We also recommended to Mr. Hutchins to try to get Clarence Pickett to serve as vice-chairman of the Council.

Last week I spent in Boulder, Colorado, and talked about our plans with James G. Patton; R. L. Stearns; Edward C. King, Dean of the Law School, University of Colorado; and Walter Orr Roberts, Director of the High Altitude Observatory.

As a result of these conversations, the Committee of Arrangements proposes that at the time when the Council is formed, an affiliated regional group be formed in Denver for the purpose of disseminating information on the Council's activities in the Mountain States and some of the neighboring states. We were thinking of proposing that Byron White be asked to form the regional committee and that the committee include Arthur Henry, Allen Phipps, Dick Davis, Henry Swan, Jr., Palmer Hoyt, and James G. Patton. This is merely a tentative proposal of the Committee of Arrangements subject to further discussion, and our suggestion does not so far cover any of the states other than Colorado. This particular suggestion is based on the desire of the Committee of Arrangements to try to draw into the work of the Council citizens who have so far not participated in activities of this general type.

If you have any suggestions as to who else in your opinion might be suitable for the regional committee, particularly if you have any suggestions relating to Nebraska, we would very much appreciate your letting us know.

With kind regards--

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

WV  
cc: Harrison Brown  
Joe Mayer



C O P Y

1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois  
April 24, 1950

Mr. Stringfellow Barr  
Foundation for World Government  
58 Park Avenue  
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Barr:

The Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees has decided to initiate the creation of an organization that will conduct an inquiry into the questions: what would constitute a satisfactory over-all Russian-American settlement? The Emergency Committee set up a Committee of Arrangements consisting of Professor Joe Mayer, Harrison Brown, and myself entrusted with the task to implement this decision. The enclosed memorandum, dated March 27, indicates the trend of our thinking of this subject as of that date. Some further progress has been made in clarifying our thoughts since that time.

The Committee of Arrangements proposes that a corporate entity called "Council of Inquiry into the Conditions of Peace" be set up, which is independent of the Emergency Committee. We have asked Mr. Hutchins to serve as chairman of the board of the Council, and Mr. Clarence Pickett to serve as vice-chairman.

Mr. Hutchins has agreed to serve, and we hope that Mr. Pickett will agree also.

We proposed to Mr. Hutchins to approach, in the first instance, Laird Bell, Marshall Field, Reuben G. Gustavson, Fowler McCormick, R. L. Stearns, (University of Colorado), James G. Patton, and Henry B. Cabot, with a view of having them serve as members of the Board. Subsequently, the Board may be enlarged to 15, 35, or perhaps even 50 members according to what appears desirable.



2 - Stringfellow Barr - April 24, 1950

It is my own view that strong support in the West and Middle West is essential for the success of this enterprize, since a much fresher approach to our problem can be found in these regions than in the East in general, or New York and Washington, in particular.

It is further my hope that in certain regions, regional committees may be formed which are affiliated with the "Council" and which have the purpose keeping the region informed of the Council's activities. A favorable situation in this respect seems to exist in Colorado where I have discussed the issue with R. L. Stearns, the President of the University of Colorado, Edward C. King, the Dean of the Law School, Walter Orr Roberts, Director of the High Altitude Observatory, and James G. Patton, President of the Farmers Union.

The Emergency Committee has voted to raise half a million dollars for implementing the plan. Of this sum, we propose to raise \$200,000 from four to six sources, so to speak privately, prior to the public announcement of the plan, and the rest we might try to raise later through public subscription. Public subscription should, in any case, be part of our enterprize for it can be used as a means of public education and also as a means of giving the public a stake in the whole enterprize.

Our immediate concern is the raising of the \$200,000 prior to the public announcement of the creation of the "Council," and this letter is a formal request to your Foundation for such part of the sum as you feel you are able to grant to the Emergency Committee for the implementation of the above outlined plan.

I may add that the Emergency Committee is organized on a tax exempt basis and has its tax exemption recognized by the Treasury. The "Council" will also be organized on a tax-exempt basis, but it may take some time until a ruling on this may be obtained from the Treasury.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

wv  
cc: Joe Mayer  
Harry Brown



1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois  
April 25, 1950

Mr. Grenville Clark  
51 Nassau Street  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Clark:

Since our very pleasant luncheon in New York, the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists has decided to initiate the setting up of an organization for the purposes which we discussed in New York. The Emergency Committee has appointed Professors Joe Mayer, Harrison Brown, and myself to act for her in this matter as the "Committee of Arrangements."

We are proposing that an organization to be called "Council of Inquiry into the Conditions of Peace" be set up entirely independent of the Emergency Committee and be organized on a tax-exempt basis. This "Council" might operate along the lines discussed in Memorandum dated March 27 which is enclosed. An appendix to this memorandum, containing a further discussion of the terms of reference of the "Commission" of the "Council," is in preparation.

We are asking Mr. Hutchins to act as chairman of the Board of the "Council," and Mr. Clarence Pickett to act as its vice-chairman. Mr. Hutchins has accepted, and we hope that Mr. Pickett will accept also. We recommended to Mr. Hutchins to choose the initial members of the Board of the Council from among the following list of names: Laird Bell, Henry B. Cabot, Grenville Clark, Marshall Field, Reuben G. Gustavson (University of Nebraska), Fowler McCormick, R. L. Stearns (University of Colorado), and James G. Patton. Mr. Hutchins leaves for Europe on May 2, and by that time



2 - Mr. Grenville Clark - April 25, 1950.

we hope to have the initial board members lined up so we can proceed to incorporate the Council. Carter, Ledyard, and Milburn, who have been acting for the Emergency Committee, will be asked to act for the Council also and to try to obtain an advance ruling from the Treasury concerning tax exemption. No public announcement of formation of the Council is planned until we have secured a fund of perhaps \$200,000 for the Council.

It is our understanding that Mr. Hutchins will try to reach you before he leaves for Europe and ask you to serve as a member of the Board. We hope very much that you will accept. We realize, of course, that you cannot take on any duties that are very strenuous. Membership on the Board might involve your spending two days a month with the "Commission" of the Council which is the full-time organ of the Council; but if this should prove too strenuous for several Board members, it might be possible to form an Executive Committee of the Board and thereby to ease the burden of the Board members. An Executive Committee might have to be formed in any case if the Board should be enlarged much beyond 15 members.

Lately I have spent a week in Colorado and found such enthusiastic response to our "plan" that I feel quite heartened by it. This experience strengthens me in the belief that the Council will have to draw much of its strength from the Middle West and the West. I am also inclined to think that the formation of regional committees in Minnesota, in Colorado, and perhaps in Oregon might be very useful. These regional committees could be affiliated with the Council and would have the task to keep the people of the "region" informed of the activities of the Council.

With respect to the composition of these regional committees and also the Board of the Council, I believe we ought to make an attempt to enlist



3 - Grenville Clark - April 25, 1950.

outstanding men who, in the past, have kept aloof from public affairs  
but who now, at last, are really concerned and are willing to take their  
share of the burden.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

WV  
cc: Joe Mayer  
Harrison Brown



[out - and] [copy - 3]

May 11, 1950

Mr. Stringfellow Barr  
Foundation for World Government  
58 Park Avenue  
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Barr:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of May 5 informing me of the ~~total~~<sup>token</sup> grant of \$10,000 which your organization decided to extend in response to my letter of April 24.

The Emergency Committee at its last Trustees' Meeting, has authorized the raising of a fund up to \$500,000 for the purposes indicated in my letter of April 24, even though no public announcement of this authorization will be made for the time being. Your check should be made payable to the Emergency Committee and may be best sent to the Chicago office at the above address. As you know, the tax exemption of the Emergency Committee has been recognized by the Treasury.

I am certain that the Trustees of the Emergency Committee will greatly appreciate the help which your organization is extending to ~~her~~<sup>them</sup> by virtue of this grant.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

WV  
cc: Harrison Brown  
Joseph Mayer  
R. M. Hutchins



September 26, 1951

Dr. Victor Weisskopf  
Department of Physics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Weisskopf,

Since I saw you in Chicago and you told me of the reaction in Europe to the treatment of scientists who apply for an American visa, I met Paul Weiss who also just came back from Europe with a story very similar to yours. I talked about this matter with Walter J. Blum of the Law School of the University of Chicago. I told Blum that I thought that our best chance for stopping this nonsense would be in getting the New England Republicans who are in the Senate interested in the problem and have them carry the fight against the violation of human dignity which is involved and against the nonsense of spending millions of dollars for improvement of our public relations in Europe and then destroying everything at one stroke by alienating the intelligentsia of Europe. Blum thought that something should be put down in writing and that an article might on the issue ~~which might first~~ be published in the University of Chicago Law Review. He will talk to Edward Levi to see if the Law School is interested in the issue involved.

If such an article is written, it should contain a number of case histories which are well documented. Some one man will have to take the responsibility to see that this is done. If you feel that you want to do this, you probably ought to get in touch with Paul Weiss\* and ask him to send you his material. It will probably be also necessary to get the missing facts from the persons involved who are in Europe.

I am not suggesting that you undertake this job but merely that you let us know whether or not you are doing it.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

cc: Walter J. Blum  
Paul Weiss  
S.K. Allison  
Joe Mayer ✓

Leo Szilard

\*Dept. of Zoology, University of Chicago



# The University of Chicago

CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics

5650 Ellis Avenue

October 2, 1951

Professor Victor Weisskopf  
Physics Department  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Weisskopf:

Since I wrote you the other day two things have happened. First of all, I had a phone call from the Law Review of the University of Chicago saying that they would be very much interested in printing an article by you along the lines I discussed with Dr. Blum. Secondly, I learned from Paul Weiss that he is not free to disclose such information as he <sup>may have</sup> ~~may~~ on the subject because of his official connection with the Government.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds

cc: W. J. Blum  
S. K. Allison  
J. E. Mayer ✓  
Paul A. Weiss



June 24, 1957

Mrs. Mary D. Alexander  
Production Editor  
University of Chicago Press  
5750 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Alexander:

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation of today, in which I asked that my manuscript, "How may amino acids read the nucleotide code", be withdrawn. This manuscript was submitted by Dr. Joseph E. Mayer on June 10th.

I wish to express my regret if any inconvenience was caused by this change of plans, and to say that I greatly appreciate all the help you have given me in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,



Leo Szilard

m

cc: Dr. Joseph E. Mayer 