

The first disarmament conference of the League of Nations convened in 1926. It happened that Albert Einstein passed through Geneva during this conference, and when the reporters discovered his presence they asked him how he was impressed with the progress the conference was making. "What would you think," Einstein asked, "about a meeting of a town council which is convened because an increasing number of people are knifed to death ~~each night~~ in drunken brawls, and which proceeds to discuss just how long and how sharp shall be the knife that the inhabitants of the city may be permitted to carry?" After a somewhat shocked silence, one of the reporters said: "Do you mean to say that the disarmament conference is bound to fail?" "Yes, that is what I mean to say", said Einstein. (From 'The Voice of the Dolphins' by Leo Szilard, Paperback, Simon and Schuster, 1961, New York.)