

25th July, 1959.

T o a s t s a n d N o t e s  
from the Baden Conference

Admiral

by LEO SZILARD.

- 1) I raise my glass to drink to the health of Sir Robert Watson-Watt and I want to say in the name of my Russian, as well as my American, colleagues that tonight - in a spirit of good fellowship - we do not hold it against him that he saved Britain.
- 2) All of the scientists present at this meeting are scientists most of the time, but there is one man among us who is a scientist all of the time. At this conference we mostly had our formal sessions in the morning and in the afternoon we had informal private discussions. Professor Vinogradov was a scientist in the afternoon and he was also scientist in the morning. While he may not always say what he thinks, he never says what he does not think; that is why he is so dear to the heart of all of us.
- 3) We were told that 6000 questionnaires relating to the so-called Pugwash movement, were sent to scientists in Russia and that 3000 responses were obtained, practically all of them favourable. In America the response to questionnaires sent to scientists is never anywhere as high as this and I was greatly puzzled about this difference. Therefore I asked Professor Bogelubev whether there is perhaps a shortage of waste paper baskets in Russia and whether this might account for the high response. He told me that, as a rule, Russian scientists do not respond well to questionnaires and that the exceptionally good response in this particular case was due to the great interest which many Russian scientists take in the Pugwash movement. This has now set me to wondering whether there are so many scientists in Russia interested in the Pugwash movement because so few Russian scientists attend the Pugwash meetings.

- 4) Some of us who came to this conference from America have on occasions attempted to convince our Russian colleagues that quite a few Americans are apprehensive of the future because, rightly or wrongly, they attribute to Russia a propensity for expansion. Because I doubt that we really got our point across and I shall now take another tack and tell a joke which seems to circulate in America these days. It was just told to be my Professor Bernard Feld. "What is the difference between a pessimist and an optimist?" - so the question goes, and the answer is: "An optimist is a man who studies Russian; a pessimist is a man who studies Chinese."
  
- 5) In the last few days our discussions became occasionally confused because we did not always make a clear distinction between America's present security needs and her security needs in the solid-fuel rocket stage of the so-called atomic stalemate towards which we are now rapidly moving. Perhaps you will understand better the distinction I have in mind, if I now raise my glass to drink to the health of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and say: "May he live long - but not forever!"
  
- 6) During our stay at this hotel I found that expenses chargeable to me were charged on several occasions to a distinguished, as well as partly, friend of mine, Eugene Rabinovich, and vice versa. This just goes to show, that people pay more attention to form than to content.
  
- 7) Professor Weizsäcker told us that he has attended the second Pugwash meeting as well as the fourth Pugwash meeting and he summed it all up by saying that he appears to attend, as a matter of principle, only the even Pugwash meetings. I was wondering, while I listened, to him, whether having attended the 4th Pugwash meeting he may not have reached the conclusion, that even the even Pugwash meetings are odd.

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