

19 East 80 St.
New York 21, N.Y.
April 16, 1962

19 April ans'd

file
Support for
Funeral raising

Dr. Leo Szilard
Dupont Plaza Hotel
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Dr. Szilard,

As you requested, I contacted Dr. Murray Fox. The interview was not entirely satisfactory, but I remained in sufficient sympathy to proceed as indicated by the enclosed copy of a letter I sent to Mr. Norman Cousins. Also enclosed, a page from the Saturday Review which further explains the references I make to SIR.

It is necessary at this time to explain my interest in your plan and my attempts to work for its success. I am convinced that no "peace" or "opposition" movement now exists in the U.S.A. I view your proposal as a realistic, practical and possible beginning. The urgency for such a movement is too painfully apparent.

I would still very much appreciate an opportunity to speak with you directly, if your health and time allow it.

Perhaps when you next visit New York? A trip to Washington would in no way present a hardship to me, unless it would intrude upon an already too heavy schedule.

Whatever would be most convenient for you, I could accomodate. Would you let me know if such a meeting can be arranged?

Cordially,

Esther Judell

19 April 1962

Mrs. Esther Yudell
19 East 80th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Mrs. Yudell:

I am writing in response to your letter of 16 April. I expect to be in New York on 6 May and if my time permits I will call you over the telephone and perhaps we could arrange to meet.

If I am not able to call you when I am in New York, then I would contact you after my return to Washington around 15 May and perhaps you could arrange for a visit to Washington. In the meantime I am enclosing a reprint from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists which you may not have seen. The Bulletin can supply copies of this article as stated in the box on the first page. For 100 or more copies they charge 4¢ per copy including postage.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

enclosure

Office Address: 7 East 86 St.,
New York 28, N.Y.

May 1, 1963

Dr. Leo Szilard
Du Pont Plaza
Washington, D.C.

file
addresses

Dear Dr. Szilard,

The enclosed is a copy of a letter to Senator Javits, as per the New York Committee of the Council. Since then, a treaty seems further away than ever, 'Republicans' notwithstanding.

I feel a fury about this which may **not** meet with your approval but which I make no attempt to hide. Subterfuge and bouquets are not combatting a worsening situation. Will further campaign funds, unaccompanied by a related change of climate? "Above all, ~~the~~ President might use the moral force of his great office to create a peaceful climate of opinion." Judge Edgerton in the Washington Post. And the Peace, must see to it, that he, and, it, does, up and down the line!

I would not leave a stone unturned or see any effort abandoned. However, for the reasons I give in the Open Letter, I believe a more adamant stand, by all the peace groups is now in order. This effort must be combined or it ceases to be worth the paper it is written on and the cost of the postage. The peace groups must show a greater ability to anticipate the next move, and be far better prepared to cope with the issues as they arise.

I will be in Washington on May 7th and plan to stay the 8th, 9th and 10th if necessary. From where I am sitting, the time has come to call a spade, a spade....or call a halt to futile gestures and with them, the hope for peace in our generation.

Peace workers have an enormous job to do but to allow themselves to be "taken in" again and again, becomes an insult to the intelligence. Petitions, signatures, letters to Congressmen and peace candidates are reduced to a circus performance, when, apparently, vital decisions are made behind closed doors, without debate or presentation, and then presented as a fait accompli, in total indifference to public reaction, public will, or public welfare, and divinely and idiotically independent of world opinion.

I refuse to be thus hood-winked. I resent it. I am tired of "noble quotes" and "abominable actions." If the Kennedy Administration wanted a Test Ban Treaty, it is my opinion, that the Kennedy Administration could get it. But not by flooding the country with Republican Right Wing propoganda. Not by increasing the defense budget. Not by giving nuclear weapons to NATO. Not by sending armies to Vietnam, Guatamala, and Laos. Not by planting atomic submarines in every ocean and sea. These cannot co-exist, nor can "enchancing phrases" stem the tide of destruction.

Not can the peace, or the peace groups survive in such an atmosphere. Immoral, corrupt, unashamed, devoid of purpose or sincerity, lacking in goals or design and filling the emptiness with hot air, nuclear gunpowder, radiation fall-out and overkill. Sick with surfeit, yet impoverished for the dearth of a long range plan. Any peace groups, perpetuating, tolerating, excusing or covering this policy, are as guilty as the war-mongers themselves. Heavens to Betsy....anything desirable that remotely resembles socialism, must be slaughtered at birth. Oddly, much that is ugly and crude about communism is absorbed without so much as the raising of an eyebrow. Yet, there are peace groups who feel they serve the cause of peace as long as they cry aloud about the "difference" in our systems!

I've had my fill of this too. We have exponents of the "clean disarmament", second cousin to the "clean hydrogen bomb." We have those who would Turn Toward Peace", under U.S. control. We have Pacifists and Federalists. We have almost everything except even a remote beginning of peace. What with Peace being Subversive, and War in these United States, socially acceptable, patriotic and clearly marked MADE IN AMERICA. Not one single, solitary official, agency or institute has corrected this, nor have the peace workers been able to oppose it, enough to matter, one way or the other.

In the light of this background, your plan appealed to me. Men need funds to stay in office, or assure their elections. So far, so good. But can any "plan" over ride a nation "so contaminated, so dis-honored and so betrayed?", with apologies to Lincoln,.....WITHOUT CONCOMITANT FORCES TO BREAK THROUGH TO THE PEOPLE? There is so much that is good in this country....if it can be salvaged, re-motivated, aroused and properly directed.

Do we have an appointment? I will call you when I get to Washington.

Sincerely,

Epstein Yudell