



United States Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

SZILARD
FOI/PA
CO 2.12-C (1001)

425 I Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20536

January 15, 1981

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has referred to us one document which it retrieved while searching for material relevant to your request concerning your father Dr. Leo Szilard. The document originated with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and was forwarded to us to determine if it could be released.

Enclosed is the INS document which was in the files of the FBI.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Sava
Associate Commissioner
Management

By:

Marye D. Gannett
Chief, Public Contact Section

Enclosure

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
PHILADELPHIA

Franklin Trust Building

October 19, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Leo Szillard, formerly Leo Spitz; your file
62-59520.

There is enclosed a copy of a letter dated October 5, 1942, of the Assistant District Director of this Service at 641 Washington Street, New York, New York, and a copy of his enclosure consisting of a copy of the report of Naturalization Examiner Warren.

It will be appreciated if your Bureau will forward to this office for transmittal to the District Director any appropriate information which may be available of the nature contemplated in the enclosures.

It will be appreciated if a prompt reply may be received inasmuch as it has been found in the interest of national defense to expedite the naturalization of the petitioner provided no objection to his admission to citizenship is found.

Sincerely yours,

Earl G. Harrison

Earl G. Harrison
COMMISSIONER

Enclosures

ADDRESS REPLY TO SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CHARGE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

OR REFER TO FILE NUMBER

Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____
Files	_____



October 6, 1942

Commissioner:

Your 2270-P-409447; LEO SZILARD, formerly Leo Spitz.

Herewith is a copy of Basilian Warren's report of this date which is self-explanatory.

Subject, in his petition filed on June 22, 1942, alleged his full, true and correct name to be as above stated; that he resided at 420 West 116th Street, New York, N.Y.; that his occupation is Physicist; that he was born on February 11, 1898 in Budapest, Hungary and that his description is sex, male; color, white; complexion, fair; eyes, brown; hair, brown, height, 6'6"; weight, 170 pounds; visible distinctive marks, none; race, white; and nationality, Hungarian. He further alleged that he was not married; had no children; that his last place of foreign residence was Oxford, England; that he emigrated to the United States from Berlin, Germany; that his lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N.Y. under the name of Leo Szilard on February 21, 1935 ex SS Olympic; that he had been absent from the United States from May 23, 1935 to April 5, 1937 and from May 12, 1937 to January 2, 1938. Under date of July 21, 1942 he alleged to have been employed as follows: from March 1, 1939 to November 1, 1940 by Pupin Physics Laboratory, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. as a guest research worker but not on the payroll of Columbia University; from November 1, 1940 to February 1, 1942 by the National Defense Research Division, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. as a member of so. staff; and from February 1, 1942 to July 21, 1942 by the Metallurgical Laboratory, University of Chicago, 5734 University Avenue, Chicago, Illinois as a research associate.

Please ascertain from the Headquarters Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation what its investigation of subject disclosed relative to applicant's loyalty and particularly with reference to any subversive activities and advise at the earliest possible moment, applicant's case having been given preference in behalf of National Defense.

Charles F. Miller
Assistant District Director

2270-409447-0

New York, N.Y.
October 8, 1942

NATIONAL DEFENSE REFERENCE
SPECIAL

Assistant District Director:

Your 2270-409447-0, dated September 17, 1942, addressed to the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, re: LEO SKILLARD.

On the 30th ultimo, the writer called at the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, upon Mr. Pope. Mr. Pope handed the writer the attached carbon of your communication with the reference thereon to file No. 65-1824 and the question "Has investigation been completed?" stricken out by him, and advised that the file of said office No. 65-1824 does not relate to the subject of our inquiry, Mr. Leo Skillard, but that said subject was an applicant of some kind, because of which an investigation by said local office was made for its District Headquarters Office at Washington, D. C., that the Bureau file is No. 62-59820, and suggested that the required data on said investigation be obtained from the District Headquarters Office at Washington, D. C.


U. S. Naturalization Examiner

GGT/ra

person or persons if the Secretary determines that such disclosure would seriously impair Federal tax administration.

Last amendment.—Sec. 6103(b), (c) appears above as amended by Sec. 1202(a)(1) of Public Law 94-455, Oct. 4, 1976, effective (Sec. 1202(i) of P.L. 94-455) Jan. 1, 1977. Sec. 6103(b), (c) as it read before this amendment is in P-H Cumulative

Changes.

Addition.—Sec. 6103(b), (c) was added by Sec. 1202(a)(1) of Public Law 94-455, Oct. 4, 1976, effective (Sec. 1202(i) of P.L. 94-455) for taxable years beginning after Jan. 1, 1977.

(d) Disclosure to State Tax Officials.—Returns and return information with respect to taxes imposed by chapters 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 21, 23, 24, 31, 44, 51, and 52 and subchapter D of chapter 36, shall be open to inspection by or disclosure to any State agency, body, or commission, or its legal representative, which is charged under the laws of such State with responsibility for the administration of State tax laws for the purpose of, and only to the extent necessary in, the administration of such laws, including any procedures with respect to locating any person who may be entitled to a refund. Such inspection shall be permitted, or such disclosure made, only upon written request by the head of such agency, body, or commission, and only to the representatives of such agency, body, or commission designated in such written request as the individuals who are to inspect or to receive the return or return information on behalf of such agency, body, or commission. Such representatives shall not include any individual who is the chief executive officer of such State or who is neither an employee or legal representative of such agency, body, or commission nor a person described in subsection (n). However, such return information shall not be disclosed to the extent that the Secretary determines that such disclosure would identify a confidential informant or seriously impair any civil or criminal tax investigation.

Last amendment.—Sec. 6103(d) appears above as amended by Sec. 701(bb)(2) of Public Law 95-600, Nov. 6, 1978, effective (Sec. 701(bb)(8)(A) of P.L. 95-600) Jan. 1, 1977.

Prior amendment.—Sec. 6103(d) was previously amended by Sec. 1202(a)(1) of Public Law 94-455, Oct. 4, 1976, effective (Sec. 1202(i) of P.L. 94-455)

Jan. 1, 1977. Sec. 6103(d) as so amended is in P-H Cumulative Changes.

Addition.—Sec. 6103(d) was added by Sec. 1202(a)(1) of Public Law 94-455, Oct. 4, 1976, effective (Sec. 1202(i) of P.L. 94-455) for taxable years beginning after Jan. 1, 1977.

(e) Disclosure to Persons Having Material Interest.—

(1) In general.—The return of a person shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to—

(A) in the case of the return of an individual—

(i) that individual,

(ii) if property transferred by that individual to a trust is sold or exchanged in a transaction described in section 644, the trustee or trustees, jointly or separately, of such trust to the extent necessary to ascertain any amount of tax imposed upon the trust by section 644, or

(iii) the spouse of that individual if the individual and such spouse have signified their consent to consider a gift reported on such return as made one-half by him and one-half by the spouse pursuant to the provisions of section 2513;

(B) in the case of an income tax return filed jointly, either of the individuals with respect to whom the return is filed;

(C) in the case of the return of a partnership, any person who was a member of such partnership during any part of the period covered by the return;

(D) in the case of the return of a corporation or a subsidiary thereof—

(i) any person designated by resolution of its board of directors or other similar governing body,

(ii) any officer or employee of such corporation upon written request signed by any principal officer and attested to by the secretary or other officer,

(iii) any bona fide shareholder of record owning 1 percent or more of the outstanding stock of such corporation,

(iv) if the corporation was a foreign personal holding company, as defined by section 552, any person who was a shareholder during any part of a period covered by such return if with respect to that period, or any part thereof, such shareholder was required under section 551 to include in his gross income undistributed foreign personal holding company income of such company,

(v) if the corporation was an electing small business corporation under subchapter S of chapter 1, any person who was a shareholder during any part of the period covered by such return during which an election was in effect, or

(vi) if the corporation has been dissolved, any person authorized by applicable State law to act for the corporation or any person who the Secretary finds to have a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein;

(E) in the case of the return of an estate—

(i) the administrator, executor, or trustee of such estate, and

(ii) any heir at law, next of kin, or beneficiary under the will, of the decedent, but only if the Secretary finds that such heir at law, next of kin, or beneficiary has a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein; and

(F) in the case of the return of a trust—

(i) the trustee or trustees, jointly or separately, and

(ii) any beneficiary of such trust, but only if the Secretary finds that such beneficiary has a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein.

(2) **Incompetency.**—If an individual described in paragraph (1) is legally incompetent, the applicable return shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to the committee, trustee, or guardian of his estate.

(3) **Deceased individuals.**—The return of a decedent shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to—

(A) the administrator, executor, or trustee of his estate, and

(B) any heir at law, next of kin, or beneficiary under the will, of such decedent, or a donee of property, but only if the Secretary finds that such heir at law, next of kin, beneficiary, or donee has a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein.

(4) **Bankruptcy.**—If substantially all of the property of the person with respect to whom the return is filed is in the hands of a trustee in bankruptcy or receiver, such return or returns for prior years of such person shall, upon written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to such trustee or receiver, but only if the Secretary finds that such receiver or trustee, in his fiduciary capacity, has a material interest which will be affected by information contained therein.

(5) **Attorney in fact.**—Any return to which this subsection applies shall, upon written request, also be open to inspection by or disclosure to the attorney in fact duly authorized in writing by any of the persons described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) to inspect the return or receive the information on his behalf, subject to the conditions provided in such paragraphs.

(6) **Return information.**—Return information with respect to any taxpayer may be open to inspection by or disclosure to any person authorized by this subsection to inspect any return of such taxpayer if the Secretary determines that such disclosure would not seriously impair Federal tax administration.

Last amendment.—Sec. 6103(e) appears above as amended by Sec. 1202(a)(1) of Public Law 94-455, Oct. 4, 1976, effective (Sec. 1202(i) of P.L. 94-455) Jan 1, 1977.

Sec. 6103(e) as it read before this amendment is in P-H Cumulative Changes.

(f) **Disclosure to Committees of Congress.**—

(1) **Committee on Ways and Means, Committee on Finance, and Joint Committee on Taxation.**—Upon written request from the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate, or the chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Secretary shall furnish such committee with any return or return information specified in such request, except that any return or return information which can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular taxpayer shall be furnished to such committee only when sitting in closed executive session unless such taxpayer otherwise consents in writing to such disclosure.

(2) **Chief of Staff of Joint Committee on Taxation.**—Upon written request by the Chief of Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Secretary shall furnish him

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

Washington, DC 20224

Ms. Gertrud W. Szilard
8036 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, CA 92037

Person to Contact:

Mr. Perretta
Telephone Number:

(202) 566-4912

Refer Reply to:

TX:D:F:1 80-F-42

Date:

FEB 11 1981

Dear Ms. Szilard:

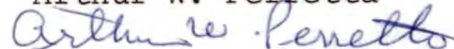
This is in response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request you forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on January 25, 1980.

Any records, to the extent they exist, the Internal Revenue Service may have concerning your late husband, Dr. Leo Szilard, would be considered to be return information. This information is not disclosable to you since you have not provided adequate proof of the legal relationship under which you assert your right to access such records. For your information we are enclosing a copy of 26 6103 (e)(3) (A) and (B).

If you need any additional assistance, we suggest that you contact the Disclosure Officer at your local Internal Revenue Service office.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur W. Perretta



Enclosure
Copy 6103 (e)(3)(A) & (B)

Arthur Perretta
Tax Law Specialist
Freedom of Information Branch



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

June 4, 1981

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Reference is made to our letter dated April 20, 1981.

You are again reminded that the records you requested concerning yourself have been processed and are available for release.

Upon receipt of your check or money order, payable to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the amount of \$18.30, these documents will be duplicated and forwarded to you.

If we have had no response from you within 30 days, we will terminate your request.

Sincerely yours,

James K. Hall, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Records Management Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

IACSF-FI

30 January 1981

Gertrud Weiss Szilard, MD
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

This is in response to your letter of 25 January 1980 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation requesting records retrievable or indexed in your name, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC552. The FBI, on 21 December 1980, forwarded your letter with one (1) Navy document containing Army-originated information, retrieved from their records, to the Department of the Navy for a decision as to the releasability of the information to you. This correspondence was in-turn referred to this office for necessary action. It was received on 29 January 1981.

We have reviewed the Army-originated information in the Navy document and have determined it is releasable to you. A copy is forwarded herewith for your use. Reproduction fees are waived.

If you have any questions regarding this action, you may contact this office at the following address: Freedom of Information/Privacy Office, US Army Intelligence and Security Command, ATTN: IACSF-FI, Fort Meade, Maryland 20755. The telephone numbers are (301) 677-4742/4743.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas F. Conley", is written over the typed name.

THOMAS F. CONLEY
Chief

Freedom of Information/Privacy Office

1 Inclosure
As stated

Copy Furnished:
FBI FOIPA BR (Request FOI/PA # 92,532)
NIS (02F/d1b,5262-F81-003)

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Serial 01042016

WASHINGTON

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Attention: Mr. Paul Kriethe

The Office of Scientific Research and Development has requested the Secretary of the Navy to consent to the employment of Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard of Columbia University, Italian and Hungarian aliens, respectively, in connection with Navy classified contracts.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has already conducted investigations of these individuals, both dated October 28, 1940. According to these reports, the associates of Dr. Fermi and Dr. Szilard at Columbia University were, on the whole, satisfied with their loyalty and integrity; however, reports from the second corps area of the Military Intelligence Division, dated October 1, 1940, are somewhat at variance with the facts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports. In regard to Fermi, the Military Intelligence Division report states: "His associates at Columbia admire his intellectual ability and say he is very pleasant, personally, but that they believe he is undoubtedly a Fascist....They would not care to guarantee his discretion, integrity, and loyalty to the United States." In regard to Szilard, the Military Intelligence Division report states: "Mr. Szilard is said to be very pro-German and to have remarked on many occasions that he thinks the Germans will win the war. Reliable contacts among the faculty and authorities of Columbia University state they would not care to guarantee his discretion, integrity, and loyalty to the United States."

ARMY

In view of the above, it is requested that a limited investigation be instituted to determine the attitude of the faculty of Columbia University toward these aliens at the present time, and to ascertain, specifically, if any of the associates of these aliens consider them definitely pro-Fascist.

The investigation can be limited to the above inquiry, unless the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the interests of National Defense believes that a further inquiry should be made, in which case it is requested that any information be forwarded to the Division of Naval Intelligence when available.

Declassified/Downgrade to.....

Auth: DIRNIS

Date: 01-21-81 Unit: 02F

Inq#1

ENCL(2)



General
Services
Administration

National Archives
and
Records Service Washington, DC 20408

Date : March 14, 1979

Reply to
Attn of : NNMM79-2561-ER

Subject :

To : Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, CA 92037

✓ 523-30991920
523-3340

Dear Doctor Szilard:

The Manhattan Engineer District decimal file contains two folders marked "201 Szilard, Leo." They contain approximately 150 pages (declassified) including a memorandum by Doctor Szilard on "Liquid Metal Cooled Fast Neutron Breeders" (7 pp.) and a compilation of documents, edited by Doctor Szilard, relating to the period March 1939 to July 1940 "to persuade our colleagues and the United States government of the necessity of keeping this subject secret" (56 pp.). Other documents are still security classified and are being reviewed for possible declassification. Additional papers concerning your husband may be scattered among other series of the collection. You or your designated representative may review the files and select documents of interest to you.

Photocopies of documents cited above can be furnished for \$.20 a page. Remittance should be made payable to the National Archives Trust Fund (NNMM) and forwarded to the Cashier, National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408. Please return the enclosed copy of this letter when placing your order.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Reese

EDWARD J. REESE
Modern Military Branch
Military Archives Division

Run 13 W

8th + Pe Ave

1 pm.

fee

Run 200

693-5360

Dr. Vincent Jones
U.S. Army Center of Military History

x Inventory of Gen. G. top secret records
 Stinson file
 Declassified file ✓ Spilard Dec (201)
 O S R D Records (Off. & Res. Ser.)

x Inv. of top secret

L. Vincent Jones, Cante for Milit. History
 Fernell Bldg

The National Engineer District design file contains two letters marked "TOP SECRET, Leo." They contain approximately 50 pages (declassified) including a memorandum by Doctor Spilard on "Liquid Metal Cooled Fast Neutron Reactors" (1 pg.) and a compilation of documents, edited by Doctor Spilard, relating to the period March 1939 to July 1940 "to pursue our colleagues and the United States government of the necessity of keeping this subject secret" (50 pg.). Other documents are still security classified and are being reviewed for possible declassification. Additional papers concerning your husband may be scattered among other series of the collection. You or your designated representative may review the files and select documents of interest to you.

Photocopies of documents cited above can be furnished for \$20 a page. Remittance should be made payable to the National Archives Trust Fund (NHTF) and forwarded to the Cashier, National Archives and Records Service, 801 and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20540. Please return the enclosed copy of this letter when placing your order.

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. KESSE
 Modern Military Branch
 Military Archives Division



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legal Counsel

Office of the
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

1 9 JAN 1981

Mrs. Gertrud Weiss Szilard, M.D.
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Mrs. Szilard:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act request dated January 25, 1980, which was referred to this Office for a response on January 9, 1981. Four documents which originated in the Office of Legal Counsel, but were located in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's files, are attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry L. Simms", is written over the typed name.

Larry L. Simms
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

Attachments

From

ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE

WASHINGTON

to

Official indicated below by check mark

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Hoover

Please note and return the attached.

Would appreciate your comments.

The above notation reads as follows:

"Mr. Hoover

Please note and return the attached. Would appreciate your comments.

C.N.
10-31"

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E.A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

RECORDED
INDEXED
62-59520-36
31 NOV 5 1947

62-59520-36



FROM
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TO

Official indicated below by check mark

MEMORANDUM

at 4 has not seen

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Solicitor General | |
| Assistant to the Attorney General | |
| Assistant Attorney General, Anti-Trust | |
| Assistant Attorney General, Tax | |
| Assistant Attorney General, Claims | |
| Alien Enemy Control Section | |
| Alien Property Section | |
| Assistant Attorney General, Lands | |
| Assistant Attorney General, Criminal | |
| Assistant Solicitor General | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Director, FBI | |
| Director of Prisons | |
| Director, Office of Alien Property | |
| Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization | |
| Liaison Officer, Immigration and Naturalization | |
| Administrative Assistant | |
| Division of Accounts | |
| Division of Communications and Records | |
| Division of Supplies | |
| Pardon Attorney | |
| Parole Board | |
| Board of Immigration Appeals | |
| Librarian | |
| Director of Public Information | |
| Mr. Morison | |
| Mr. Underhill | |
| Miss Kennedy | |
| Mr. Hyatt | |
| Mr. Coblenz | |
| Mrs. Stewart | |
| Miss O'Donnell | |
| Miss McGarron | |
| Miss Healy | |
| Mrs. Walsh | |
| Miss Adams | |
| Miss Doyle | |
| Miss Dennis | |
| Mrs. Wilfong | |
| Mrs. Burke | |

The University of Chicago

CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics

October 25, 1947

1155 E. 57th St.
Chicago, Ill.

The Honorable Tom C. Clark
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Clark:

Enclosed is a copy of an article entitled "Letter to Stalin" which I have submitted to the BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS for publication.

If it were in every respect proper for me to do so, I would write a letter to Mr. Stalin embodying the thoughts contained in the enclosed article and would seek some way of transmitting such a letter to him through the good offices of some prominent person who is known to him. It would be my hope that if my letter were transmitted to Mr. Stalin in such a manner he would perceive the genuine anguish which prompted my writing it and that he might therefore give consideration to its contents.

in fact

If such a letter were to be transmitted to Mr. Stalin through some proper and desirable channel I would probably want to postpone indefinitely the publication of the article.

The enclosed article does not touch on any specific dispute or controversy between the United States and the letter which I would send to Mr. Stalin would merely follow its text, possibly shortened by omissions. You may, in the circumstances, think that the transmission of such a letter would not come under the Logan Act of 1799. On the other hand, you might think that the transmission of such a letter might come under the Logan Act or some other similar act and therefore, in accordance with the Logan Act, I am herewith making the formal request for permission or authority of the Government for the transmission of such a letter in the meaning of the Act.

I am enclosing an endorsement of my request addressed to the Secretary of State on behalf of the Trustees of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists.

The Honorable Tom C. Clark: -2

original is signed by Professor Albert Einstein of the Institute for Advanced Study
as Chairman and Dr. Philip M. Morse, Director of the Brookhaven National Laboratory,
as Acting Executive Director of the Committee.

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

Copy:

The Secretary of State

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Y

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

INCORPORATED

Room 28, 90 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

October 11, 1947

The Honorable George C. Marshall
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Our colleague, Dr. Leo Szilard, whose deep interest in the welfare of our people has often found expression, as in his very important part in the development of the atomic bomb, has shown us, the Trustees of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, a letter that he has written for transmission to Mr. Stalin. We desire to support his request that he be permitted to transmit this letter to Mr. Stalin through channels chosen by him. In giving this support to Dr. Szilard's request, the Emergency Committee points out that Dr. Szilard's appeal is his own personal creation, and does not necessarily represent the opinion of the Committee itself. Nevertheless, the Committee feels that the state of international affairs at present is such that a personal effort of this sort is worth attempting, even though the chance of success may be very small.

We have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,

/s/ Albert Einstein
Albert Einstein
Chairman

/s/ Philip M. Morse
Philip M. Morse
Acting Executive Director

AP

WMT
PML

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "LETTER TO STALIN" WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION TO THE BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS BY DR. LEO SZILARD. IN THIS ARTICLE DR. SZILARD MAKES AN APPEAL FOR STALIN TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND ADOPT A NEW LINE OF APPROACH -- NEW BOTH IN SUBSTANCE AND METHOD -- TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, CULMINATING IN A COMPREHENSIVE OFFER ON STALIN'S PART FOR A GENERAL SETTLEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WORLD.

THE PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED.

I take the step of writing this "Letter" because I am deeply concerned about the deterioration of Russian-American relations, and also because I believe that the general sentiment which moves me to this action is shared by the majority of the atomic scientists who take an active interest in matters of public policy.

The steady deterioration of Russian-American relations has many disturbing aspects, but perhaps none is as serious as the lasting effect which it may have on the minds of the American people, as well as the minds of the people in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

More and more men will say to me in private conversation that war with Russia is inevitable. These are men who are capable of thinking independently and are not guided by whatever editorials they may read in their newspapers. So, their attitude is a symptom of grave danger because once the American people focus their minds on this subject war, in fact, will have become inevitable.

There are those who argue that there is no danger of an early war because at present Russia is too weak to start one and there is no precedent for the United States embarking on a preventive war. That there is no such precedent may be true; but neither have the American people ever before been in a position where they had to fear that if they remain passive during a protracted period of uneasy peace they

may live to see the day when war -- if it breaks out -- will be brought to their homeland.

I do not mean to say that the United States may start a preventive war against Russia within the next six months; what I mean to say is that if the present trend continues for six months, a fateful change might take root in the minds of the American people and the situation would then be beyond remedy. Thereafter it would be merely a question of time -- a few short years, perhaps -- until the peace would be at the mercy of some Yugoslav general in the Balkans or some American admiral in the Mediterranean who may wilfully or through bungling create an incident that will inevitably result in war. If the present trend continues for six months, more likely than not, the farther course of events will be out of the control of the two governments involved.

The main reason for the present trend is the fact that two years have passed since the end of the war and no appreciable progress has been made toward a settlement. Russia and the United States have reached a deadlock.

All this does not come as a surprise to most of us who had worked in the field of atomic energy during the war and had time to adjust our thinking to the implications of the bomb. It was clear from the start that the existence of the bomb and the manner in which it was used would not make the settlement easier but rather more difficult. We knew that the world could be saved from another war only if both the United States and Russia were able to rise above the situation and ~~before this~~ can one to pass one of them will have to take the lead.

Situations of this general type are not without precedent in history; they occur also on occasion in the lives of individuals, and the story of one such occurrence made a very deep impression on me. In 1930, twelve years after the end of the first World War, I met a classmate of mine and we talked of what had happened to ~~both of us~~ us.

since we had separated. He had been a lieutenant in the Austrian Army, and in the last days of the war in the Carpathian Mountains he was in charge of a patrol. One morning they heard by way of rumor that an armistice had been concluded, but being cut off from communications they were unable to obtain confirmation. They rode out on patrol duty as usual, and as they emerged from the forest, they found themselves standing face to face with a Russian patrol in charge of an officer. The two officers grabbed their guns and, frozen in this position, the two patrols remained for uncounted seconds. Suddenly the Russian officer smiled and his hand went to his cap in salute. My friend returned the salute, and both patrols turned back their horses. "To this day," my friend said to me, "I regret that it was not I who saluted first."

Perhaps by writing this "Letter" today I may make some slight amends for my friend's tardiness, for in these troubled times it is not without some personal risk for an American scientist to write a "Letter" such as this one.

Today Russia and America find themselves standing face to face, each of them fearful of what may be the other's next political move. The American people want peace. The Russian people want peace also.

And I see it, Russia wants peace not only for the next five or ten years, she wants peace for good. And if I am correct on this point then peace can yet be saved; it can be saved by you, yourself.

THE APPROACH SUGGESTED

It is within your power to ~~remove this block which caused~~ ^{resolve} the deadlock and thereby to permit a change in the course of United States foreign policy, but you can do this only if you decide to throw off the self-imposed shackles of the old-fashioned, and also of the new-fangled forms of diplomacy.

Russia and the United States are deadlocked on almost every point on which they have negotiated in the recent past. On every such point, Russia may have very good

reasons for not yielding, and the United States may also have very good reasons for not yielding. ^{I am not going} ~~to suggest that you should now yield~~ on this point or that one, or that you should now "appease" the United States.

What I am suggesting in this "Letter" are a series of interconnected steps which are within your power to take. Because they are most unusual steps, these suggestions may appear quixotic to many and ridiculous to some. What I am suggesting in this "Letter" may come somewhat as a shock to you. It may also come as a shock to some of my fellow-Americans who will read these lines. But this is not the time to hold back for fear of being exposed to ridicule or unwarranted accusations.

My first specific suggestion is that you speak directly and personally to the American people. What you may say to them, and you might wish to speak to them once a month, will be news, and because it will be news, it will be carried by the radio stations in the United States and will be reprinted in the newspapers. Naturally you would want to speak in Russian, but your interpreter could convey your speech sentence by sentence in English. Your speech could be recorded and released simultaneously in Russia and America.

The American people listen to their presidents because what the President says to them may affect their lives, and they will listen to you for exactly the same reason. But there is one important difference; you will be speaking to them as the head of a foreign state; your speech will be without effect with them unless it is one hundred percent sincere. The sincerity of your expressions, as well as the other tokens of sincerity which you may be able to present to the American people, will determine whether your speeches will strike home.

If your speeches to the American people were given full publicity in Russia, you would go a long way towards convincing the American people that what we are saying to them.

And you would go a long way towards convincing the American people that they may expect fair play from you if you invited the President of the United States to address the Russian people just as often as you speak to the American public and accorded just as much publicity to his speeches in Russia as is given to yours in America.

All the machinery through which the American public is being kept informed in the United States is at present at your disposal, and it will remain at your disposal if there will be no attempt to use it for purposes of propaganda.

What you would be heard by the American people is certain; but how your speeches would affect them would depend both upon the substance and the tenor of those speeches.

What indeed should be the substance of your speeches?

What I suggest, in the first place, is that in your speeches to the American people a clear picture of a general settlement within the framework of a new reconstruction of the world, a settlement that would enable Russia and the United States to live in peace with each other.

At first you will be able to give such a picture in rough outline only; gradually you may be able to fill in more and more of the details. You might convey the details, perhaps, by issuing from time to time supplementary official reports.

By the time you have filled in the details, you will have given the American people more than merely a picture of a possible post-war world; you will have presented them with something that will amount to an offer for a post-war settlement.

You might well ask at this point, because it is indeed a critical question, whether such a unilateral offer on your part, if it is generous, would not put you at a disadvantage from the point of view of later negotiations. You could easily make

it clear, however, that your offer has to be taken as a whole, that you are perfectly willing to modify any one single point to meet the wishes of the United States Government, but that for every point that the United States wants to have modified in her favor, you may ask that some other point be modified in Russia's favor. As long as this is clearly understood, you need not, and should not, hold back for the sake of later bargaining.

Such are the means through which you may be able to convince the American people that in your view as well as in fact -- private enterprise and the Russian economic system and also mixed forms of economic organization can flourish side by side; that Russia and United States can be part of the same world; that "one world" need not necessarily be a uniform world. Until such time as you shall convince the American people as well as the Russian people of this all-important point, we shall remain headed towards war and not towards peace.

I am told that these days the opposite thesis is presented by authoritative writers in Russia. And if this opposite thesis should be upheld by you as correct, if there is indeed some inexorable law which in the long run makes war between your country and ours inevitable, then those in the United States who are now working for the preservation of peace might begin to feel that they are merely delaying the war, which will be all the more terrible the later it comes.

THE RESPONSE EXPECTED

Naturally you would want to know how the American people would respond if you should decide to take the initiative and adopt a new line of approach towards the United States culminating in a comprehensive offer for a general settlement. Would you really be able to break the present deadlock and thereby bring about a change in the course of United States foreign policy?

There is a vast body of men and women in the United States who view with genuine concern the rapid deterioration of Russian-American relations. Many of them have

grave doubts in their heart as to the general wisdom of the present course of United States foreign policy, while they regard with equal misgivings the Russian position of this policy. If they do not at present take a stand in favor of changing the course steered by their own government, it is first of all because they do not see with sufficient clarity any practicable alternative course under present circumstances. Moreover they may believe that any attempt to bring about a change must necessarily come to naught as long as the speeches of your delegates will continue to follow a line of reasoning which is unacceptable to the large majority of the American public.

If you succeed in the difficult task of formulating in your own mind a practicable solution of the post-war issues and in conveying your picture of such a solution to the American public, then gradually, as you make statement after statement and issue report after report, a complete picture of an acceptable post-war settlement may unfold before the American people. By the time you will have filled in the details, and thus have implicitly extended a comprehensive offer, you also will have removed the block which had caused the deadlock.

This should have a direct and immediate effect on the foreign policy of the United States. Most Americans believe that those who are at present in charge of guiding American foreign policy were driven to this policy because none other appeared practicable to them in the circumstances. It is generally believed that they are men of good will, who can be expected to change the present course the very moment they see a satisfactory way out of the present impasse, provided that such a change can also be expected to find public support.

You may or may not concur with this opinion. But in any case it is clearly within your power to give the American people a choice between two alternative courses of foreign policy. And if they do have a choice, the American people will exercise their choice -- this I fervently hope -- in favor of a course which may lead to peace. They will exercise their choice through all the mechanisms by which public opinion influences government policies in America. And those who are at present in charge of steering the course of American foreign policy may to some extent be expected to

"Either change their minds or lose their jobs."

PREREQUISITES

If you should decide to adopt such a new line of approach toward the United States you might wish to initiate first of all an exchange of views between a group of Russians and a group of Americans who are genuinely concerned about the deterioration of Russian-American relations and who are not encumbered by the responsibility of representing the views of their governments. Such an exchange of views should give Russians a better understanding of America's needs and Americans a better understanding of Russia's needs. It should also facilitate the formulation in your own mind of some practicable solution of the problem which faces the world today and give you a better appreciation of the particular manner in which such a solution might be presented to the American public.

Under the present conditions of political stress it will not be easy to find for a form/such an exchange of views which is proper and which will permit self-respecting patriotic American citizens to participate. Nor may it be easy for you to find Russians willing to display in such discussions their own personal opinions as distinguished from the official Russian position.

Also, I am badly aware of the fact that in writing this "letter" I am trying to cope with a difficulty of communications which is almost insurmountable. We in America have a crude and over-simplified picture of how political decisions come about in Russia. You in Russia have a similar picture concerning America. My whole "letter" here is based on the thesis that in America the attitudes and opinions of the individuals who constitute the American public are an important factor -- and in certain circumstances may become the controlling factor -- for political decisions. My fellow-Americans

who may read this "Letter" know that this thesis is correct and those of them who may disapprove of my "Letter" will do so on other grounds. But in presenting this thesis to someone who does not know America by personal experience, I can not be sure that he will even know what I am talking about. Perhaps, in the course of an extended conversation there would be some chance of getting this crucial point across. A "Letter" of this sort is certainly not the very best way of accomplishing this exceedingly difficult task.

Obviously, the specific suggestions made in this "Letter" are foreign to the ways in which problems of this sort are dealt with in Russia, or for that matter, anywhere else in the world. And this, in itself, might make implementation very difficult. The main question to decide, however, is not whether implementation is difficult but rather whether the reasons advocated here would be effective if implemented.

THE END

POSTSCRIPT:

Having presented a number of suggestions outlining in detail—perhaps in too great detail—a course which you might wish to adopt, I feel that I ought to go one step further at the risk that what I am going to say may seem out of proportion with the main theme of this "Letter".

The vast majority of the atomic scientists who take an active interest in matters of public policy are free from any anti-Russian bias, and they do not include Communists, either in the narrow or wider sense of the term. If I were called upon to do so — I could try and gather a group drawn from their ranks who would be glad to sit down with a group of Russians whom you may select. If the Russian representatives were instructed to be frank with us and to express their private opinions rather than merely to defend the official Russian positions, we, too, would be frank with them and would feel free to express our personal opinions as distinguished from the official American positions. Under such circumstances there could ensue an exchange of views of no mean significance, and such a free interchange

of thought might make available a valuable fund of ideas and suggestions upon which the two governments might draw if a stage of governmental negotiations should be reached later. Naturally, we would be pleased to see Russian scientists also included in such a group, particularly those whom we happen to know and have learned to respect. We have, of course, no intention of prying into their secrets just as we would not want them to search into ours. There would be no disclosure of any kind relating to the subject of atomic energy. The group of atomic scientists which I would try to gather would not be composed of men and women who wield great political influence. Nor would they be able to say what terms for a general post-war settlement might be acceptable to the United States Government; but they should be able to say what kind of peace makes sense to ~~them~~ themselves, and whatever makes sense to them may also make sense to the American people, for they are part and parcel of the American people. Such a group of scientists is, of course, not wholly representative of the American people and would therefore ^{undoubtedly} wish to enlarge itself by drawing in men from many other walks of life -- men who are concerned about the welfare of America and who are also concerned about the welfare of the rest of the world, including Russia. It is my earnest hope that by means of such discussions it may be possible to make available in the service of peace the same kind of imagination and resourcefulness which went into the development of the field of atomic energy during the war.

CLASSIFICATION

Meetings of this sort could not be held except with the approval of the State Department, for without such approval it might be both improper and unlawful for American citizens to participate. It is hard to believe, that faced with the present situation the State Department would oppose the holding of such meetings, but it is difficult to know whether the State Department would not prefer the meetings to be open rather than private and confidential.

Both open and private meetings have their own peculiar advantages and drawbacks. "Open" meetings mean that the press is admitted, and their presence might result in a

greater understanding on their part of the real issues and the real difficulties.

The general feeling underlying the suggestions contained in this "Letter" is, I think, shared by the majority of the atomic scientists, but the specific thoughts embodied in this "Letter" reflect only my own opinion as well as my own readiness to "do my bit", and I am not speaking at present on behalf of any other person or persons.

Mr. Thomas H. Bresson, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

January 12, 1981

Dear Mr. Bresson :

Thank you very much for your letter of January 8, informing me
that the documents regarding Leo Szilard are now available for release.

According to your instructions I am enclosing my check in the amount
of \$ 30.60, and am looking forward to receiving the copies at your
early convenience.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Gertrud Weiss Szilard, W.D.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

January 8, 1981

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Reference is made to my letter of August 28, 1980. The records you requested regarding Leo Szilard have been processed, and documents available for release consist of 306 pages.

Pursuant to Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 16.9 and 16.46, there is a fee of ten cents per page for duplication. Upon receipt of your check or money order payable to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the amount of \$30.60, these documents will be reproduced and forwarded to you.

Documents pertaining to yourself continue to be processed and you will be advised of their availability.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas H. Bresson /H/Me

Thomas H. Bresson, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

Nov 25, 1980 : called Mr. Gleson

" 26, 1980 : Miss Neuman

returned call -
rel is processed in
declassification. did
not realize I applied
10 months ago.

Let specifics 10 days -
Murel Lin



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

August 28, 1980

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter in which you indicated your willingness to pay fees of approximately \$50 in connection with the processing of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request concerning your late husband and yourself.

For your information, as a result of the large number of FOIPA requests received by the FBI, some delay may be encountered in processing your request. You may be assured that the FBI has allocated substantial resources, including manpower, to insure that delays in responding to FOIPA requests are minimized. We solicit your patience and understanding and assure you that your request will be processed as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas H. Bresson /H

Thomas H. Bresson, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

Mr. David G. Flanders, Chief
Freedom of Information-Privacy
Acts Branch
Records Management Division
FBI, U.S. Dept. Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

July 25, 1980

Dear Sir :

Thank you for your letter of July 18. In reply I wish to inform you that I am willing to pay fees of approximately \$ 50- not to exceed \$ 60 - for the duplication costs of the documents in your files pertaining to my late husband , Dr. Leo Szilard and to myself.

Looking forward to receiving these copies at your early convenience,

Very truly yours,

Gertrud Weiss Szilard, M.D.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

July 18, 1980

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts requests for information regarding yourself and your late husband, Dr. Leo Szilard.

Following a preliminary review of documents pertaining to your requests, it is conceivable that duplication costs of approximately \$50 may result, representing a charge of 10¢ per page. Department of Justice regulations (Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 16.9 and 16.46) require notification to a requester when anticipated charges exceed \$25. This letter constitutes such notification.

I must caution, however, that your indication of approval and consent to incur such fees will not necessarily result in the entire contents of our records being disclosed to you, since we are guided by the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a) in disclosing material from our records.

Accordingly, before taking action, I will await receipt of written notification from you indicating willingness to pay fees of approximately \$50 in connection with the processing of your requests.

No payment should be submitted at this time.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Flanders /s/

David G. Flanders, Chief
Freedom of Information-Privacy
Acts Branch
Records Management Division



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

May 29, 1980

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your additional personal information and notarized signature which you furnished in connection with the processing of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts request.

We are currently searching the indices to our central records system at FBI Headquarters for any documents which may pertain to your request. Upon completion of this search you will be notified of the results.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Flanders /M

David G. Flanders, Chief
Freedom of Information-Privacy
Acts Branch
Records Management Division

GERTRUD WEISS SZILARD, M.D.
8038 EL PASEO GRANDE
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

FOIPA No. 92,531

Mr. David G. Flanders
Chief, Freedom of Information-
Private Acts Branch
Records Management Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

March 28, 1980

Dear Mr. Flanders :

In response to your communication dated March 18, 1980
here is my notarized signature.

Very truly yours,

Gertrud Weiss Szilard

mailed
4-2-80

v

Mr. David G. Flanders
Chief, Freedom of In-
formation -Private Acts
Branch

In further reply to your form letter of March 18, the information is as follows :

- (1) Leo Szilard. Born in Budapest, Hungary, February 11, 1898. Immigrated to the U.S. and became naturalized citizen in 1943. During World War II worked as Chief Physicist at the Manhattan Project in Chicago, Ill. His home address there was at the Quadrangle Club, the Faculty Club of the University of Chicago, 1155 East 57 Street, Chicago, Ill. 60637. He died in La Jolla, Calif. on May 30, 1964.
- (2) Gertrud Weiss Szilard, M.D., M.P.H. I was born in Vienna, Austria December 28, 1909. Immigrated to the U.S. in 1937, and became naturalized citizen in 1943. In U.S. lived in New York City, Denver, Washington, D.C. and since 1964 in California. Married Leo Szilard in New York City on October 13, 1951.

Please let me know if any further information is required to locate our files.

Very truly yours,

Gertrud Weiss Szilard



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REQUEST FOR RECORDS
FOI/PA BRANCH
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

MAR 18 1980

Subject of Request: Gertrud Weiss Szilard

FOIPA No. 92,531

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Information pertaining to your request has been set forth below in the appropriate paragraphs.

You must comply with the paragraph(s) requesting additional information or further action on your part before we can commence processing your request. Only those paragraphs which are marked X apply to your request.

☐ A preliminary review of the index to the central record system disclosed references to a name(s) similar to the subject(s) of your request. Since we have reviewed only the index to our records, and not the actual records themselves, we do not know at this point if the records pertain to your request. In an effort to deal fairly with any request requiring the retrieval, processing, and duplication of documents, each request is being handled in chronological order based on the date of receipt. Please be assured that your request is being handled as equitably as possible and that all documents which can be released will be made available at the earliest possible date.

☒ Based on the limited information you provided, it is not possible to make an accurate search of our records. Please furnish the complete name(s) and date and place of birth of the subject(s) of your request, as well as any specific data that would assist us in locating the documents you seek. Upon receipt of your additional information, we will review the index to our central records system. If there is no indication of the existence of the records you seek, you will be so advised. If we have the records you seek, all documents which can be released will be made available at the earliest possible date.

☒ Before we can commence processing for release any documents which may pertain to you, it is necessary for you to submit your notarized signature. This procedure is designed to insure that information concerning an individual is released only to him/her.

☐ Before we can commence processing your request for records pertaining to another individual, we must know whether you have been authorized by that individual to receive these documents. It will be necessary for you to submit to the FBI the original of a written authorization which has been duly attested by a Notary Public. In accordance with the spirit and intent of the FOIPA, it is the policy of the FBI not to indicate whether we do or do not have the records you seek until such an authorization is received.

☐ For your information, background investigations for military and non-military security clearances are conducted by many different Government agencies. The FBI actually conducts such background investigations in only a limited number of areas. You may wish to write directly to any agency which you believe might have caused a background investigation pertaining to you to have been conducted.

☐ As a result of a preliminary review of documents pertaining to your request, it is believed that processing of these documents may result in charges in excess of \$25. Department of Justice Regulations, (Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 16.46), require notification to a requester when anticipated charges exceed \$25. This letter constitutes such notification. Please note that your indication of approval and consent to incur such fees will not necessarily result in the entire contents of our records being disclosed to you, inasmuch as we are guided

0821 81 RAM
by the provisions of the FOIPA (5 USC 552, 5 USC 552a) in disclosing materials from our records. Therefore, before taking further action on your request, we will await receipt of written notification from you indicating willingness to pay fees in excess of \$25 in connection with the processing of your request. If you so desire, we are willing to consult with you with the object of reformulating your request so as to meet your needs at a lower cost.

In view of the large volume of requests received, some delay in making a final response to your request may be anticipated. Please be assured that we are making every effort to process your request promptly. Your patience and understanding of this unavoidable delay will be appreciated.

Your request has been assigned number _____ which you are requested to utilize in any correspondence with this Bureau regarding your request.

☒ See Continuation Page for additional information.

David G. Flanders

DAVID G. FLANDERS

Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard

Please be advised that pursuant to your request on your late husband, Dr. Leo Szilard, we are currently searching the indices to our central records system at FBI Headquarters. You will be advised of the results of this search.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FEB 11 1980

Request No. 92,531

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Requester:

This is to acknowledge receipt by FBI Headquarters of your recent Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request and to advise you of our determination to comply with your request pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (a)(6)(A)(i) and other applicable Federal statutes and regulations. Additional information, if needed by us in this matter, will be requested of you by separate letter.

A search of the indices to our records will be made in an effort to determine if we have the information you seek. If the search fails to indicate the existence of any record(s) pertaining to the subject matter of your request, you will be notified. In the event the search reveals the existence of any record(s) which may be responsive to your request, it will be retrieved and processed pursuant to the provisions of the FOIPA at the earliest possible date.

Your request has been assigned the number indicated above, which you are requested to use in any further correspondence with this Bureau in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Flanders
DAVID G. FLANDERS

Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

January 25, 1980

Freedom of Information Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBI Building
Pennsylvania Avenue and 10th Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the widow and heir of Dr. Leo Szilard who was born in Budapest, Hungary February 11, 1898 and died here in La Jolla on May 30, 1964. Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request declassification and access without fee to Leo Szilard's and my own files.

I would appreciate it very much if you would tell me how many pages each file totals and what the xerox fee is per page.

An early reply will be appreciated. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrud Weiss Szilard, M.D.

GWS:jmw

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

Oct 30, 1980

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dear Trude,

I just received your letter of the 24th. Obviously, the FBI is being irresponsible in delaying so long, and they might well be hoping for a revision of the law. Most likely, however, they simply lack any commitment to FOIA and prefer not to put in any effort.

I doubt that a statement about working with an historian would help. Sherwin, Loory, and others have been pushing for Oppenheimer papers since about 1974-75, and hence they have been more successful.

I suspect that the FBI will dandle for a few more months on your request and probably deliver in early 1981.

With best wishes.

yours,

Bar

Call them.

Stefute
or Limitations

October 24, 1980

Dr. Barton Bernstein
2300 Hannover Street
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Dear Barton:

I would appreciate your advise on the request I made to the FBI. I am enclosing a copy of their latest letter dated August 28, 1980. I first wrote to them nine months ago on January 25, 1980, and I wonder whether it always takes that long in your experience. I am inclined to write to them that one could have had a baby during that time, but, of course, I don't want to annoy them. On the other hand, I wonder whether they might delay until there may be a possible change in law so that they would not need to fill my request at all.

Do you think it would help if I wrote to them that I am working with an historian on a book about Szilard and the information from their files is necessary for that purpose (I understand that Martin Sherwin who is working on a biography of Oppenheimer has received 4000 pages from the FBI files).

Volume 2 has come out in paperback recently, and I am very pleased with its looks. At \$7.95 it should be easier to use in as a text and Alan Beyerchen who visited here recently said that he plans to do so.

I hope that you are well and that it won't take too long until you can come South for a visit. Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrud Weiss Szilard, M.D.

GWS:jwr

Enclosure



General
Services
Administration

National Archives
and
Records Service Washington, DC 20408

Date : March 14, 1979

Reply to
Attn of : NNMM79-2561-ER

Subject :

To : Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Doctor Szilard:

The Manhattan Engineer District decimal file contains two folders marked "201 Szilard, Leo." They contain approximately 150 pages (declassified) including a memorandum by Doctor Szilard on "Liquid Metal Cooled Fast Neutron Breeders" (7 pp.) and a compilation of documents, edited by Doctor Szilard, relating to the period March 1939 to July 1940 "to persuade our colleagues and the United States government of the necessity of keeping this subject secret" (56 pp.). Other documents are still security classified and are being reviewed for possible declassification. Additional papers concerning your husband may be scattered among other series of the collection. You or your designated representative may review the files and select documents of interest to you.

Photocopies of documents cited above can be furnished for \$.20 a page. Remittance should be made payable to the National Archives Trust Fund (NNMM) and forwarded to the Cashier, National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408. Please return the enclosed copy of this letter when placing your order.

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. REESE
Modern Military Branch
Military Archives Division



United States
**Office of
Personnel Management**

Washington, D.C. 20415

JAN 14 1981

In Reply Refer To:

Your Reference:

Gertrud Weiss Szilard, M.D.
8038 El Paseo Grande
LaJolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

This is in response to your letter of January 25, 1980, forwarded to this office by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and received December 19, 1980, in which you request information contained in your investigative file. The Division of Personnel Investigations of the Office of Personnel Management processes all requests in which an individual is seeking investigative file information from our system of records pertaining to herself or is seeking correction or amendment of such records under the Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-579; and considers the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 to be exclusively applicable to all such requests.

This is to advise you of our decision to furnish you a copy of the information which you request with the exception of any material that is exempt from disclosure under the Privacy Act of 1974, particularly Section 552a (k) (5). Due to a backlog of requests, we are unable to predict an exact date of transmittal, however, we will furnish the material to you by certified mail at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

George K. Weitzel, Chief
Release of Information Section
Division of Personnel Investigations

Enclosure

Section 552a (k) (5) of Public Law 93-579

PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

PUBLIC LAW 93-579

EXTRACT OF SECTION 552a (k) (5)

Section 3, Title 5, United States Code is amended by adding after Section 552 the following new Section:

§ 552a. Records maintained on individuals.

(k). Specific Exemptions - The head of any agency may promulgate rules... to exempt any system of records within the agency... if the system of records is...

"(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment, military service, Federal contracts, or access to classified information, but only to the extent that the disclosure of such material would reveal the identity of a source who furnished information to the Government under an express promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence, or, prior to the effective date of this section, under an implied promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence;"

NOTE: The United States Civil Service Commission published its proposed rules which exempt Personnel Investigative Records in the Federal Register of August 27, 1975, pp. 39239 to 39252.

October 1989. "Hooked on foreign uranium," about how imports approaching 70 per cent of U.S. demand negate the claim that "nuclear energy means more energy independence."

October 1989. "Public always the last to know," about U.S. data on nuclear weapons tests that are shared with the Soviets but not with American citizens.

November 1989. "Expectations for non-proliferation," about the few hopeful signs for improvement in Bush appointments.

December 1989. "Risk Reduction: Toward better military manners," about the US-Soviet Agreement on the Prevention of Dangerous Military Activities.

December 1989. "Plutonium -- No Supply, No Demand?" about weapons-material cutoffs by Congress.

January/February 1990. "Military or civilian superplane?" about the X-30 national aerospace plane.

January/February 1990. "New, improved nukespeak" about the nuclear industry's jargon.

January/February 1990. "James D. Watkins: Frustrated Admiral of Energy." Profile and policy analysis.

Office Memorandum • UNIT

GOVERNMENT

TO : J. Edgar Hoover, Director, FBI

FROM : George T. Washington, Assistant
Solicitor General

SUBJECT: Leo Szilard

DATE: November 10, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL AND URGENT

Referring to my memorandum to you of October 31, 1947, and your reply of November 1, 1947:

The Attorney General has asked me to check with you as to whether there is any derogatory information in your files with respect to Leo Szilard.

Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease

DECLASSIFIED BY 2333

ON

1-15-79 per 003

memo dated 1-9-79

RJN/als

62-59520-139

19 NOV 22 1947

139

Walt

11-15-47

71 DEC 5 1947

62-59520-39

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal
Bureau of Investigation
FROM : George T. Washington, Assistant
Solicitor General
SUBJECT: Leo Szilard

DATE: December 12, 1947

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Referring to your memorandum of November 18, 1947, and the report thereto attached:

The Attorney General was much interested in the report. He would like to send copies to the State Department and the Atomic Energy Commission, and asked me to inquire whether you would have any objection.

COPIES DESTROYED
7-20-61 108 11/24

ack 1-8-48
EAM

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RECEIVED

RECORDED

EX-28 15 JAN 22 1948

DECLASSIFIED BY 2333
ON 1-15-79 PER 1203
memo dated 1-9-79 11/1/98

62-59520-44

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal
Bureau of Investigation

FROM : George T. Washington, Assistant Solicitor
General

SUBJECT: Dr. Leo Szilard

DATE: January 6, 1947

Under date of December 12, 1947, I sent you the following memorandum:

"Referring to your memorandum of November 18, 1947, and the report thereto attached:

"The Attorney General was much interested in the report. He would like to send copies to the State Department and the Atomic Energy Commission, and asked me to inquire whether you would have any objection."

I should appreciate it if you would let me know whether or not you have any objection to the Attorney General's proposal. In the event that you have no objection, I should be glad to have your suggestions as to the names of the officials to whom it might best be sent.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

RECORDED

EX-28 15 JAN 22 1948

COPIES DESTROYED

Z8 OCT 28 1964

62-59520-45



U.S. Department of Justice

CRM #7122

Washington, D.C. 20530

12 JAN 1991

Gertrud Weiss Szilard, M.D.
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

In processing your request for records about Leo Szilard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation located three documents which originated in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and has referred those documents to us for our review and direct response to you. We have reviewed these documents and will make them available to you in their entirety. Copies are enclosed. We apologize for the poor quality of the copies but they are the best obtainable due to the condition of the file. We have attached a typed transcription to each of the handwritten notes to facilitate reading.

Sincerely.

E. ROSS BUCKLEY, Chief
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit
Criminal Division

George,

Does the annexed memo answer your
question?

10/30/47 Initials

From
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL T. VINCENT QUINN
 to

Official indicated by check mark

MEMORANDUM

The Attorney General	
The Solicitor General	
The Assistant to the Attorney General	
Assistant Attorney General (Antitrust)	
Assistant Attorney General (Claims)	
Assistant Attorney General (Lands)	
Assistant Attorney General (Tax)	
Assistant Solicitor General	X
Director, FBI	
Director of Prisons	
Commissioner, Immigration & Naturalization	
Pardon Attorney	
The Administrative Assistant to the Atty. Gen.	
The Executive Assistant to the Atty. Gen.	
Director of Public Relations	
Miss Brookley	
Mr. Brown	
Mr. Wheatley	
Mr. Erdahl	
Mr. Fisher	
Mr. Folsom	
Mr. Franke	
Miss Hamlin	
Mr. Kneip	
Mr. Matlack	
Mr. Paisley	
Mr. Seaver	

George
Does the enclosed
memo. answer your
question?
10/30/47

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: T. Vincent Quinn, Assistant Attorney General

FROM: Raymond P. Whearty, Chief, Internal Security Section

SUBJECT: "Letter to Stalin"
Logan Act

DATE: October 30, 1947

LEF:JCK

Reference is made to your notation on October 29, 1947 questioning whether the so-called "Letter to Stalin," prepared by Dr. Leo Szilard, violates the Logan Act (18 USC 5).

The Logan Act, as you know, makes it an offense for any citizen without the permission or authority of the Government to carry on any verbal or written correspondence or intercourse, directly or indirectly, with any foreign government or officer thereof with intent to influence the measures or conduct of any government or officer or agent thereof relating to disputes or controversies with the United States or to defeat the measures of the Government of the United States.

If Dr. Szilard were to write a letter to Stalin, as he proposes in his letter of October 25, 1947 to the Attorney General, without the permission of the Government of the United States, it would seem that he would clearly be violating the Logan Act because in the proposed letter he would intend, as he states, to seek to influence the conduct of the Government of the USSR and of its leadership. If, on the other hand, the proposed letter is not sent to Stalin but is published in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, there may be some question whether the writer is not indirectly carrying on a correspondence with a foreign government or its officers in relation to a dispute with the United States. Such a broad interpretation of the Logan Act has apparently never been made and it is questionable whether such an interpretation would be consistent with the First Amendment of the Constitution.

The foregoing is set forth without any reference to questions of policy.

62-59520-36

Ray,

Will you put someone on this to ascertain if the annexed letter violates the Logan Act or any other Act?

10/29/47 Initials

Logan Act- 18 USC 5

From

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL T. VINCENT QUINN

to

Official indicated by check mark

MEMORANDUM

The Attorney General	
The Solicitor General	
The Assistant to the Attorney General	
Assistant Attorney General (Antitrust)	
Assistant Attorney General (Claims)	
Assistant Attorney General (Lands)	
Assistant Attorney General (Tax)	
Assistant Solicitor General	
Director, FBI	
Director of Prisons	
Commissioner, Immigration & Naturalization	
Pardon Attorney	
The Administrative Assistant to the Atty. Gen.	
The Executive Assistant to the Atty. Gen.	
Director of Public Relations	
Miss Brookley	
Mr. Whearty	X
Mr. Erdahl	
Mr. Fisher	
Mr. Franke	
Miss Hamlin	
Mr. Matlack	
Mr. McInerney	
Mr. Paisley	
Mr. Turner Smith	
Mr. Strine	

Ray

Will you please
in this case
the attached letter
violates the
way that the
10/1/55

Logan Oct - 18 USC 5

62-59520-36

3



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECORDS DISCLOSURE COVER SHEET
FOI/PA BRANCH
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

Subject of Request: Leo SzilardFOIPA No. 92,532 /190-

JAN 28 1981

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Enclosed are copies of documents from our files. Where noted on the enclosed documents, excisions have been made in order to protect materials which are exempted from disclosure by the following subsections of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 and Section 552a. The exemption number(s) indicated by a mark appearing in the block to the left of the subsection cited constitutes the authority for withholding the deleted material. (See Form 4-694a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions). You will note that whenever page(s) have been withheld in their entirety a sheet has been substituted listing the number of page(s), the identity of their location within the file, and exemptions under which they were withheld. When a deletion is made from the enclosed pages, the appropriate subsection exempting that information is noted opposite the deletion.

Section 552	Section 552a
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d) (5)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j) (2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (3)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k) (1)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (4)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k) (2)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k) (3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (6)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k) (4)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k) (5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k) (6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k) (7)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (D)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (E)	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (F)	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (8)	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (9)	

Pursuant to your request, 689 pages were reviewed and 383 pages were withheld in their entirety.

The decision to withhold exempt portions of our records is the responsibility of William H. Webster, Director of the FBI.

☒ Unless noted and explained, a search of references to the subject of your request in the files of other individuals or organizations, i.e., "see" references, was not undertaken. To verify most "see" references requires information identifying the individual(s) and/or organization(s) with whom the subject of your request associated and the time frame of the association(s). Should you desire a search of "see" references, please advise of the details describing the specific incident or occurrence and time frame. Thereafter, efforts will be made to locate, retrieve and process any such record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

☒ The search for information in response to your request was limited to those records in our central records system which are maintained at FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C. In certain specific instances, information collected in our field office files is not forwarded to FBI Headquarters. These instances include cases in which the perpetrators of the violation were not developed during the investigation; cases in which the United States Attorney declined prosecution; and cases in which the investigation revealed the allegations were unsubstantiated or not within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI. Therefore, if you believe records which may be responsive to your inquiry are located within the files of an FBI field office and were never reported to Headquarters, you may write directly to any field office for those materials. If you direct a request to any field office, please indicate in your letter that FBI Headquarters in Washington, D. C., has processed your initial FOIPA request.

☒ Your request for information has been considered in light of the provisions of both the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552) and the Privacy Act (PA) of 1974 (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a). It has been determined by the Attorney General that requests by individuals seeking information about themselves are governed by the Privacy Act. In addition, as a matter of administrative discretion, any documents which were found to be exempt from disclosure under the Privacy Act were also processed under the provisions of the FOIA. Through these procedures, you have received the greatest degree of access authorized by both laws.

☐ It has recently become a policy of this Bureau that in responding to FOIPA requests wherein the documents to be released total less than 250 pages, no duplication fee is levied. Therefore, the enclosed documents are being forwarded to you at no charge.

☒ If you so desire, you may appeal to the Associate Attorney General from any denial contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Associate Attorney General (Attention: Office of Privacy and Information Appeals), United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530, within thirty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☒ See additional information on continuation page.

(1) (K) ☐
(2) (K) ☐
(3) (K) ☐
(4) (K) ☐
(5) (K) ☐
(6) (K) ☐
(7) (K) ☐

THOMAS H. BRESSON
Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

Enclosures (8)

☒ Unless noted and explained, a search of references to the subject of your request in the files of other individuals or organizations, i.e., "see" references, was not undertaken. To verify most "see" references requires information identifying the individual(s) and/or organization(s) with whom the subject of your request is associated and the time frame of the association(s). Should you desire a search of "see" references, please advise of the details describing the specific incident or occurrence and time frame. Thereafter, efforts will be made to locate, retrieve and process any such record.

Dr. Gertrud Weiss Szilard

Of the 383 pages withheld in their entirety, a total of 321 of those pages were referred to the following agencies for processing and direct response to you: State Department; Immigration and Naturalization Service; Internal Revenue Service; Department of Justice, Office of the Solicitor General; Department of Justice, Criminal Division; Naval Investigative Service; Central Intelligence Agency and the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command.

In addition to these referrals, our files contained information originating with the State Department which was referred to them and must be returned to the FBI for release. You will be advised of the availability of this information upon return to us.

Subsection (b)(3) was used to delete material exempted from disclosure by the following statutes: Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103; the National Security Act and the CIA Act of 1949.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b) (1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 12065 in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods
- (b) (2) materials related solely to the internal rules and practices of the FBI
- (b) (3) information specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (see continuation page)
- (b) (4) privileged or confidential information obtained from a person, usually involving commercial or financial matters
- (b) (5) inter-agency or intra-agency documents which are not available through discovery proceedings during litigation; documents, the disclosure of which would have an inhibitive effect upon the development of policy and administrative direction; or documents which represent the work product of an attorney-client relationship
- (b) (6) materials contained in sensitive records such as personnel or medical files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (b) (7) investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the disclosure of which would: (A) interfere with law enforcement proceedings, including pending investigations; (B) deprive a person of the right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, or give one party of a controversy an undue advantage by exclusive access to such information; (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of another person; (D) reveal the identity of a confidential source or reveal confidential information furnished only by the confidential source; (E) disclose investigative techniques and procedures, thereby impairing their future effectiveness; and (F) endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel
- (b) (8) information collected by Government regulatory agencies from financial institutions
- (b) (9) geological and geophysical information, including maps, produced by private companies and filed by them with Government agencies.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE. SECTION 552a

- (d) (5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding
- (j) (2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals, except records of arrest
- (k) (1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 12065 in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods
- (k) (2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which would reveal the identity of an individual who has furnished information pursuant to a promise that his identity would be held in confidence
- (k) (3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056
- (k) (4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records
- (k) (5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his identity would be held in confidence
- (k) (6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process
- (k) (7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his identity would be held in confidence.

c
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MEMORANDUM OF LEO SZILARD

August 15, 1939

Submitted to the President

October, 1939

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MEMORANDUM

August 15, 1939

Much experimentation on atomic disintegration was done during the past five years, but up to this year the problem of liberating nuclear energy could not be attacked with any reasonable hope for success. Early this year it became known that the element uranium can be split by neutrons. It appeared conceivable that in this nuclear process uranium itself may emit neutrons, and a few of us envisaged the possibility of liberating nuclear energy by means of a chain reaction of neutrons in uranium.

Experiments were thereupon performed, which led to striking results. One has to conclude that a nuclear chain reaction could be maintained under certain well defined conditions in a large mass of uranium. It still remains to prove this conclusion by actually setting up such a chain reaction in a large-scale experiment.

This new development in physics means that a new source of power is now being created. Large amounts of energy would be liberated, and large quantities of new radioactive elements would be produced in such a chain reaction.

In medical applications of radium we have to deal with quantities of grams; the new radioactive elements could be produced in the chain reaction in quantities corresponding to tons of radium equivalents. While the practical application would include the medical field, it would not be limited to it.

A radioactive element gives a continuous release of energy for a certain period of time. The amount of energy which is released per unit weight of material may be very large, and therefore such elements might be used--if available in large quantities--as fuel for driving boats or airplanes. It should be pointed out, however, that the physiological action of the radiations

emitted by these new radioactive elements makes it necessary to protect those who have to stay close to a large quantity of such an element, for instance the driver of the airplane. It may therefore be necessary to carry large quantities of lead, and this necessity might impede a development along this line, or at least limit the field of application.

Large quantities of energy would be liberated in a chain reaction, which might be utilized for purposes of power production in the form of a stationary power plant.

In view of this development it may be a question of national importance to secure an adequate supply of uranium. The United States has only very poor ores of uranium in moderate quantities; there is a good ore of uranium in Canada where the total deposit is estimated to be about 3000 tons; there may be about 1500 tons of uranium in Czechoslovakia, which is now controlled by Germany; there is an unknown amount of uranium in Russia, but the most important source of uranium, consisting of an unknown but probably very large amount of good ore, is Belgian Congo.

It is suggested therefore to explore the possibility of bringing over from Belgium or Belgian Congo a large stock of pitchblend, which is the ore of both radium and uranium, and to keep this stock here for possible future use. Perhaps a large quantity of this ore might be obtained as a token reparation payment from the Belgian Government. In taking action along this line it would not be necessary officially to disclose that the uranium content of the ore is the point of interest; action might be taken on the ground that it is of value to secure a stock of the ore on account of its radium content for possible future extraction of the radium for medical purposes.

Since it is unlikely that an earnest attempt to secure a supply of uranium will be made before the possibility of a chain reaction has been visibly demonstrated, it appears necessary to do this as quickly as possible by performing a large-scale experiment. The previous experiments have prepared the ground to the

extent that it is now possible clearly to define the conditions under which such a large-scale experiment would have to be carried out. Still two or three different setups may have to be tried out, or alternatively preliminary experiments have to be carried out with several tons of material if we want to decide in advance in favor of one setup or another. These experiments cannot be carried out within the limited budget which was provided for laboratory experiments in the past, and it has now become necessary either to strengthen--financially and otherwise--the organizations which concerned themselves with this work up to now, or to create some new organization for the purpose. Public-spirited private persons who are likely to be interested in supporting this enterprise should be approached without delay, or alternatively the collaboration of the chemical or the electrical industry should be sought.

The investigations were hitherto limited to chain reactions based on the action of slow neutrons. The neutrons emitted from the splitting uranium are fast, but they are slowed down in a mixture of uranium and a light element. Fast neutrons lose their energy in colliding with atoms of a light element in much the same way as a billiard ball loses velocity in a collision with another ball. At present it is an open question whether such a chain reaction can also be made to work with fast neutrons which are not slowed down.

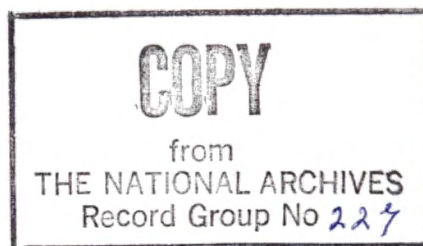
There is reason to believe that, if fast neutrons could be used, it would be easy to construct extremely dangerous bombs. The destructive power of these bombs can only be roughly estimated, but there is no doubt that it would go far beyond all military conceptions. It appears likely that such bombs would be too heavy to be transported by airplane, but still they could be transported by boat and exploded in port with disastrous results.

Although at present it is uncertain whether a fast neutron reaction can be made to work, from now on this possibility will have to be constantly kept in mind in view of its far-reaching military consequences. Experiments have been devised for settling this important point, and it is solely a question of organization to ensure that such experiments shall be actually carried out.

Should the experiments show that a chain reaction will work with fast neutrons, it would then be highly advisable to arrange among scientists for withholding publications on this subject. An attempt to arrange for withholding publications on this subject has already been made early in March but was abandoned in spite of favorable response in this country and in England on account of the negative attitude of certain French laboratories. The experience gained in March would make it possible to revive this attempt whenever it should be necessary.

Leo Szilard





OSRD, 5-1, Bush-Conant File
Szilard

Note: Time stamped on back of
first page, May 28 and June 10, 1942, by
the OSRD Mail Room

c
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LETTERS OF LEO SZILARD TO E. FERMI

July 3 and July 8, 1939

c
o
p
y

7-10-39
100

Hotel King's Crown
420 West 116th Street
New York City

July 3rd, 1939

Dear Fermi:

This is to keep you informed of the trend of my ideas concerning chain reactions. It seems to me now that there is a good chance that carbon might be an excellent element to use in place of hydrogen, and there is a strong temptation to gamble on this chance. The capture cross section of carbon is not known: the only experimental evidence available asserts an upper limit of 0.01 times 10^{-24}cm^2 . If the cross section were 0.01 carbon would be no better than hydrogen, but the cross section is perhaps much smaller, and it might be for instance 0.001. If it were so carbon not only could be used in place of hydrogen, but would have great advantages, even if a chain reaction were possible with hydrogen also. The concentration of uranium oxide in carbon could be kept very low, so that one could have about 2 gm. of carbon per cc. This compares favorably with 1/2 gm. of water per cc. at the most and means that the mean square of the displacement of a neutron for slowing down to thermal velocities would be only 1.5 times as large in the carbon-uranium-oxide mixture than in the water-uranium-oxide mixture. If capture by carbon can be neglected, the concentration of uranium oxide is determined by the consideration that the average displacement of a thermal neutron for capture by uranium in the mixture must not become too large. With this as a limiting factor about 1/10 of the weight of the mixture would have to be uranium, and that means that one would need only a few tons of uranium oxide if our present data about uranium are correct.

I personally would be in favor of trying a large scale experiment with a carbon-uranium-oxide mixture if we can get hold of the material.

I intend to plunge in the meantime into an experiment designed for measuring small capture cross sections for thermal neutrons. This is the proposed experiment: A sphere of carbon of 20 cm radius or larger is surrounded by water and a neutron source is placed in the center of the sphere. The slow neutron density is measured inside the carbon sphere by an indium or rhodium indicator at two points, one close to the surface, and one close to the center. The slow neutron density at these two points is measured once with, and once without, an absorbing layer of boron (or cadmium), covering the surface of the sphere. It is easy to calculate from the observed ratio of the differences (of the observed neutron density with an without absorber at the surface of the sphere) obtained for the two points and the scattering cross-section the ratio of the capture cross section to the scattering cross-section for thermal neutrons. I calculate that a ratio of the neutron densities of the order of magnitude of 75 to 100 would for instance be obtained for two points in a sphere of carbon of about 20 cm. radius if the capture cross-section of carbon were 0.005. It seems that very small capture cross sections can conveniently be measured by this method.

If carbon should fail, our next best guess might be heavy water, and I have therefore taken steps to find out if it is physically possible to obtain a few tons of heavy water. Heavy hydrogen is supposed to have a capture cross section below 0.003, and the scattering cross section ought to be 3 or 4 times 10^{-24} for neutrons above the 1 volt region. (It is 6 to 7 times 10^{-24} for the thermal region.) Since heavy hydrogen slows down about as efficiently per collision as ordinary hydrogen, and since hydrogen has a capture cross section of 0.27 and a scattering cross section of 20, heavy hydrogen is more favorable.

Yours,

(Leo Szilard)

Hotel King's Crown
420 West 116th Street
New York City

July 8th, 1939

Dear Fermi:

Sorry to bombard you with so many letters about carbon. This is just to tell you that I have reached the conclusion that it would be the wisest policy to start a large scale experiment with carbon right away without waiting for the outcome of the absorption measurement which was discussed in my last two letters. The two experiments might be done simultaneously. The following can be said in favor of this procedure:

A chain reaction with carbon is so much more convenient and so much more important from the point of view of applications than a chain reaction with heavy water or helium that we must know in the shortest possible time whether we can make it go. This can be decided with certainty in a relatively short time by a large scale experiment, and therefore this experiment ought to be performed. If we waited for the absorption measurement we would lose three months, and in case the result is positive we would still not know with a 100% certainty the answer with respect to the question of the chain reaction.

I thought that perhaps 50 tons of carbon and 5 tons of uranium should be used as a start. The value of the carbon would only be about \$ 10,000. Since the carbon and the uranium oxide would not be mixed but built up in layers, or in any case used in some canned form, there will be no waste of material or waste of labor involved in unmixing after the experiment is over. Since the uranium layers may be separated by carbon layers of 20 to 30 cm. thickness, or even more, we have to deal with a comparatively simple structure. Much simpler than would be the case for alternating water and uranium layers.

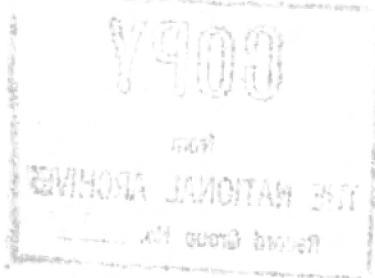
I told Professor Pegram yesterday how I felt about the situation, and he

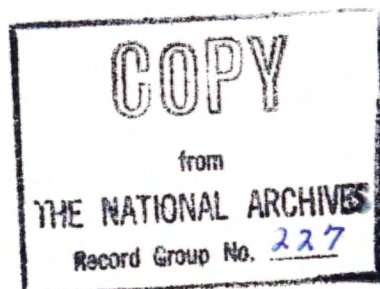
seemed to be not unwilling to take the necessary action. I wonder whether you think it wise to proceed as outlined in this letter.

With kindest regards,

Yours,

(Leo Szilard)





OSRD, 5-1, Bush-Levant Corres.

Szilard

Note: Time-stamped by OSRD
Mail Room on back, May 28 and
June 10, 1942

Szilard
OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1530 P STREET NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

VANNEVAR BUSH
Director

December 29, 1943

Dr. L. Szilard
University of Chicago
Metallurgical Laboratory
Chicago, Illinois



Dear Dr. Szilard:

I have given some thought to your letter of December 13th and have discussed it with Dr. Conant. As you know, he has been closer to this general program than I have been, and because of this fact, as well as my being very heavily loaded with several exceedingly urgent matters at the present time, I suggest that you discuss these matters with Dr. Conant. He will be in Chicago sometime during January or would be glad to see you here in Washington sooner if you would prefer that. Dr. Conant and I worked very closely on these matters and he will be glad to talk with you and will keep me advised on any matters which require consideration or action on my part.

If this suggestion is agreeable, I suggest you get in touch with Dr. Conant directly and either arrange to see him here on such days as he may be in Washington, or in Chicago at the time of his visit there if that is suitable.

Very sincerely yours,

V. Bush, Director

cc Dr. J. B. Conant



The University of Chicago

Metallurgical Laboratory

February 23, 1944

MIDWAY 0800
EXT. 1290

Dr. V. Bush
1530 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bush:

Your letter of January 18th has been very much in my mind during the last few weeks and, following your suggestion, I also talked over some aspects of it with several of my colleagues. If you are not more than usually busy between Thursday, March 2nd, and Friday, March 10th, I would plan to spend that time in Washington taking with me some of my books and work. I should then be at your disposal during that time whenever you can conveniently see me. This would make it unnecessary to try to cram everything into one long drawn-out conversation and if you come to the conclusion that it is advisable for me also to see Dr. Conant, I could then be at his disposal also any time during that week.

If I hear from you that this plan meets with your approval I shall get in touch with your office on my arrival in Washington, March 2nd, and ask for a short interview with you. After that we shall be in a better position to see how much ground we ought to cover and what points could be left out as unessential in any subsequent conversations.

If a later time in March would suit you better, please let me know your preference.

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

Leo Szilard

LS:s

RECEIVED
MAR 6 1944
661510

Handwritten: 1/24/44

February 24, 1944.

Handwritten: Szilard, Leo

Dr. Leo Szilard,
Metallurgical Laboratory,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I think the plan proposed in your letter of February twenty-third is a good one, and I shall look forward to hearing from you after you reach Washington early next month. I feel sure that we shall be able to get together during your visit for a full discussion of the matters we have touched upon in our recent correspondence.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten: V. Bush

~~Enclined~~ V. Bush

V. Bush,
Director.

FILE COPY

Dr. Bush
2

The University of Chicago

Metallurgical Laboratory

MIDWAY 0800
EXT. 1290

December 23, 1943

Dr. V. Bush
1530 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C

Dear Dr. Bush:

Inclosed you will find a carbon copy of a letter which was mailed to you about ten days ago. Since no acknowledgment of its receipt has so far arrived the carbon copy is being sent as a confirmation in case the original communication did not reach you.

Yours sincerely,



L. Szilard

S:s
incl.

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
METALLURGICAL LABORATORY
DEC 27 1943
L. Szilard

661663

Metallurgical Laboratory

December 13, 1943

Dr. V. Bush
1530 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bush:

In May of last year I wrote you because of my concern for the progress of our work. Today I am writing you again for the same reason. Since the trouble is not located within and not limited to the Chicago project but is of a more general nature I am writing to you directly.

I would very much appreciate it if you could see me at a date when you have at your disposal enough time to listen to a detailed statement so that I can substantiate each point which I make with concrete examples taken from the past record of this work.

As I am sure you must have heard, there is dissatisfaction which is keenly felt by many of the scientists in several of the projects, with the probable exclusion of Dr. Lawrence's laboratory. News of this dissatisfaction is beginning to leak out and judging from information which reached me last week it might begin to cause alarm in certain Government circles. For this reason I am inclined to look forward to the proposed interview with a somewhat greater urgency than would otherwise be the case.

Yours sincerely,

L. R.
L. Szilard

DEC 15 2 44 PM '43
MAIL ROOM
CLERK OF EXECUTIVE SECRET
cc: Dr. A. W. Compton

OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT

Routing Slip

TO V. Bush _____

My guess is Szilard will
not be satisfied with seeing me,
he thinks I am one of the
evil doers. I suggest you offer
me as a substitute, however, to take
a personal look if you have any
I shall be coming through Chicago in
about a month or I can call see him
in Wash DC soon.

FROM: JBC DATE: Dec. 23, 1943

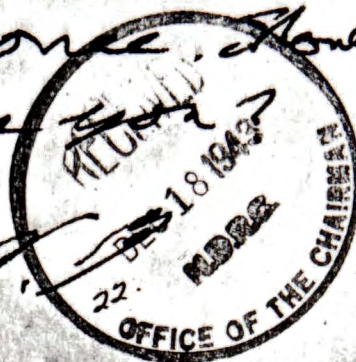
From the Office of
V. BUSH

Mr. Leonard -

*I understand Szeland
has now signed
us on his patents.*

*You have been
the buffer on this
business since. Should
Szeland see you?*

Dec 18



The University of Chicago

Metallurgical Laboratory

MIDWAY 0800
EXT. 1290

December 13, 1943

Dr. V. Bush
1530 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bush:

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Yours sincerely,



L. Szilard

cc: Dr. A. H. Compton

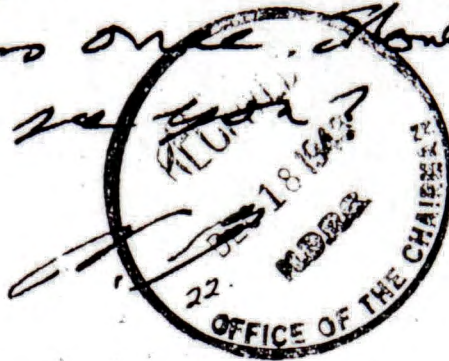
From the Office of
V. BUSH

Mr Leonard -

I understand Syland
has now signed
up on his patent.

You have been
the buffer on this
business once. Should
Syland see you?

Dec 18



OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT

Routing Slip

TO V. B. L.

My guess is Szilard will
not be satisfied with seeing me.
He thinks I am one of the
evil ones. I suggest you offer
me as a substitute, however, to take
a family load off your back. Say
I shall be coming through Chicago in
about a month or I can call see him
in W. Wash. to soon.

FROM: JBC DATE: Dec. 23, 1943

Skilard

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1530 P STREET NW.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

VANNEVAR BUSH
Director

December 29, 1943

Dr. L. Skilard
University of Chicago
Metallurgical Laboratory
Chicago, Illinois



Dear Dr. Skilard:

I have given some thought to your letter of December 13th and have discussed it with Dr. Conant. As you know, he has been closer to this general program than I have been, and because of this fact, as well as my being very heavily loaded with several exceedingly urgent matters at the present time, I suggest that you discuss these matters with Dr. Conant. He will be in Chicago sometime during January or would be glad to see you here in Washington sooner if you would prefer that. Dr. Conant and I worked very closely on these matters and he will be glad to talk with you and will keep me advised on any matters which require consideration or action on my part.

If this suggestion is agreeable, I suggest you get in touch with Dr. Conant directly and either arrange to see him here on such days as he may be in Washington, or in Chicago at the time of his visit there if that is suitable.

Very sincerely yours,

Vannevar Bush, Director

cc Dr. J. B. Conant



NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Serial 01042016

WASHINGTON

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Attention: Mr. Paul Kriethe

The Office of Scientific Research and Development has requested the Secretary of the Navy to consent to the employment of Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard of Columbia University, Italian and Hungarian aliens, respectively, in connection with Navy classified contracts.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has already conducted investigations of these individuals, both dated October 28, 1940. According to these reports, the associates of Dr. Fermi and Dr. Szilard at Columbia University were, on the whole, satisfied with their loyalty and integrity; however, reports from the second corps area of the Military Intelligence Division, dated October 1, 1940, are somewhat at variance with the facts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports. In regard to Fermi, the Military Intelligence Division report states: "His associates at Columbia admire his intellectual ability and say he is very pleasant, personally, but that they believe he is undoubtedly a Fascist....They would not care to guarantee his discretion, integrity, and loyalty to the United States." In regard to Szilard, the Military Intelligence Division report states: "Mr. Szilard is said to be very pro-German and to have remarked on many occasions that he thinks the Germans will win the war. Reliable contacts among the faculty and authorities of Columbia University state they would not care to guarantee his discretion, integrity, and loyalty to the United States."

ARMY

In view of the above, it is requested that a limited investigation be instituted to determine the attitude of the faculty of Columbia University toward these aliens at the present time, and to ascertain, specifically, if any of the associates of these aliens consider them definitely pro-Fascist.

The investigation can be limited to the above inquiry, unless the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the interests of National Defense believes that a further inquiry should be made, in which case it is requested that any information be forwarded to the Division of Naval Intelligence when available.

Declassified/Downgrade to.....
Auth: DIRNIS
Date: 01-21-81 Unit: 02F

Inc#1

ENC 12

The University of Chicago

Metallurgical Laboratory

February 23, 1944

MIDWAY 0800
EXT. 1290

Dr. V. Bush
1530 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bush:

Your letter of January 18th has been very much in my mind during the last few weeks and, following your suggestion, I also talked over some aspects of it with several of my colleagues. If you are not more than usually busy between Thursday, March 2nd, and Friday, March 10th, I would plan to spend that time in Washington taking with me some of my books and work. I should then be at your disposal during that time whenever you can conveniently see me. This would make it unnecessary to try to cram everything into one long drawn-out conversation and if you come to the conclusion that it is advisable for me also to see Dr. Conant, I could then be at his disposal also any time during that week.

If I hear from you that this plan meets with your approval I shall get in touch with your office on my arrival in Washington, March 2nd, and ask for a short interview with you. After that we shall be in a better position to see how much ground we ought to cover and what points could be left out as unessential in any subsequent conversations.

If a later time in March would suit you better, please let me know your preference.

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

Leo Szilard

LS:s

RECEIVED
MAR 6 1944
661510

The University of Chicago

Metallurgical Laboratory

MIDWAY 0800
EXT. 1290

June 24, 1942

Dr. Vannevar Bush,
Director,
O.S.R.D.
1530 P. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bush:

Since I was away from Chicago last week, your kind letter of June 16th did not reach me until today when I returned from Washington. Otherwise, I would have probably postponed my visit to your office in accordance with the presentation given in your letter. I am very glad, though, to have had the opportunity to talk with you, and to have had your comments on certain points which came up in our discussion.

At a later date when you shall be free to disclose the tentative plans for the future organization of this work, I hope to have another opportunity to discuss with you the probable effects of such new organizational set-ups as you may contemplate.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

I. Szilard

LS:g

Conference with Szilard June 16, 1942

June 16, 1942.

Dr. Leo Szilard,
Metallurgical Laboratory,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

In our recent correspondence I indicated that I would advise you as promptly as possible concerning the desirable time for us to confer in regard to the matters which we have been considering. As you know, I delayed making such an arrangement pending completion of a review of the whole program which is now under way. This study has not yet reached a stage where a personal conference seems necessary, but I trust the matter will develop in the near future to a point where I may be in position to suggest a definite date for an appointment and I shall advise you just as soon as this seems possible. This note is simply to let you know that the study is progressing and that I am looking forward to seeing you before very long.

Cordially yours,

V. Bush,
Director.

FILE COPY

ed

~~SECRET~~
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

WASHINGTON

ADDRESS REPLY TO
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

LJB:DEK

June 9, 1942

IN YOUR REPLY
REFER TO FILE

D

Dr. Vannevar Bush,
Office of Scientific Research and Development,
1530 P Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bush:

This letter refers to Dr. Szilard's letter to you dated May 26, 1942, which Dr. Conant has sent on to me for comment.

I don't understand Szilard's criticisms. The work on the carbon uranium experiment was located at Columbia under Prof. Pegram's direction and was in the immediate charge of Prof. Fermi until Prof. Compton was appointed project leader for the power group. Dr. Szilard may feel that he should have been given direction of the project. He was very active in getting the work organized before it was transferred to the National Defense Research Committee. He is brilliant, enthusiastic, aggressive, but he is not a project leader. I do not know what he is referring to when he speaks of the disadvantages of the present division of authority between Compton and Murphree.

Szilard says in his letter of May 26th, "We knew in August, 1939, how to make a power plant with graphite and uranium," but he actually said in October, 1939, "The probable success or failure of a large scale experiment (100 tons of graphite and 10 to 20 tons of uranium oxide) cannot be forecast at present with any degree of assurance."

As a matter of fact, it is only within the last month in which experimental results have been obtained, giving k as equal to 1, which means that a chain reaction could just be maintained in an infinite pile of graphite and uranium. Later results indicate that with

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/24/63 BY 603 m

DATE

8/24/63

document contains information

relating to the defense of the United States

and its foreign relations

and the transmission of information

to an unauthorized person is

further attention to removing impurities, including a pumping out of nitrogen from the interior of the pile, that k may be raised to 1.05 or better, assuring a chain reaction in a pile of finite and attainable size, but these things were not known three years ago. They have been learned through laborious measurements and by the reduction of harmful impurities in the graphite and the uranium.

Sincerely yours,



Lyman J. Briggs, Director.



Further attention to the following information is
being out of the office of the Director of the
that it may be related to the letter. The letter
relation in the office of the Director of the
these things were not known to the Director. They have
been learned through the investigation of the
reduction of the letter in the office of the
Director.

COPY
from
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Record Group No 227

OSRD, 5-1, Bush-Conant Corres,
Szilard

9
June 3, 1942.

Dr. Arthur H. Compton,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Arthur:

I am glad to have your letter of June first about Szilard. I have already written to him asking him to suggest dates for the conference which would fit into his schedule so that I might see what would prove the most convenient time for both of us and in this conference I shall keep in mind your last paragraph. As you know, organizational plans are now being studied and I think the next steps will be in the direction to avoid some of the difficulties he mentions.

Cordially yours,

FILE COPY
Encl.,
Director.

The University of Chicago

Metallurgical Laboratory

June 1, 1942

MIDWAY 0800
EXT. 1200

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dr. Vannevar Bush, Director
O. S. R. D.
1530 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Van:

Leo Szilard has just passed on to me a copy of his letter to you of May 26, 1942, which was originally sent without my knowledge. In this letter he asks for an appointment to discuss with you the organization of our tube alloy program. I hope you can find it possible to get acquainted with him and listen to what he has to say.

As you know Szilard was the first in this country, perhaps anywhere, to advocate trying to secure a chain fission reaction using unseparated tube alloy. He has perhaps given more concentrated thought on the development of this project than has any other individual. As an experienced physicist and engineer and a man of unusual originality, his thoughts have been of great value in determining the direction of our work. He has likewise been from the beginning, actively concerned with the more far-reaching problems of organization and civil and military uses of the process. Even though not all of his ideas are practical, I consider him one of the most valuable members of our organization.

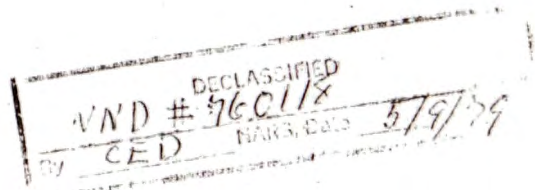
When Szilard talks to you, you must understand that he does not represent me, but rather an independent individualist, vitally and I believe unselfishly, concerned with the effective progress of our program. You will, if I am not mistaken, find a half hour discussion with him to be time well spent.

Yours cordially,

Arthur C.

Arthur Compton

KT



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 1, 1942

Dr. A. H. Compton
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Compton:

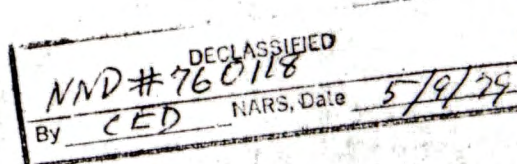
In regard to your recent inquiry as to whether Dr. Leo Szilard may be employed by the University of Chicago for research in the field of uranium, a copy of a letter dated May 18th has just been received which carries the necessary authorization from the Navy Department. Unfortunately, the original letter from the Navy went astray and there has been some little delay in obtaining a copy. We are holding this copy here and attached you will find a verbatim draft which doubtless be sufficient for your purposes.

Sincerely yours,

R. W. King
Executive Assistant
to the Chairman

RWK:DLW

Enclosure



OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

AND DEVELOPMENT

1530 P. Street, N.W.

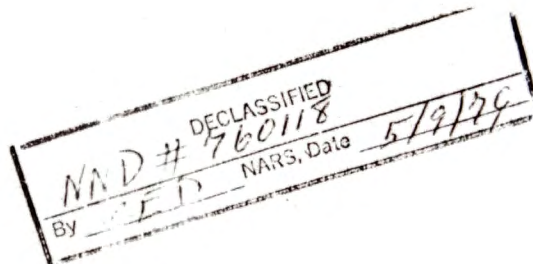
CONFIDENTIAL

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

May 21, 1942

TO: Dr. R. W. King
FROM: Frederick T. Hobbs *FT*
SUBJECT: Leo Szilard

Confirming my conversation with Mrs. Jenkins on the telephone, Lieutenant J. R. Cannon, of the Office of the Secretary of Navy, has informed us today that consent to the employment of the subject at the University of Chicago was sent to the University of Chicago on May 18. At our request Lieutenant Cannon is sending us a copy of the letter of consent. As soon as this arrives we will send it to you for your information.



CEM-259

3181

NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Routing Slip

TO Dr. R. W. King



Subject: Leo Szilard

Attached is a copy of the consent of
Navy Department to the employment of Dr.
Szilard by the University of Chicago.

mx
FROM: Frederick T. Hobbs

DATE: 5-26-42

C
O
P
Y



(SC)P14-2/QM
68297

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAY 18 1942

Sirs:

Reference is made to your request No. 68297
dated March 24, 1942, for consent to employ

Leo Szilard (Hungarian)

an alien, on work under Navy contracts which are subject
to the provisions of Section 10(j) of the Aircraft Proc-
urement Act, approved July 2, 1926 (Public No. 446, 69th
Congress; 44 Stat. 787; 10 U.S.C. 310 (j)) and/or Section
11 of an Act approved June 28, 1940 (Public No. 671, 76th
Congress);

The Secretary of the Navy has this date consented
to the employment of the alien named above. This consent is
granted only for the institution named in the application and is to
be limited to research in the field of Uranium, as described in the
questionnaires.

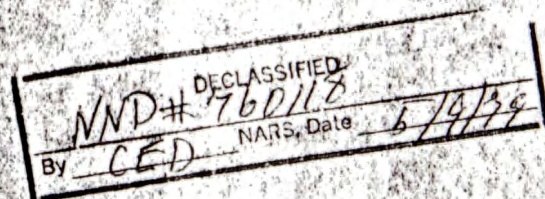
By direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

Respectfully,

J. R. Cannon
Lieut. USNR

University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

cc: OSRD
CNO(ONI)
CNR



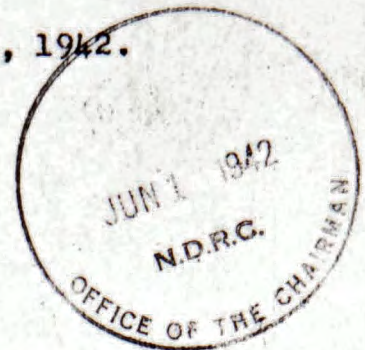
Dr. Leo Szilard 5-1 file

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
1530 P STREET NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

VANNEVAR BUSH
Director

June 1, 1942.

Dr. Leo Szilard,
Columbia University,
New York, N.Y.



Dear Dr. Szilard:

Your letter of May twenty-sixth has resulted in a conference between Dr. Conant and myself. I think I recognize some of the difficulties of the present organizational scheme, and I consider it as a transitional form only. More definite plans are being studied at the present time and I think the next steps will be in a direction to avoid some of the difficulties that you mention. Nevertheless, I would like very much to discuss this subject with you. In view of the past history which you review, some of which, as you know, occurred before I had any connection with the matter, I am accumulating some data from the files in order to be fully informed. When I have this in my hands I would much like to have you elaborate on your letter and do so in direct conference with me, and I trust that you can visit me for this purpose. If you will let me know when this will best fit in with your other plans, and drop me a note in that regard, I will then make an appointment just as promptly as I can fit it into my somewhat crowded schedule.

Very truly yours,

V. Bush,
Director.

cc: Dr. Conant



Szilard

5-1
~~SECRET~~

May 29, 1942

Dr. Lyman J. Briggs
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D. C.

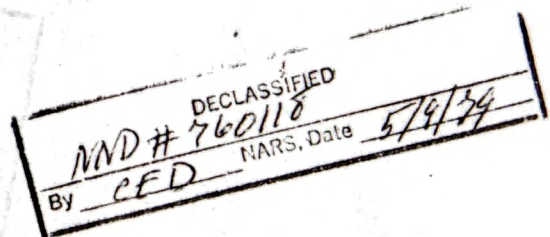
Dear Dr. Briggs:

I am sending you herewith a letter from Dr. Leo Szilard to Dr. Bush and the attached memoranda. It is my understanding that some time next week you will write Dr. Bush directly on this matter, giving your own account of the situation as it has developed in the last two years.

Very sincerely yours

James B. Conant
Chairman

Enclosures



King's Crown Hotel



420 WEST 116TH STREET
NEW YORK

UNDER KNOTT MANAGEMENT

PRIVATE OFFICE

OPPOSITE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

TELEPHONE UNIVERSITY 4-2700

REGISTERED
NO. ~~61352~~

REGISTERED
NO. 440208

May 26, 1942

Dr. V. Bush
Office of Scientific Research and Development
1530 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bush:

I am taking this step of writing to you because I am concerned about the slowness of the work on unseparated uranium. In the past those who had originated this work did not ask to be consulted on matters of organization which had vitally affected their work. This, I now believe, was a mistake on our part. If we had presented to you our views on such matters perhaps we might have been able to explain to you our difficulties and you might have been able to remove them.

At present the main source of our troubles seem to lie in a division of authority along the wrong lines. This was the cause of most of our difficulties from the start and the net result was as follows:

When we started to work under contract with the NDRC in November 1940 we had a simple task for which we were well prepared through the spade-work which had been done ahead of time. All we had to do was to pile up about 40 tons of graphite with 10 tons of uranium oxide and to perform a measurement which takes about one week. The materials required were available in sufficient purity at the outset of our work. We could have procured them and completed the experiment at any time within four months after the allocation of the funds. Instead of four months it took us from November, 1940 to May, 1942, i.e., 18 months to perform this task. I should be very glad to give you a detailed statement of these facts.

The reorganization which you undertook last fall when you asked Compton, Lawrence, Murphree and Urey to take charge of different divisions of the work was an improvement but it created again a division of authority.

RECEIVED
MAY 27 1942
U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 26, 1942

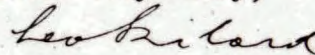
If our future task were as simple as the task which we have just completed we might muddle through with our present organization. Unfortunately this is not the case and our new task is of great complexity. Almost all of the knowledge and ability which it requires is represented in Dr. Compton's group, but with the present division of authority between Compton and Murphree neither of the two groups can function properly.

If you should find it possible to go over these matters with me, I would like to describe to you in just what way this division of authority is blocking the path to a successful conclusion of our work. It would also be necessary to discuss other factors which affect the speed of our work and endanger its success. I can come to Washington if you will let me know a few days ahead of time when you can see me. Your message would reach me this week, c/o Metallurgical Laboratory, University of Chicago.

We knew in August, 1939 how to make a power plant with graphite and uranium. By June, 1940 we knew how to make "copper" and bombs sufficiently light to be carried by airplane. Some of our recommendations were embodied in a memorandum dated August 15, 1939, which was submitted to the President, and a memorandum dated October 21, 1939, which was submitted to Dr. Briggs. I wonder whether, if you read the inclosed copies, you might not think that the war would be over by now if those recommendations had been acted upon. Our recommendations concerning the form of organization best suited for this work were embodied in a letter written by Professor Einstein to Dr. Briggs in April, 1940. The experience of the last eighteen months leads me to think that we would be able to move much faster if some such form of organization were adopted.

In 1939 the Government of the United States was given a unique opportunity by Providence; this opportunity was lost. Nobody can tell now whether we shall be ready before German bombs wipe out American cities. Such scanty information as we have about work in Germany is not reassuring and all one can say with certainty is that we could move at least twice as fast if our difficulties were eliminated.

Yours very truly,



Leo Szilard

RECEIVED
MAY 28 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OEM-259

8181

NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Routing Slip

TO Dr. King

Mr. Hobbs phoned (11:30 a.m.) re Leo Szilard matter. He called Secretary's Office and talked with Lt. Cannon re status of matter. He reports that letter of approval for the use of Leo Szilard was sent directly to the U of Chicago on the 18th. Lt. Cannon is sending us a copy, and it will be sent up to you as soon as it comes in.

rj

FROM: _____ DATE: 5-21-42

~~SECRET~~

The University of Chicago

Metallurgical Laboratory

May 16, 1942

NDRC
This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Act, U. S. C. 31 and 32. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

Dr. James B. Conant, Chairman
National Defense Research Committee
1530 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Conant:

In re: Use of Leo Szilard

The status of Dr. Leo Szilard is in urgent need of clarification. I would recommend requesting the Navy to permit his use by the University of Chicago in the uranium studies, upon which the University is engaged; thus transferring this permission for use from Columbia University to the University of Chicago. A second possibility would be complete clearance for work on the Uranium problem. A third possibility would be internment or otherwise keeping him under close surveillance.

Attached is a copy of the clearance statement which we have received covering his case. On receipt of this statement we took Szilard off the Chicago payroll but on encouragement from your office delayed placing him on the Columbia payroll again, since early action by the Navy in transferring permission for his use to Chicago was anticipated. Such action has, however, been postponed so that for the past month Szilard has not been officially employed on the project, though we have not asked him yet to leave the Laboratory. We are now returning him on our payroll pending further negotiations.

You will recall that Szilard's case must be handled with special care because he is extensively informed with regard to the details of our project. It was in fact he, with one other, who initiated the effort to secure the President's interest in investigating the possibilities of the fission bomb. This was in 1939. For the first year of the work he was one of the project's prime movers and was completely acquainted with what was going on. While for the past six months his investigations have been directed toward the development of the power project, he is so well acquainted with the fundamental physics and chemistry of its other aspects that the general status of the rest of the problem must be clear to him. As far as I know he is unacquainted with any details with regard to separation or plans for the bomb. His work, while perhaps not indispensable, is really very helpful to us. If dropped from the project, he would have reason to be so dissatisfied that his loyalty to the country might be shaken. As it now stands, however, I have every reason to believe that he will work on this project with devotion to the welfare of the United States.

The recent ruling against the employment of enemy aliens on this project in view of the previous special consideration of Szilard's case, I assume, makes it appropriate to consider his status as an exception from the general rule.

I shall be pleased to have a prompt clarification of his situation.

The urgency of delivery of this document is such that it will not reach the addressee in time by the next available officer-courier. The originator, therefore, authorizes the transmission of this document by registered mail within the continental limits of the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur H. Compton

Arthur H. Compton

KT

DECLASSIFIED
NND # 760118
BY CED
5/9/79

Address ~~ply~~ to
The Secretary of the Navy
and refer to initials
and No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Washington

(68297)
(SC)P14-2/CM
SOSED-1A-S&F/cw

March 24, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sirs:

Reference is made to your request No. 68297 dated October 21, 1941, for consent to employ Leo Szilard (Hungarian) an alien, on work under Navy contracts which are subject to the provisions of Section 10 (j) of the Aircraft Procurement Act, approved July 2, 1926 (Public No. 446, 68th Congress; 44 Stat. 787; 10 U.S.C. 310 (j) and/or Section 11 of an Act approved June 28, 1940 (Public No. 671, 76th Congress).

The Secretary of the Navy has this dated consented to the employment of the alien named above. This consent is granted only for the institution named in the application and is to be limited to research in the field of Uranium, as described in the questionnaire.

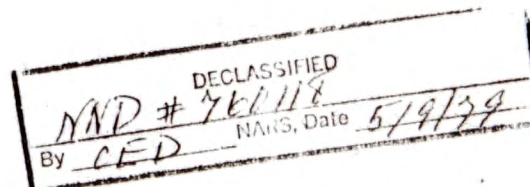
By direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

Respectfully,

/s/ J. R. Cannon
J. R. Cannon
Lieut. U.S.N.R.

Trustees of Columbia University
Pupin Physics Laboratories
Columbia University
New York, N. Y.

c.c. CNR
CNO (ONI)
N.D.R.C.



King's Crown Hotel



420 WEST 116TH STREET
NEW YORK

UNDER KNOTT MANAGEMENT

OPPOSITE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

PRIVATE OFFICE

TELEPHONE UNIVERSITY 4-2700

REGISTERED

NO. ~~61352~~

REGISTERED

NO. 440208

May 26, 1942

Dr. V. Bush
Office of Scientific Research and Development
1530 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Bush:

I am taking this step of writing to you because I am concerned about the slowness of the work on unseparated uranium. In the past those who had originated this work did not ask to be consulted on matters of organization which had vitally affected their work. This, I now believe, was a mistake on our part. If we had presented to you our views on such matters perhaps we might have been able to explain to you our difficulties and you might have been able to remove them.

At present the main source of our troubles seem to lie in a division of authority along the wrong lines. This was the cause of most of our difficulties from the start and the net result was as follows:

When we started to work under contract with the NDRC in November 1940 we had a simple task for which we were well prepared through the spade-work which had been done ahead of time. All we had to do was to pile up about 40 tons of graphite with 10 tons of uranium oxide and to perform a measurement which takes about one week. The materials required were available in sufficient purity at the outset of our work. We could have procured them and completed the experiment at any time within four months after the allocation of the funds. Instead of four months it took us from November, 1940 to May, 1942, i.e., 18 months to perform this task. I should be very glad to give you a detailed statement of these facts.

The reorganization which you undertook last fall when you asked Compton, Lawrence, Murphree and Urey to take charge of different divisions of the work was an improvement but it created again a division of authority.

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes and stamps in the bottom left corner]

May 26, 1942

If our future task were as simple as the task which we have just completed we might muddle through with our present organization. Unfortunately this is not the case and our new task is of great complexity. Almost all of the knowledge and ability which it requires is represented in Dr. Compton's group, but with the present division of authority between Compton and Murphree neither of the two groups can function properly.

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Yours very truly,

Leo Szilard

Leo Szilard

ODM-259

5181

NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Routing Slip

TO

Boyle ✓

Conrad ✓

Following our conversation
with of yesterday, I
understand you will see
Szilard after the reorganization
say the end of this month.

1-3167
it



FROM:

DATE:



General
Services
Administration

National Archives
and
Records Service Washington, DC 20408

July 27, 1979

Dr. Gertrude Weiss Szilard
8038 El Paseo Grande
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Enclosed are the photocopies you ordered. An additional 5 pages are enclosed that you did not order: 2 letters from Leo Szilard to Fermi dated July 3 and 8, 1939; the signed originals of these letters, if they still exist, are presumably among Fermi's papers.

The signed original of Leo Szilard's memorandum dated August 15, 1939, noted as "Submitted to the President, October, 1939", may be available among the presidential archives in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, NY 12538.

Photocopies that are stapled together are similarly associated in the original file. The source of the photocopies, all identical, is summarily indicated on their backs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'C. E. Dewing'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. E. DEWING
Center for Polar and
Scientific Archives

Enclosure

c
o
p
y

MEMORANDUM OF LEO SZILARD

submitted to Dr. Briggs

October 26, 1939

c
o
p
y

THE POSSIBILITY OF A LARGE-SCALE EXPERIMENT

IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

At present it appears quite possible that a nuclear chain reaction could be set up in a system composed of uranium oxide (or uranium metal) and graphite. The graphite would have to be piled up in a space of perhaps $4 \times 4 \times 4$ metres and might weigh about 100 metric tons. Perhaps 10 to 20 tons of uranium oxide would have to be used, embedded in some such pile of graphite.

The probable success or failure of such a large-scale experiment cannot be forecast at present with any degree of assurance. The properties of a system composed of uranium and graphite have been calculated independently, for a homogeneous mixture by Fermi, and, for a lattice of spheres of uranium oxide, or uranium metal, embedded in graphite, by myself. The results of these two independent calculations are in reasonable agreement and show that the two arrangements have different properties. For instance, in the case of using a lattice of spheres a great advantage could be obtained by using uranium metal instead of uranium oxide, whereas in the case of the homogeneous mixture the use of uranium metal would be of no great advantage. In spite of these calculations, we cannot foretell with certainty whether or not a nuclear chain reaction can be maintained in such a system because the absorption cross section of carbon for slow neutrons is not sufficiently known.

In order to remove this uncertainty Fermi and I have devised two different experiments by means of which the absorption cross section of carbon, which is very small, could be measured. It is assumed that one of these experiments, or both of them, will be started at Columbia University as soon as the facilities required can be obtained.

If the absorption of carbon should turn out to be comparatively large we could conclude that the large-scale experiment is bound to fail, and in this

case it need not be started. If the absorption of carbon should prove to be exceedingly small the large-scale experiment would appear to be very promising, and it can be assumed that everybody will then be in favor of starting it without delay.

Unfortunately, we must be also prepared to find an intermediate value for the carbon absorption. In this case a large-scale experiment will have to be performed in order to find out whether or not a nuclear chain reaction can be achieved with a combination of uranium and graphite. So we may have to make the experiment and risk its possible failure.

It should be borne in mind that a negative result of the large-scale experiment could also be of value by showing with certainty that a chain reaction cannot be achieved with simple means in the near future. Otherwise there remains an ever-present potential threat arising out of experiments on uranium, which are carried out in certain other countries. Therefore, in my personal opinion, a large-scale experiment ought to be performed unless the possibility of its success can be excluded with reasonable assurance on the basis of experiments which are designed to determine the absorption of carbon, or other similar experiments which can be carried out on a moderately small scale.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING LARGE-SCALE EXPERIMENTS

No expenses need be incurred in connection with large-scale experiments until the absorption of carbon has been measured. On the other hand, steps ought to be taken now in order to prepare the ground for a large-scale experiment, so that this can be started without delay at the proper time. For instance, the possibility of converting uranium oxide into uranium metal ought to be explored. An attempt ought to be made to obtain a promise on the part of certain industrial corporations to supply at the proper time the quantities of the materials, which are required. If possible, these materials ought to be loaned without any financial consideration. Barring an accident in the case of a successful large-scale

experiment, most of the materials used would remain unaffected and could be returned after the experiment is completed.

100 metric tons of graphite represent a value of about \$ 33,000--at the rate of 15¢ per pound. If a purer brand of graphite has to be used, which rates at 24¢ per lb. the value involved would be \$53,000.

20 metric tons of uranium oxide represent a value of \$ 100,000.--at the rate of \$2.50 per lb. If it need not be converted into uranium metal but can be used in the form of oxide in the large-scale experiment, this material could be kept pure and could be returned undamaged. It would be desirable to have up to 50 tons of uranium oxide readily available for experiments in the United States.

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE

UNION MINIERE DU HAUT KATANGA

It would be of particular value to enlist the assistance of this Belgian corporation which is to some extent controlled by the Belgian Government. It appears to be the only corporation which could supply at short notice 20 metric tons of uranium oxide, and probably even 50 tons. I understand that the Managing Director, Mr. E. Sengier, is on a short visit in America.

From conversations which Professor G. B. Pegram of Columbia University had with a representative of the Eldorado Gold Mines, Ltd. it appears that this Canadian corporation might be able to supply uranium oxide for our purposes at the rate of 1 ton per week. If the uranium oxide were to be bought rather than obtained as a gift or a loan, it might be secured from Canada probably just as easily as from Belgium. On the other hand, the Canadian corporation is rather small and can hardly be asked to give away large quantities of material without financial compensation.

So far, radium up to about 2.5 gms. was used in our experiments, and we had to pay a high rent to a subsidiary of the Union Miniere, the only corporation

from which large quantities of radium can be readily rented in this country. An attempt ought to be made to obtain radium for the purposes of such experiments rent-free from the Union Miniere in the future.

Carnotites containing uranium are mined in the U. S. A. by the U. S. Vanadium Corporation which is owned by the Union Carbon and Carbide Corporation. A conversation which I recently had with William F. Barrett, Vice-President of this corporation, did not encourage the hope of obtaining large quantities of uranium oxide from this firm, but the issue could perhaps be reopened.

STATEMENT ABOUT URANIUM ORE


As far as I was able to find out, pitchblend, which is an ore rich in uranium, is mined in Czechoslovakia, Canada and Belgian Congo. The total content of uranium in the deposit in Czechoslovakia is estimated to be between 1000 and 1500 tons. The Canadian deposit visibly contains a total of 3000 tons. The amount of pitchblend in the Belgian Congo is not known, but it is believed to be very much larger. In the United States uranium occurs chiefly in the form of carnotites, which is an ore poor in uranium, and is mined for the sake of its vanadium content. The total deposit is estimated to contain 3000 tons of uranium oxide. (Perhaps there are in the United States larger quantities of ore containing a very small amount of uranium which are not included in the above estimate.)

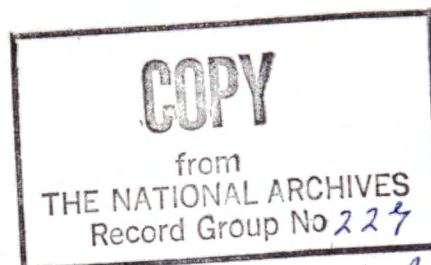
RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING URANIUM ORE

Steps to secure a stock of uranium ores for the government can hardly be recommended at the present time if such steps would involve financial commitments on the part of the government. It might, however, be advisable to begin to study the question in what manner the government could secure such a stock at a later date if required.

For instance, the question has been raised whether it might not be

possible to obtain for the government a large quantity of pitchblend from Belgium as a token reparation payment. Such a transaction would not cause alarm abroad if it were arranged before the world learns of the results of some successful large-scale experiment. The transaction could be justified without reference to the uranium content of the ore. Pitchblend is also the ore of radium, and action could be taken on the ground of securing the ore for the sake of its radium content, with a view of extracting the radium at some future date for medical purposes. Action taken on this ground alone might in fact be entirely justified.





OSRD, 5-1, Bush-Conant Corres.

Note: Time-stamped on back by
OSRD Mail Room, May 28 and June 10, 1942