



THE COMMITTEE FOR
WORLD DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD DISARMAMENT

United Nations Plaza at 46th Street

New York 17, N. Y.

MUrray Hill 2-8830

August 6, 1958

Mr. Leo Szilard
c/o Robert Livingston
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Leo,

This is the first chance I have had to answer your communications since my return. The trip to Mexico was most restful and interesting. We were impressed with the evidence of ancient Mayan achievements in astronomy and mathematics.

Your telegram was sent me in Mexico and I have talked with Norman Cousins briefly about it. We have an appointment tomorrow. I gather Norman agrees that the Democrats must develop into an opposition Party on foreign policy. However he is not certain that your suggestion embodies the best method of gaining that goal. You may have been encouraged as I was by Senator Fullbright's speech in the Senate yesterday and Senator Humphrey's article in this week's Reporter.

What is the status of your Moscow Conference . To what extent have you raised the necessary funds and do you need a contribution now? I will be interested to hear.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mrs. Josephine Pomerance".

Mrs. Josephine Pomerance

THE COMMITTEE FOR
WORLD DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD DISARMAMENT



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Initiated by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
(An organization founded in 1915 by Jane Addams and others)

December 6, 1961

Ralph and Joe Pomerance
Cos Cob, Connecticut

Dear Ralph and Joe:

I want to tell you about an experiment in which I am engaged and which is likely to keep me busy for the next few months. So far the experiment has consisted of giving a speech, which you will find attached, under the auspices of the Harvard Law School Forum, Swarthmore College, Western Reserve University and The University of Chicago. The purpose of the experiment is to determine if a political movement of the kind I describe in my speech could get off the ground, if it were started.

The initial response, particularly at Harvard and Chicago was rather overwhelming. At Harvard about 500 people turned out, which is normal attendance for the Harvard Law School Forum. ^{JK} The practice I adopted is for the Chairman to make it clear that I would meet with interested students the next day at 11 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. and that those who come at that time will receive a copy of my speech. Those who cannot come the next day, but need a copy of the speech, are asked to register their name and address after the lecture so that a copy of the speech can be mailed to them.

At Harvard, 150 people registered ~~their names~~ after the lecture; 50 came the next morning and 100 in the afternoon. In Chicago, which is my home base, even though I am never there, the talk was given in Mandel Hall which seats 1200 people and the hall was so jammed that the doors had to be locked. Several hundred people registered their name and address after the lecture and the next day 85 students came in the morning and 120 in the afternoon -- this, in spite of the fact that this was examination time when the students are reluctant to take time off.

At Swarthmore College the lecture was given at the Friends Meeting Hall which seats 350. The hall was packed. 145 registered their name and address after the talk and 50 students came the next morning.

At Western Reserve the turnout was even greater and the faculty response satisfactory, but I did not really have very good contact with the students. The lecture was given in Severance Hall before about 1500 people. A very large number of people registered their name and address, after the lecture, but I don't have a breakdown of the figures as yet.

I repeated the talk next morning under the sponsorship of the President in the Chapel in front of an audience of faculty members and students of 150. About 30 people came back during the luncheon period in order to continue the discussion.

This is as much as I am able to say about the responses to date.

I might broaden the base of the experiment by giving four talks on the West Coast in January. In the meantime, however, I shall try to line up people for the Council, and for the political advisory panel of the Council, but I do not propose to formally constituting either -- for the time being.

I am not at present starting a political movement but am conducting a study to determine whether the minority upon which a movement, of the kind I have described would be based, is sufficiently large and sufficiently dedicated to make it possible for such a movement to get off the ground if it were started under suitable auspices. Accordingly, I have no hesitation to charge my travel expenses and office expenses to the University of Chicago. However, I must not charge these expenses to funds which are earmarked for my work in biology and in this connection, I want to ask if Joe has by any chance any funds left this year on which she could draw a check of, say, \$2,000, payable to the University of Chicago.

If Joe could send me such a check, I would then transmit it to the University of Chicago and see to it that it is credited to the proper account. If I am not

mistaken, donations made to the University of Chicago are deductible up to 30 percent of the taxable income, but I am not quite sure about this point. They are constantly changing the tax laws and I am not able to keep up with the changes.

I am in the process of rewriting my speech in order to get it into published form and if either of you have any comment, I would appreciate having it within the next two weeks.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

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

Cos Cob, Connecticut
17th December, 1961

Dear Lee,

Jo and I have both just finished reading your paper, and, as usual, find your approach stimulating and realistic, as it applies to the field of Soviet-American relations. However, the idea of a "Movement" such as you propose raises many objections. To start with, I think that I have an aversion to the idea of another organization or movement. We already have so many and the constant fragmentation wastes an enormous amount of effort. Jo tells me that at the present time there are two movements in the general field of recent origin that might form some base for your activities. They are the "Peace Research Institute" in Washington and "Turns Toward Peace" in New York. Brookings Institute has scheduled a seminar in Washington during January on something along these lines which might be interesting.

I am not sure that they are in sympathy with the program that you are projecting, they may be, but I don't know. What I would like to suggest is the setting up of a meeting of about a dozen key individuals who would likely be sympathetic personally and also have a background of organizational activity or participation. If two or three such persons could be approached and their participation secured, then others could be invited to attend, say a luncheon and afternoon exploratory meeting and if there was a basic agreement on the program for political action such as you outlined, the group could carry on from there.

I would hope that such a group would do what seems to me the thing you would like to see happen, i.e. a sensible program looking towards a final goal of Peace and what I instinctively feel is the need for bringing together both individuals and organizations who have a common goal but, because of the lack of common tactics, fail strategically, with particular reference to a legislative "Lobby".

As a possible starting point Jo has put together a list of about twenty individuals who might supply the nucleus together with people that you might have in mind. We could get a suite at one of the hotels in New York or Washington or, if an atmosphere such as Cos Cob might be desirable, we could certainly provide lunch and an afternoon in front of the fire here. (The List is attached.)

I realize that this is a pretty brief bit of thinking and more discussion is probably needed for exploration. If you think there is something to be gained from pursuing it further, please let me know and possibly we can arrange to meet. I would like to consider the matter of financing after we have had a chance for further discussion.

Sincerely,



3/45

Washington, D.C.
December 20, 1961

Dear Ralph:

I just received your very kind letter of the 17th. Enclosed you will find Alsop's column which appeared in today's Washington Post and which shows what we're up against.

I am also enclosing the current version of my speech. I propose to give this version between January 9 and January 21 at The University of California at Berkeley, at Stanford, at Reed College in Portland, and at The University of Oregon in Eugene, and at Lake Forest College at Lake Forest, Illinois.

In addition, I have been approached to give this talk with a slight modification at a large meeting to be held in Santa Monica under the auspices of SANE on January 18. This would be the first meeting with a non-student audience and I propose to make use of it as an experiment.

If and when we should decide to start a political move-

ment along the lines described in my speech, we would need funds as seed money. I do not know, but it is my guess that thirty thousand dollars might be needed. This fund could not be made up from tax exempt contributions. I intend to ask the people at the meeting at Los Angeles each to make out a ten dollar check which would be cashed if we decide to start a movement and which would be destroyed by December 3, 1962 if no movement is started prior to that date.

The only funds needed right now are a few thousand dollars which might be given tax exempt to The University of Chicago to cover my general office expenses which are not covered by grants ear-marked for my work in biology.

The list of names which you meant to attach to your letter was not attached and so I do not know what Jo exactly had in mind. However, we can discuss this over the telephone. I propose to call you within the next few days.

Enclosed you will find a piece which appeared in the last issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist. The Washington Post is going to reprint it in the next few ^{weeks} ~~days~~.

Sincerely,

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

22 December 1961

Mr. Ralph Pomerance
Cos Cob, Connecticut

Dear Ralph:

Attached are copies of two letters from an enthusiastic as well as informed observer of the "movement" which will give you an impression to what extent thinking has already crystallized and to what extent we are still flexible.

Owing to a misleading release by the Public Relations Office of The University of Chicago, the impression has been created that I have started a movement rather than merely exploring the possibility of such a movement. I don't regard this as a misfortune, however, because as it turned out, the release of The University of Chicago has functioned as a trial balloon. The attached write-up in Commonweal which I received today is fairly representative of the favorable reaction elicited by the misleading release.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

RALPH POMERANCE
ARCHITECT • COS COB, CONN.

109-3932

24 Dec 1961

Dear Leo,

Enclosed is a check of \$1000 to
to the University of Chicago. After
the new year will try for the
balance.

Jo and I would like to
talk about the composition of the
political advisors when the time
comes and meanwhile we
hope it goes well.

Best wishes for the New Year
to you and Mrs. Fitzgerald from
Jo and myself.
Sincerely
Ralph Pomerance