

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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214 Second Street, N.E.
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UNITED NATIONS PLAZA AT 46TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
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February 7, 1955.

Dr. Leo Szilard
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Ill.

My dear Dr. Szilard -

I want to thank you for myself and for many members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for your letter in yesterday's New York Times. Yours is certainly a wise and statesmanlike proposal.

The idea of a commission of intelligent and disinterested citizens to think through the problems underlying the power struggle and to develop principles to guide the government is not unlike a proposal which the League is asking various educational, civic, and religious organizations to consider - a commission of citizens of the caliber you suggest to study and report to the nation on the further development of non-military approaches to peace.

Our proposal differs from yours in two respects. It was launched before the acute crisis around Formosa and was therefore directed to a more general approach. Secondly we proposed a Commission to be appointed by the President, but working independently, and composed of people we would help to nominate! However we are still in the beginning stages and are therefore open to a change in plans. We should greatly appreciate it if you would keep in touch with us and let us keep in touch with you as developments arise.

I have already written to the New York Times commending your letter.

With gratitude and admiration,

Lucy P. Carner, Chairman Fortieth Anniversary Committee
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Nothing could be worse than the fear that one had given up too soon and had left one effort unexpended which might have helped the world."

JANE ADDAMS - NOBEL PEACE AWARD 1931.

"Fundamental to all else is the need that men should grow to understand and practice patience and tolerance, and to substitute for the clumsy, uncertain, cruel tool of violence, the methods of reason and cooperation."

EMILY GREENE BALCH - NOBEL PEACE AWARD 1946

Kings Crown Hotel
420 W. 116th St
New York 27, N. Y.
February 12, 1955

Miss Lucy P. Carner
Chairman Fortieth Anniversary Committee
Women's Intl League for Peace & Freedom
214 Second Street, N.E.
Washington 2, D.C.

Dear Miss Carner:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of February 7th. It might, perhaps, interest you that the "letter to the Editor" will be reprinted by the Denver Post. The initial reactions seem to be quite favorable, but it is too early to say whether there will be enough moral support forthcoming to catalyse some concrete course of action.

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

LS/nr

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

UNITED STATES SECTION



1734 F STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

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5412 Purlington Way
Baltimore 12, Md.
February 14, 1955

Professor Leo Szilard
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Professor Szilard:

I read with great interest your letter in the New York Times, February 14, 1955. I hope that you have had many responses, and that the plan is going forward.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will be glad to cooperate in any way possible with the proposal. We are at the moment trying to enlist other organizations to propose to the President that he should appoint a Commission on Peace. Of course the value of such a commission would depend on the people chosen. It might be handicapped by being appointed in an official way. Our thought is that it might perform the same kind of service as that of the Commission on Human Rights.

The work of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is primarily political. We have a consultant at the United Nations who does a very active piece of work there and a legislative secretary who works in Washington. Through the work of our branches throughout the country we do a fairly extensive educational work. Through them we can give support to your plan by promoting discussion of it.

I am enclosing two letters which I have written, and shall be glad if you can make any other suggestions as to how we may help.

With gratitude for your far sighted leadership,

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude C. Bussey

Gertrude C. Bussey
(Chairman of the Policy Committee,
Women's International League for
Peace and Freedom, U.S.A. Section.)

5412 Purlington Way
Baltimore 12, Md.
February 12, 1955

President Nathan M. Pusey
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear President Pusey,

You have doubtless seen the enclosed letter from Leo Szilard, (N.Y. Times, Feb. 6, 1955) and may have been approached directly on this plan for sponsorship of qualified groups to work on plans for agreement.

Szilard is undoubtedly right in saying that there are men and women of great intelligence and devotion who would be glad to work on such a plan. Would it not be possible for you as President of Harvard University to take the lead in this matter, and gather together a few like-minded men and women who could both select the men and women needed to work on this plan and secure the necessary funds from foundations?

During the last war, Ralph Barton Perry did notable service in enlisting groups of college professors to discuss the problems of the settlement of the war. At the moment there is not time for protracted and diffuse discussion. What is needed is the concerted effort of relatively small groups who can bring the influence of their thinking to bear on the national policy. If such groups could give the necessary leadership, there are innumerable organizations that would be glad to support their conclusions by wide public discussion.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (founded in 1915, and twice honored by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to their international presidents, Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch) has from the beginning believed that in a democracy it is the responsibility of private citizens to bring their influence to bear on governments in time of crisis. We believe that private citizens often have clearer insight than those engaged in the thick of the conflict.

As a former teacher of philosophy, I think that Plato was right in maintaining that philosophers should be kings, or if that is not possible, that they should be the advisers of kings.

Your courageous leadership in the struggle for maintaining academic freedom, makes it natural to turn to you for leadership in this matter which is even more critical.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude C. Bussey
Chairman of the Policy Committee,
W.I.L.P.F., U.S.A. Section

5412 Purlington Way
Baltimore 12, Md.
February 14, 1955

To the Editor of the New York Times:

The letter of Leo Szilard in the New York Times (Feb. 6) suggests an interesting plan for enlisting groups of men and women of high intelligence to work out a long term agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. This agreement must be stated in terms of basic principles which take it out of the realm of current political ~~principles~~ controversies. It must be in the interest of both to observe. Such an agreement he believes affords the only hope of peace.

People all recognize that the only choice lies between co-existence and co-destruction. The Administration, the Congress, and the American people all want peace. The only question is whether they will find the road to peace.

There are doubtless men and women of high intelligence who would be glad to work on a proposal such as Szilard outlines. The problem is to find the initiative to start it.

In the dark hour of Dunkirk, it was the initiative and devotion of private citizens that effected the miraculous rescue. Can we not hope that similar initiative and devotion may be found to respond to the challenge of Szilard?

Sincerely yours

Gertrude C. Bussey
(Chairman of the Policy Committee
Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom)

King's Crown Hotel
420 West 116th Street
New York, N. Y.
February 22, 1955

Mrs. Gertrude C. Bussey
5412 Purlington Way
Baltimore 12, Maryland

Dear Mrs. Bussey:

I wish to thank you for your very kind letter of February 14th. The response to the publication in the New York Times is quite heartening, but I do not yet know whether any concrete course of action will materialize as a result of the moral support which seems to be forthcoming.

I was much interested in the information about the League's activities which you included in your letter, as well as the copies of your letter to Pusey and the New York Times, and I do appreciate that you went to the trouble to write these letters. I might send you from time to time letters which I am writing to others, as the simplest way of keeping in contact with you and others who have written and indicated serious interest.

Incidentally, I plan to be most of the time in New York after March 5th, where I shall stay at the King's Crown Hotel. If you should visit New York and have time, perhaps you could call me there, University 4-2700. If I am in town, but not in, I can call you back if you leave a message.

Sincerely yours,

LS:hw

Leo Szilard



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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES



PEARL S. BUCK
 Honorary Chairman
 40th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



WASHINGTON, D. C.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

OFFICE OF
 UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER,
 WORLD DEVELOPMENT
 AND WORLD DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE



CARNEGIE INTERNATIONAL CENTER, NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

Chairman 40th Anniversary

Miss Lucy Perkins Carner
 2006 Walnut St.
 Philadelphia 3, Pa.

April 7, 1955

Chairman Fund Appeal

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Dr. Leo Szilard
 Kings Crown Hotel
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 New York 27, New York

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Dear Dr. Szilard:

Mrs. Walser has shown us your stimulating memorandum of February 28, and yesterday at the regular meeting of the 40th Anniversary Committee it was decided to send you our congratulations and best wishes and to offer you our assistance.

You may remember from my earlier letter that this Committee was working for the appointment of a Commission on Non-Military Approaches to the Peace. Our plans have now been completely altered as the result of (a) Mr. Stassen's appointment and (b) your Commission and Board. Our Policy Committee is now in the process of deciding our next move.

You will understand that we have no desire to "pack" your Commission, but I cannot resist suggesting that it would be very desirable to have a woman on it. The best one I can think of is Dorothy Hutchinson, Noble and Rydal Roads, Jenkintown, Pa., of our National Board. She has a truly brilliant analytical mind and a humane outlook, and she expresses herself with beautiful clarity. Mrs. Hutchinson has recently returned from a world tour in the interests of peace, under the auspices of the Friends, and her account of her travels is forthcoming under, I believe, the Harper imprint.

Very best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,

Lucy P. Carner, Chairman
 40th Anniversary Committee

ds

cc: Dr. Szilard
 University of Chicago

answered