

THE FORD FOUNDATION

477 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

February 8, 1955

Professor Leo Szilard  
Kings Crown Hotel  
420 W. 116 Street  
New York, N. Y.

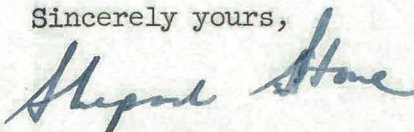
Dear Professor Szilard:

Yes, I read your letter in the Sunday Times and thought it was a good one. As I told you at luncheon, our study group at least thinks that it is trying to do what you think needs to be done by private citizens.

We shall see to it at our coming meeting on Saturday that your letter is discussed and I shall phone you sometime early next week to let you know if anything developed of interest to you.

I enjoyed our luncheon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shepard Stone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Shepard Stone

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

Denver, Colorado  
March 4, 1955

Dr. Shepard Stone  
The Ford Foundation  
477 Madison Avenue  
New York 22, New York

Dear Dr. Stone:

This letter is an inquiry to the Ford Foundation, which I am channeling through you. You saw the Letter to the Editor in the New York Times, and I am enclosing a clipping taken from the Denver Post, which reprinted this letter, using it as a Guest Editorial.

My letter proved to be somewhat of a boomerang. Having appealed to others to do something, it seems that people now expect me to do something. I may have no choice now but to try, until I can prove that it cannot be done or at least that I cannot do it.

The enclosed memorandum gives you an idea of what it is that I might want to try to do. Naturally, I also have some preconceived notions as to the basic premises from which such a group would start and as to the kind of conclusions with which they might emerge.

I wonder if the Ford Foundation would be interested in supporting such a project, and I realize that you will probably need some further information before you can even tentatively give your personal opinion on this point.

I expect to be back East some time after March 14th, and shall be for a while at least in New York at the King's Crown Hotel, 420 West 116th Street, Telephone University 42700. You could telephone me there at your convenience and perhaps we can arrange to meet and discuss this matter further. I could

then give you some additional information that you should have if  
you are interested at all.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

Enclosures

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

Denver - March 7, 1955

Dr. Shepard Stone  
The Ford Foundation  
477 Madison Avenue  
New York 22, New York

Dear Dr. Stone:

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It is my hope that General Hester, or someone like him, would act as Secretary of the Commission described in the Memorandum. I anticipate no difficulty in finding a suitable university or some other tax exempt institution that will administer the funds needed for the work of the Commission.

I wonder if the Ford Foundation would be interested in supporting such a project. You will probably need some further information before you can even tentatively give your personal opinion on this point.

I expect to be back East some time after March 14th, and shall be for a while at least in New York at the King's Crown Hotel, 420 West 116th Street,

King's Crown Hotel  
430 West 114th Street  
New York 25, New York  
telephone University 42700. You could telephone me there at your convenience, and perhaps we can arrange to meet and discuss this matter further. I could then give you some additional information that you should have if you are interested at all.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

Enclosures

The Ford Foundation  
477 Madison Avenue  
New York 22, New York

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

March 14, 1955

Dr. Shepard Stone  
The Ford Foundation  
477 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Stone:

Since I wrote you on March 7th, I had answers from Colin Clark at Oxford and also Father John Cavanaugh and Mr. Marshall MacDuffie, of which I enclose copies. Previous to this, I had a favorable response from General Hugh B. Hester, to whom I talked over the telephone.

It seems that recruiting the right people will not be the main difficulty, but I somewhat doubt that the large Foundations will want to support such an unconventional project. Unfortunately, I do not see how a less conventional project could solve our problem.

I expect to hear from you when you have something to communicate, and in the meantime, I shall let you know how things develop.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures

Leo Szilard

THE FORD FOUNDATION

477 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

March 24, 1955

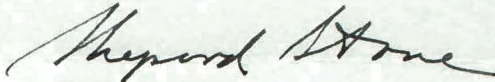
Dr. Leo Szilard  
King's Crown Hotel  
420 West 116th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I wish to apologize for the fact that a full week of conferences here has delayed my acknowledging receipt of your letters of March 7 and March 14.

This is just to say that I appreciate hearing from you. I'll get in touch with you within the next two weeks to give you a tentative opinion on where we stand.

Sincerely,

  
Shepard Stone

THE FORD FOUNDATION

477 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

April 4, 1955

Dr. Leo Szilard  
King's Crown Hotel  
420 West 116th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

We have been discussing your letters and I have told my colleagues about the exchange of views you and I had over the luncheon table.

I'm afraid that my report to you must be negative. As you know, the Foundation has been supporting, over the past two years, the Council on Foreign Relations project on the US-USSR. With this in mind, it appears to be highly unlikely that the Foundation would be in a position to support the project you have outlined.

I'm sorry. All good wishes to you in the work you are trying to do.

Sincerely,

  
Shepard Stone



*file 5*

THE FORD FOUNDATION  
477 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

~~Secret~~  
*answered*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM

March 1, 1962

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

Dear Leo:

My silence has not been an indication of a lack of interest in the proposal you made last year. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to obtain a positive decision here. I am sorry, but there were a number of obstacles in the way.

I am leaving for the Far East, but I shall be back in April. Perhaps some day we can meet again and talk about the world.

Sincerely,

*Shep*  
Shepard Stone  
Director

October 18, 1961

Mr. Shephard Stone  
The Ford Foundation  
477 Madison Avenue  
New York 22, New York

Dear Shep:

Attached you will find a letter which I received from Lloyd N. Cutler whom you might know. He offers his help and draws attention to certain pitfalls. It seems to me that in our particular case the simplest way to avoid a conflict of interest is for the Fellows not to accept from the Government either a per diem or any other compensation. I shall continue to keep you informed of anything that may come up at this end.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure

bcc. Mr. Henry Kissinger

THE FORD FOUNDATION  
477 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM

November 8, 1961

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

Dear Leo:

Upon my return from Europe, I find your letter of October 20. I am glad to have the opinions of Joseph Rauh. By the way, a number of others have expressed the opinion that though your proposal is an imaginative one, it is not practical.

Some day soon we shall come to a decision and I will let you know. In the meantime, all good personal wishes.

Sincerely,



Shepard Stone  
Director

*file 6*

z

Washington, D.C.

Joe E. Slater  
The Ford Foundation  
477 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Slater:

Enclosed you will find the book that I mentioned to you.  
It was a pleasure to have lunch at your office. I propose  
to keep in touch with you if and when things begin to move.

Yours very sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Hotel Dupont Plaza  
Washington 6, D.C.

LS:jl  
encl.