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Cunard White Star
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him in how mill shellt pert was mit unblide the las dot Milkago ein dyent promocadens fromth ist ilm atither Rell. -

Dr. Leo Szilard,

P.S. to our breakfast conversation.

What I meant to suggest was that you state quite explicitly your train of thought which, if I perceive it correctly, is this:

A creative solution can come only from the heart, that is from a moral or religious, not from a position restricted to the rational application of self-interest.

Yet to prevail for such a solution it must conform to the self-interest of the parties.

Hence the function of the Commission: to propose a solution; the function of the Board: to judge whether it conforms to self-interest.

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Jon Lyc aksument. . holdstrovned darkinger one of . S. T. I li holdw idevois to alert mor virialiane eding process it correctly, is this: a creative solution can come only from the beart, that the from a morel or religious, not from a cosition restricted to the rational application of .westerming. Yet to prevent for such a solution it must conform to the self-interest of the parties, inoiselmmod and o notional and south en un est that a odd to moisoned adventage a second Home word 4.7354

Page 2 of letter by L, S. Concerns utilisation of patent of atomic fission and distribution of profits among partners - Brasch-Lange, Lis, and his brother.

heutigen Tage erteilten Patente von Brasch und Lange dabei verwendet wird. Falls keines der Brasch- und Lange- Patente verwendet wird und das Rohr nicht mit Impulsgenerator betrieben wird, so erhalten Sie aus dem Erloes 25% und mein Bruder und ich 75%.

Fuer Anwendungen, die ausserhalb des Gebietes der Atomumwandlung liegen und bei denen ein Koerper durch den Kathodenstrahl direkt (d.h. nicht auf dem Umwege der durch die Kathodenstrahlen erzeugten Roentgenstrahlen) behandelt wird, koennen
Sie sowohl ausschliessliche wie nicht-ausschliessliche Rechte
vergeben. Die Verteilung des Erloeses bleibt einer spaeteren
Vereinbarung vorbehalten.

Fuer nichterwachnte Verwendungen der Roentgenstrahlen sollen spacter gegebenenfalles Abmachungen getroffen werden. In
Ermangelung einer solchen Abmachung soll derjenige, der die Verwertung vornimmt, 30% aus dem Erloes erhalten und der Rest soll
zu gleichen Teilen zwischen Ihnen einerseits, meinem Bruder und
mir andererseits aufgeteilt werden. Im Falle ich sterbe, uebergehen meine Rechte auf meinen Bruder.

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minde on a factor

As I sit down to write to you, I have no way of knowing whether by the time these lines appear in print there may still be left a chance of preserving world peace or whether the third world war will be on.

As I sit down to write to you, I have no way of knowing whether this letter will not come too late. By the time it appears in print, the United States and Russia might be at war with each other. If they are not, we might still have a chance of saving the world, slim though it may be. As I sit down to write the United States finds itself out on a limb. In June, when the United States decided to intervene in South Korea, most of those with whom I have spoken felt that we had acted right, for doing otherwise would have meant betraying ar political friends. Our intervention in South Korea had the moral support not only of what might be called well-informed opinion in America, but also of many people in Europe, and above all of India. The Korean campaign could have been ended when we reached the 38th Parallel. When we crossed the 38th Parallel, the aspect of our intervention suddenly changed. Our motive of crossing the 38th Barallel was presumably the destruction of the political system of North Korea, and the creation of a government in Korea which will be friendly toward the Western Powers.

When we crossed the 38th Parallel, our moral position changed overnight. For this act we no longer had the support of India. We were severely criticized all over Europe, and I found few people among those to whom I spoke in the United States who thought we were morally justified to do so. It is difficult to see why we moved into North Korea, but one may assume that we wanted to destroy the political system that had been built up with Russian assistance. Assuming, if there had been no Chinese intervention, we would undoubtedly have succeeded in destroying that political system, but there was never

any reason to believe that we would succeed in establishing another political system one that would give North Korea a better government than the one we destroyed, even though we might have created a government with which mimided the democratic forms of the Western Democracies. This is not the place to investigate to what extent our intervention in South Korea and above all the crossing of the 38th Parallel was defensible from the point of view of the United Nations Charter. It was in assertion of the United States Government that itsix actions were legal and this assertion was supported at least by the governments of all countries who were joined with us in the Atlantic Pact.

In the same breath in which we declared our intention to intervene in South Korea, we also took unilateral action in forbidding Communist Chine to take military action against Formosa and for the government of Formosa from continuing its war against Communist China. If there was any legal basis for so acting, it was not so recognized by our most important allies, either England or France. At the time of this writing, we have not changed our stand on Formosa and by holding fast to the position taken, we have given Russia an option to break up the Atlantic Pact. At the time of this writing, the Chinese are pushing us out of North Korea. It is possible that the Chinese will halt at the 38th Parallel, but we have no right to expect that they will, unless we wish to assume that they possess greater sagacity and statesmanship and a stronger sense for a moral right than we displayed at the time when we decided to cross that parallel. By crossing the 38th Parallel, China will make it more difficult for the United States to retract the former position we took with reference to Formosa. With position on Formosa unchanged, the Chinese can now provoke us to go to war with them by attacking Formosa. Because in the defense of Formosa, we must use Japanese bases, the Chinese can invoke and the Russians may

want them to envoke, their alliance with Russia. Russia can then declare war on us without having been guilty of a single act of aggression or any clear violation of the Charter worse than the violations of the Charter which we committed ourselves. If this happens in the course of the next few months, it is virtually certain that none of the countries of the European continent will feel that they are bound to join that war on our side, by the Atlantic Pact. With the continent of Europe neutral, England will be in a very difficult position, and if she does not remain neutral, she might adopt the principle of giving us all aid short of war. This is the option that we have given to Russia and war whether or not she will take it up, no one can say, but it can be said at least that we are providing Russia with a strong incentive for taking up that option, for it is our declared purpose to make Western Europe militarily secure in the physical sense of the world by rearming Germany. Germany is still suffering from the after effects of the last war, and it might take another five years before a new militant nationalistic Germany will arise that will be a powerful ally, but also one that will have a strong vested interest in the unification of Germany and the recovery of the territories lost to Poland during the last war. It is difficult to see why Russia should wait until our plans become an accomplished fact/ If she can involve us in a war with here in a manner which will leave Western Europe neutral and stop all further plans of rearmament. It seems to me that a child can see that we have manoevered ourselves into a position into which all the cards are in the hands of Russia and it is necessary to understand how this came to pass. The foreign policy of the United States after the war was successively guided carried on by Byrnes, Marshall, and Acheson. The foreign policies of these men were guided by the principle of least resistance, a principle which always prevails if one cannot formulate a basic concept

There were essentially two principles to which we can turn in order to attempt to preserve peace. One of these principles is that of collective security.

(Paragraph)

That this is the case was dimly recognized at the end of the by war war war those who drafted the United Nation's Charter. These men role realized that the wark that the United Nations can play in the preservation of peace is of necessity a very limited one. The adoption of the veto in the United Nations reflected the recognition of the fact that it is not desirable to have an organization that will make decisions which it is unable to enforce. Any decision running contrary to the determinations of either the United States or Russia could clearly not be enforced except by resorting to a war of which the outcome must of necessity be unforseeable. The pesult of such a war could hardly have be called settlement.

Dr. Leo Szilard The University of Chicago Chicago, Illinois

February 17, 1955

Apparently, we have now succeeded in manoeuvering ourselves into a position where the Chinese Communist Government can virtually force us to intervene in the Chinese Civil War by attacking the off-shore islands, Quemoy or Matsu, and Russia can, by coming to the assistance of China, force Western Europe to declare herself neutral.

According to Don Irwin's report in the New York Herald
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Russians -- for the present at least -- don't want a Far Eastern
war with the United States and that the Chinese without Russian
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-- so Washington seems to reason -- fight for these off-shore
islands when they could obtain them peacefully in exchange for
a promise not to attack Formosa, which they could not conquer
anyway without first running over the Seventh Fleet.

It is difficult for me to accept the validity of such arguments. To me it seems that we are offering China and Russia an option on a silver platter and there are strong incentives for them to take up that option. If and when China attacks one of these islands, China and Russia may obtain in return for military losses of minor importance which they may suffer, the neutrality of Western Europe and probably also the end of the North Atlantic Pact. They

might prefer to defer such an attack provided that they can be sure we are not going to withdraw the option; but is it likely that they will let us get off the hook?

We, ourselves, followed in recent years a policy of expediency with heavy emphasis on military, rather than political considerations, but in the policies followed by China and Russia, the emphasis is reversed. Therefore, I believe the odds are heavily in favor of a Chinese attack on the off-shore islands with a sufficient involvement of Russia to force a declaration of neutrality on Western Europe.

It is true that wisdom ought to lead the Chinese and Russians to doubt that such a war could remain localized for long and, some-how, to sense the unpredictable risks that all the countries involved would incur. But in this year of Grace, it would be tantamount to a miracle if wisdom should prevail and the Chinese did not attact. And if such a miracle did occur, we would need a second one: at long last, a Secretary of State who has vision.

Dr. Leo Szilard
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THE ENRICO FERMI INSTITUTE

FOR NUCLEAR STUDIES

October 24, 1956

Dear Colleague:

Your communication reached me yesterday and you will see from what follows to what extent, and in what sense, I agree with its main topic.

Right after the war ended, I proposed to the Department of State that we call a meeting of American and Russian scientists and try jointly to understand the implications of the atomic bomb for the world. My thought was that, if our Russian colleagues understand what the bomb really means they will be able to explain to their own government that it would be desirable to eliminate the bomb from national armament.

The same proposal was submitted a very short time later by some of my friends directly to the President of the United States. No action was taken on this proposal.

A few years later -- a couple of months before the Communist Party officially assumed power in Czechoslovakia -- the Emergency Committee of the Atomic scientists, of which I was at that time a trustee and of which Albert Einstein was the Chairman, and Professor Harrison Brown was its Executive Secretary, voted to propose an East-West Conference composed of American, English and French as well as Russian, Czechoslovakian and Polish scientists in order to think through, not the technical problems involved in international control of the atomic bomb, but rather the political prerequisites which have to be met in order to make such international control politically acceptable. This was to be not an open meeting where the danger of propaganda could hardly be averted,

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Page 2.

but a closed meeting of about fifteen to twenty men, held in a neutral territory such as, for instance, Jamaica, British West Indies. We decided to issue an invitation to such a meeting without asking for approval by the Department of State, but merely keeping the Department of State informed of all of the steps that we would be taking. The invitation was transmitted by Professor Harrison Brown to the Russian Ambassador Grmyko. After a few weeks we received a negative reply.

The number of American physicists, who are devoting enough time and attention to understand the problems involved, is not large and I fear that the number of Russian physicists who think about this problem might even be smaller. The situation might be better in England and perhaps not too bad in France, but in countries like Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, I cannot even guess.

To assemble a group of scientists who think about these problems might, I believe, be of value if it is possible to gather together those who are really interested in these problems. It is true that a group of scientists who try to discover the right path on this unchartered sea might have a better chance of coming up with something sensible than a group of politicians who might gather for the same purpose. The advantage that the scientists would have lies in the fact that, in general, if a scientist says something, his colleagues only need to ask: "Is it true what he is saying?", while if a politician says something, his colleagues! first question must be not whether it is true but: "Why is he saying this?". Because of this, a discussion among scientists has a much better chance of leading to a clarification of thought.

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Page 3.

It must be remembered, however, that a scientist can learn to be a politician and in that case, for our purposes, the above stated advantage is lost.

Further, it is also true that many of the creative scientists have the rare ability of thinking dispassionately on the subject in which you are interested while the thinking of their fellow men is beclouded by their political emtoions. This, however, does not mean that all really creative scientists would be useful in the deliberation on the subject. For only those who are sufficiently interested to give the best of their thinking to the subject can be really useful.

The practical difficulties of bringing about what you are interested in appear to be great but perhaps not insurmountable. What one probably would need would be two meetings, each lasting for about three to four weeks. The number of participants should be about fifteen to twenty-five. Anything beyond twenty-five would be unmanageable.

picion that the meeting has been called for purposes of propaganda in the hope that the conference will endorse some predetermined political thesis. It also must be a closed one in order to avoid the danger that the scientists will not behave as scientists whose first loyalty is to the truth but will be seduced into becoming politicians who are what they are for a purpose. The greatest difficulty is the selection of the participants. If the participants are selected by the official bodies of the participating countries, such as the various national academies, I doubt very much that the participants will represent the creative minds of the

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Page 4.

participating countries. This danger would not be quite as great if one national academy were to take the initiative and were to ask, in each participating country, one to three individual scientists who have shown active interest in this field to select the participants from their own country. In that case the meeting would have a private character even though it has been initiated by one official organization.

You can see from these remarks that I regard the problem of doing something really useful along these lines as quite tough.

If political conditions get stabilized in your own country in the course of the next six months, perhaps your organization could take the initiative along the lines I indicated above. Right now is hardly the time for such a step to be taken.

You have raised some interesting points in your letter which I shall not attempt to answer here. However, I am writing an article at present for the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists which will cover these points, I hope, to your satisfaction.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

in a sep

Gentlemen:

I am indebted to you for giving my staff an expression of your views on future problems related to atomic energy, especially domestic research and development and international relations. As you indicated in your conversations with Mr. Newman, you and certain of your colleagues, representing a large number of the scientists who have been engaged in work on nuclear fission during the war, are desirous of setting forth in some detail conclusions which you have arrived at as to the methods for developing atomic energy in the future so as to contribute most effectively to the national interest and to world peace. We shall be very glad to receive and have the staff carefully study any written plans and recommendations with which you and your colleagues may wish to furnish us.

It would be advantageous if you would place this matter in our hands at the earliest possible date. I hope that in doing so you will find it convenient to indicate specifically which of the atomic scientists associate themselves with the views expressed in your recommendations.

Sincerely yours,

Director

Dr. L. Szilard and Dr. Edward U. Condon 1155 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois

JRN/rl 10/10/45