

# COLLÈGE DE FRANCE

*dit Joly*  
*H JWS*

Laboratoire de Chimie Nucléaire

Place Marcellin-Berthelot

PARIS (V<sup>e</sup>)

Téléph. : ODÉON 81-60

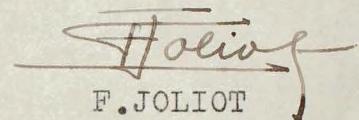
Paris, le 26 novembre 1937

Cher Monsieur Szilard

L'installation du Laboratoire de Synthèse Atomique qui conviendrait pour l'expérience que vous envisagez est actuellement en train d'être remaniée : nous avons démonté l'ancien tube <sup>à Wilson</sup> qui permettait d'atteindre 1.950.000 volts et nous installons un nouveau tube qui nous permettra, espérons-le, d'arriver à 2.500.000 volts. Dans quelques semaines la nouvelle installation sera utilisable.

Je serais heureux de vous donner à cette époque la possibilité d'exécuter cette expérience qui s'annonce très intéressante. Bien entendu si vous venez à Paris dès la fin de ce mois je serai très content d'en discuter et d'avoir avec vous une conversation à ce sujet.

Sincères salutations.

  
F. JOLIOT

Monsieur Léo SZILARD, c/o Clarendon Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford.

neutrons from Radium - Be  
( $1\frac{1}{2}$  gm Ra, 250 gm Be) do not  
excite the 4<sup>th</sup> period and it  
would be very valuable to  
have that confirmed with  
your very much stronger  
X ray - Be neutron source

R. Long A JWS

Cunard White Star  
"Franconia"

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - 37

Dear Professor Joliot,

I am going to sail earlier  
than expected and regret very  
much not to see you before  
going abroad. - Enclosed  
you will find an indium  
foil, so that lack of indium  
shall not prevent an experi-  
ment which you would  
otherwise like to try. Gold-  
haber will, I expect, give you  
all information. There is  
one experiment which, though  
carefully done at Oxford, ought  
to be repeated in Paris: Photo-

COPY

c/o Liebowitz  
420 Riverside Drive  
New York City

February 2nd, 1939

Professor M. Joliot  
Laboratoire de Chemie Nucleaire  
College de France  
Paris

Dear Professor Joliot:

The only reason for my writing to you this letter to-day is the remote possibility that I shall have to send you a cable in some weeks, and if that happens this letter will help you to understand what the cable is about. This letter is therefore merely a precaution, and we hope an unnecessary precaution.

When Hahn's paper reached this country about a fortnight ago, a few of us got at once interested in the question whether neutrons are liberated in the disintegration of uranium. Obviously, if more than one neutron were liberated, a sort of chain reaction would be possible. In certain circumstances this might then lead to the construction of bombs which would be extremely dangerous in general and particularly in the hands of certain governments.

It is of course not possible to prevent physicists from discussing these things among themselves, and, as a matter of fact, the subject is fairly widely discussed here. However, so far, every individual exercised sufficient discretion to prevent a leakage of these ideas into the newspapers.

In the last few days there was some discussion here among

physicists whether or not we should take action to prevent anything along this line from being published in scientific periodicals in this country, and also ask colleagues in England and France to consider taking similar action. No definite conclusions have so far been reached in these discussions, but if and when definite steps are being taken I shall send you a cable to tell you what is being done.

We all hope that there will be no, or at least not sufficient, neutron emission and therefore nothing to worry about. Still, in order to be on the safe side, efforts are made to clear up this point as quickly as possible. Experiments at Columbia University are in charge of Fermi and he will perhaps be the first to give reliable results.

Perhaps you have also thought of the same things and have contemplated or started such experiments. May be you are able to get definite results at an earlier date, which, of course, would be very valuable towards ending the present disquieting uncertainty.

Whatever information on the subject you might care to transmit by letter or cable at some later date will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated. Also, should you come to the conclusion that publication of certain matters should be prevented, your opinion will certainly be given very serious consideration in this country.

Yours sincerely,

signed: (Leo Szilard)

*my. milan*

c/o Liebowitz  
420 Riverside Drive  
New York City

February 2nd, 1939

Professor H. Joliot  
Laboratoire de Chimie Nucléaire  
Collège de France  
Paris.

Dear Professor Joliot:

The only reason for my writing to you this letter to-day is the remote possibility that I shall have to send you a cable in some weeks, and if that happens this letter will help you to understand what the cable is about. This letter is therefore merely a precaution, and we hope an unnecessary precaution.

When Hahn's paper reached this country about a fortnight ago, a few of us got at once interested in the question whether neutrons are liberated in the disintegration of uranium. Obviously, if more than one neutron were liberated, a sort of chain reaction would be possible. In certain circumstances this might then lead to the construction of bombs which would be extremely dangerous. in general and <sup>particularly</sup> in the hands of certain governments. ~~Success~~

~~Success~~

It is of course not possible to prevent physicists from discussing these things among themselves, and, as a matter of fact, the subject is fairly widely discussed here. However, so far, every individual exercised sufficient discretion to prevent a leakage of these ideas into the newspapers.

In the last few days there was some discussion here among physicists whether or not we should take action to prevent anything along this line from being published in scientific periodicals in this country, and also ask colleagues in England and France to consider taking similar action. No definite conclusions have so far been reached in these discussions, but if and when definite steps are being taken I shall send you a cable to tell you what is being done.

We all hope that there will be no, or at least not sufficient, neutron emission and therefore nothing to worry about. Still, in order to be on the safe side, efforts are made to clear up this point as quickly as possible. Experiments at Columbia University are in charge of Fermi and will perhaps be the first to give reliable results.

Perhaps you have also thought of the same things and have contemplated or started such experiments. Maybe you are able to get definite results at an earlier date, which, of course, would be very valuable help towards ending the present disquieting uncertainty. Whatever information on the subject you might care to transmit by letter or cable at some later date will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated. Also, should you come to the conclusion that publication of certain matters should be prevented, your opinion will certainly be given very serious consideration in this country.

~~I do hope that there will be an efficient neutron  
emission, etc.~~

Yours sincerely,  
(Leo Szilard)

~~Wright~~  
Joubert. prout

COPY

c/o Liebowitz  
420 Riverside Drive  
New York City

February 2nd, 1939

Professor M. Joliot  
Laboratoire de Chemie Nucléaire  
Collège de France  
Paris

Dear Professor Joliot:

The only reason for my writing to you this letter to-day is the remote possibility that I shall have to send you a cable in some weeks, and if that happens this letter will help you to understand what the cable is about. This letter is therefore merely a precaution, and we hope an unnecessary precaution.

When Hahn's paper reached this country about a fortnight ago, a few of us got at once interested in the question whether neutrons are liberated in the disintegration of uranium. Obviously, if more than one neutron were liberated, a sort of chain reaction would be possible. In certain circumstances this might then lead to the construction of bombs which would be extremely dangerous in general and particularly in the hands of certain governments.

It is of course not possible to prevent physicists from discussing these things among themselves, and, as a matter of fact, the subject is fairly widely discussed here. However, so far, every individual exercised sufficient discretion to prevent a leakage of these ideas into the newspapers.

In the last few days there was some discussion here among



physicists whether or not we should take action to prevent anything along this line from being published in scientific periodicals in this country, and also ask colleagues in England and France to consider taking similar action. No definite conclusions have so far been reached in these discussions, but if and when definite steps are being taken I shall send you a cable to tell you what is being done.

We all hope that there will be no, or at least not sufficient, neutron emission and therefore nothing to worry about. Still, in order to be on the safe side, efforts are made to clear up this point as quickly as possible. Experiments at Columbia University are in charge of Fermi and <sup>he</sup> will perhaps be the first to give reliable results.

Perhaps you have also thought of the same things and have contemplated or started such experiments. May be you are able to get definite results at an earlier date, which, of course, would be very valuable towards ending the present disquieting uncertainty. Whatever information on the subject you might care to transmit by letter or cable at some later date will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated. Also, should you come to the conclusion that publication of certain matters should be prevented, your opinion will certainly be given very serious consideration in this country.

Yours sincerely,

signed: (Leo Szilard)

à l'occasion de votre visite  
à la Nature. Voir passages  
soulignés.

c/o Liebowitz  
420 Riverside Drive  
New York City

February 2nd, 1939

From  
Weard

Professor M. Joliot  
Laboratoire de Chimie Nucléaire  
Collège de France  
Paris.

Dear Professor Joliot:

The only reason for my writing to you this letter to-day is the remote possibility that I shall have to send you a cable in some weeks, and if that happens this letter will help you to understand what the cable is about. This letter is therefore merely a precaution, and we hope an unnecessary precaution.

When Hahn's paper reached this country about a fortnight ago, a few of us got at once interested in the question whether neutrons are liberated in the désintegration of uranium. Obviously, if more than one neutron were liberated, a sort of chain reaction would be possible. In certain circumstances this might then lead to the construction of bombs which would be extremely dangerous in general and particularly in the hands of certain governments.

It is of course not possible to prevent physicists from discussing these things among themselves, and, as a matter of fact, the subject is fairly widely discussed here. However, so far, every individual exercised sufficient discretion to prevent a leakage of these ideas into the newspapers.

*we*  
*le Sz. n'est pas est ce*  
*Singulier!*  
*ny a*  
*eu*  
*de cable*

In the last few days there was some discussion here among  
physicists whether or not we should take action to prevent  
anything along this line from being published in scientific  
periodicals in this country, and also ask colleagues in Eng-  
land and France to consider taking similar action. No definite  
conclusions have so far been reached in these discussions, but  
if and when definite steps are being taken I shall send you  
a cable to tell you what is being done.

We all hope that there will be no, or at least not suf-  
ficient, neutron emission and therefore nothing to worry about.  
Still, in order to be on the safe side, efforts are made to  
clear up this point as quickly as possible. Experiments at  
Columbia University are in charge of Fermi and will perhaps  
be the first to give reliable results.

Perhaps you have also thought of the same things and have  
contemplated or started such experiments. Maybe you are able  
to get definite results at an earlier date, which, of course,  
would be very valuable help towards ending the present dis-  
quieting uncertainty. Whatever information on the subject you  
might care to transmit by letter or cable at some later date  
will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated. Also, should you  
come to the conclusion that publication of certain matters  
should be prevented, your opinion will certainly be given  
very serious consideration in this country.

*Leo Szilard*

(Leo Szilard)

*Laboratoire Curie / F28. Marginal comments and underlining  
by Kawanski, long after the date of the letter.*

First Approach to France, *Febr. 1939*

About one month before Fermi and I actually observed the neutron emission of uranium I wrote to Joliot advising him of the projected experiments and suggesting that he collaborate with us in keeping any positive results secret.

The text of the letter which speaks for itself is inclosed.

from weast  
19 avril

30

Monsieur L. SZILARD  
Kings Crown Hotel  
420 West 116th Street  
New - York

Mon cher Szilard,

J'ai bien reçu votre lettre du 7 avril et votre intéressante note sur la libération des neutrons. Nous avons continué les recherches sur cette question et vous trouverez ci-joint le texte manuscrit d'une note que nous avons envoyé à Nature. Il est malheureusement trop tard pour que nous puissions ajouter en référence votre communication, cependant nous ne manquerons pas de le faire dans un article général qui sera publié prochainement.

*Passion*

J'étais très embarrassé en ce qui concerne l'ajournement des publications sur ce sujet, étant certainement l'un des premiers à comprendre vos raisons. Cependant vous pouvez comprendre que nous ne sommes pas, ainsi que ceux que vous avez pu prévenir, les seuls à nous occuper de cette question, et rapidement nous avons pu lire dans des publications scientifiques et dans la presse d'information, en France et à l'étranger, des articles où étaient clairement expliquées les conséquences énergétiques du phénomène en question. Ce sont les seules raisons qui ont motivé les termes de mon dernier câble. Je suis certainement d'accord avec le principe d'une entente, mais pour qu'elle soit efficace il faut qu'elle soit étendue à tous les laboratoires susceptibles de s'occuper de la question.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire part de ces considérations aux collègues américains que vous avez pu touchés.

Avec mes sincères salutations,

Laboratoire Curie/F28

COPY

COLLEGE DE FRANCE

Laboratoire de Chimie Nucléaire

Paris, le 19 avril 1939

Monsieur L. Szilard  
Kings Crown Hotel  
420 West 116th Street  
New York

---

Mon cher Szilard,

J'ai bien reçu votre lettre du 7 avril et votre intéressante note sur la libération des neutrons. Nous avons continué les recherches sur cette question et vous trouverez ci-joint le texte manuscrit d'une note que nous avons envoyé à Nature. Il est malheureusement trop tard pour que nous puissions ajouter en référence votre communication, cependant nous ne manquerons pas de le faire dans un article général qui sera publié prochainement.

J'étais très embarrassé en ce qui concerne l'ajournement des publications sur ce sujet, étant certainement l'un des premiers à comprendre vos raisons. Cependant vous pouvez comprendre que nous ne sommes pas, ainsi que ceux que vous avez pu prévenir, les seuls à nous occuper de cette question, et rapidement nous avons pu lire dans des publications scientifiques et dans la presse d'information, en France et à l'étranger, des articles où étaient clairement expliquées les conséquences énergétiques du phénomène en question. Ce sont les seules raisons qui ont motivé les termes de mon dernier câble. Je suis certainement d'accord avec le principe d'une entente, mais pour qu'elle soit efficace il faut qu'elle soit étendue à tous les laboratoires susceptibles de s'occuper de la question.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire part de ces considérations aux collègues américains que vous avez pu touchés.

Avec mes sincères salutations,

(signed) F. Joliot

COPY

c/o Liebowitz  
420 Riverside Drive  
New York City

February 2nd, 1939

Professor M. Joliot  
Laboratoire de Chimie Nucléaire  
Collège de France  
Paris

Dear Professor Joliot:

The only reason for my writing to you this letter to-day is the remote possibility that I shall have to send you a cable in some weeks, and if that happens this letter will help you to understand what the cable is about. This letter is therefore merely a precaution, and we hope an unnecessary precaution.

When Hahn's paper reached this country about a fortnight ago, a few of us got at once interested in the question whether neutrons are liberated in the disintegration of uranium. Obviously, if more than one neutron were liberated, a sort of chain reaction would be possible. In certain circumstances this might then lead to the construction of bombs which would be extremely dangerous in general and particularly in the hands of certain governments.

It is of course not possible to prevent physicists from discussing these things among themselves, and, as a matter of fact, the subject is fairly widely discussed here. However, so far, every individual exercised sufficient discretion to prevent a leakage of these ideas into the newspapers.

In the last few days there was some discussion here among

physicists whether or not we should take action to prevent anything along this line from being published in scientific periodicals in this country, and also ask colleagues in England and France to consider taking similar action. No definite conclusions have so far been reached in these discussions, but if and when definite steps are being taken I shall send you a cable to tell you what is being done.

We all hope that there will be no, or at least not sufficient, neutron emission and therefore nothing to worry about. Still, in order to be on the safe side, efforts are made to clear up this point as quickly as possible. Experiments at Columbia University are in charge of Fermi and <sup>he</sup> will perhaps be the first to give reliable results.

Perhaps you have also thought of the same things and have contemplated or started such experiments. May be you are able to get definite results at an earlier date, which, of course, would be very valuable towards ending the present disquieting uncertainty. Whatever information on the subject you might care to transmit by letter or cable at some later date will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated. Also, should you come to the conclusion that publication of certain matters should be prevented, your opinion will certainly be given very serious consideration in this country.

Yours sincerely,

signed: (Leo Szilard)



COPY.

March 31st, 1939

HANS VON HALBAN  
11 RUE GUYNEMER  
SCRAUX SEINE

KINDLY INFORM JOLIOT THAT PAPERS RELATING TO SUBJECT OF YOUR JOINT NOTE TO NATURE HAVE BEEN SENT BY VARIOUS PHYSICISTS TO PHYSICAL REVIEW BEFORE PUBLICATION OF YOUR NOTE STOP AUTHORS AGREED HOWEVER TO DELAY PUBLICATION FOR REASONS INDICATED IN SZILARDS LETTER TO JOLIOT FEBRUARY SECOND AND THESE PAPERS ARE STILL HELD UP STOP NEWS FROM JOLIOT WHETHER HE IS WILLING SIMILARLY TO DELAY PUBLICATION OF RESULTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE WOULD BE WELCOME STOP IT IS SUGGESTED THAT PAPERS BE SENT TO PERIODICALS AS USUAL BUT PRINTING BE DELAYED UNTIL IT IS CERTAIN THAT NO HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES TO BE FEARED STOP RESULTS WOULD BE COMMUNICATE IN MANUSCRIPTS TO COOPERATING LABORATORIES IN AMERICA ENGLAND FRANCE AND DENMARK STOP COMMUNICATING BLACKETT AND DIRAC IN ATTEMPT TO GET COOPERATION OF NATURE AND PROCEEDINGS ROYAL SOCIETY STOP PLEASE CABLE WEISSKOPF FINE HALL PRINCETON NJ

March 31st, 1939

BLACKETT PHYSICS DEPARTMENT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY MANCHESTER

PHYSICISTS HERE HAVE SENT PAPERS TO PHYSICAL REVIEW ON SUBJECT RELATED TO HALBAN JOLIOT LETTER TO NATURE STOP AUTHORS AGREED TO DELAY PUBLICATION IN VIEW OF REMOTE BUT NOT NEGLIGIBLE CHANCE OF GRAVE MISUSE IN EUROPE STOP IT IS SUGGESTED THAT PAPERS BE SENT TO PERIODICALS AS USUAL BUT PRINTING BE DELAYED UNTIL IT IS CERTAIN THAT NO HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES TO BE FEARED STOP RESULTS WOULD BE COMMUNICATED IN MANUSCRIPTS TO COOPERATING LABORATORIES IN AMERICA ENGLAND FRANCE AND DENMARK STOP IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO OBTAIN COOPERATION OF NATURE AND PROCEEDINGS ? WIGNER WRITING DIRAC STOP WEISSKOPF FINE HALL PRINCETON NJ

April 5 1939

DR LEO SZILARD  
DEPT OF PHYSICS COLUMBIA UNIV NYC

BIEN RECU LETTRE SZILARD MAIS PAS CABLE ANNONCE STOP PROPOSITION DU 31 MARS TRES RAISONNABLE MAIS VIENT TROP TARD STOP AVONS APPRIS SEMAINE DERNIERE QUE SCIENCE SERVICE AVAIT INFORME PRESSE AMERICAINE  
"24" FEVRIER SUR TRAVAUX ROBERTS STOP LETTRE SUIT  
JOLIOT HALBAN KOWARSKY

April 6, 1939

JOLIOU  
COLLEGE DE FRANCE PARIS

REPLYING YOUR CABLE WEISSKOPF STOP ROBERTS PAPERS CONCERNING DELAYED  
NEUTRON EMISSION WHICH IS MUCH WEAKER THAN HE THINKS AND HARMLESS  
STOP HOWEVER TUVE'S GROUP WAS RECENTLY APPROACHED AND PROMISED  
COOPERATION STOP WE HAVE SO FAR DELAYED PAPERS IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE  
MISUSE IN EUROPE STOP KINDLY CABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER  
INCLINED SIMILARLY TO DELAY YOUR PAPERS OR WHETHER YOU THINK THAT  
WE SHOULD NOW PUBLISH EVERYTHING STOP  
KINGS CROWN HOTEL SZILARD

April 8, 1939

NLT WEISSKOPF  
FINE HALL PRINCETON (NJ) USA

YOUR SUGGESTION PASSED TO NATURE AND ROYAL WHO WILL SURELY COOPERATE  
STOP AWAITING LETTER WITH DETAILS  
BLACKETT

April 7, 1939

LC SZILARD  
KINGSCROWN HOTEL NY

QUESTION ETUDIEE SUIE D AVIS MAINTENANT PUBLIER AMITIES  
JOLIOU

STANDARD TIME INDICATED

RECEIVED AT

2708 B'WAY, N.Y.C.  
AC. 4-9899

TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS  
TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

# Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio

Commercial Cables



All America Cables

Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLE-  
GRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE  
INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE PREAMBLE  
OR IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE.  
SYMBOLS DESIGNATING SERVICE SELECTED  
ARE OUTLINED IN THE COMPANY'S TARIFFS  
ON HAND AT EACH OFFICE AND ON FILE WITH  
REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

Form 11

N33 43 DL 4 EXTRA=PARIS FRANCE 4 VIA WB WASHINGTON DC 1235P

DR LEO SZILARD=

APR 5 1939

DEPT OF PHYSICS COLUMBIA UNIV NYC=

BIEN RECU LETTRE SZILARD MAIS PAS CABLE ANNONCE STOP PROPOSITION  
DU 31 MARS TRES RAISONNABLE MAIS VIENT TROP TARD STOP AVONS  
APPRIIS SEMAINE DERNIERE QUE SCIENCE SERVICE AVAIT INFORME PRESSE  
AMERICAINE 24 FEVRIER SUR TRAVAUX ROBERTS STOP LETTRE SUIT.

JOLIO HALBAN KOWARSKY

126P

31 24

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Whist College de France Paris Apr. 6 ~~STOP~~ ~~PLEASE~~ ~~NOTE~~ ~~PROP~~ ~~PLEASE~~

Street and No. REPLYING YOUR CABLE WEISSKOPF

Place IN REPLY TO YOUR CABLE WEISSKOPF

ROBERTS PAPERS DEAL WITH DELAYED NEUTRON  
EMISSION WHICH <sup>IS</sup> ~~WEAKER~~ (HARMLESS AND  
~~ALSO~~ MUCH WEAKER THAN HE THINKS AND  
STOP HOWEVER ~~TUVE'S GROUP~~ WAS RECENTLY ~~APPROACHED~~  
~~TUVE'S GROUP~~ APPROACHED AND PROMISED COOPERATION STOP ~~WE~~  
~~OTHERS AND~~ HAVE SO FAR DELAYED ~~PUBLICATION~~  
~~OF~~ PAPERS IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE MISUSE IN  
EUROPE STOP KINDLY CABLE <sup>(AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)</sup> ~~YOUR DECISION~~ ~~YOUR~~ DECISION  
WHETHER ~~HOWARD~~ INCLINED SIMILARLY TO DELAY  
~~YOUR~~ ~~PAPERS~~ OR WHETHER YOU <sup>THINK</sup> ~~WILL~~ THAT

Sender's address  
for reference

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS SOLVE THE PERPLEXING  
QUESTION OF WHAT TO GIVE.

Sender's telephone  
number

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

19

To \_\_\_\_\_

Street and No. \_\_\_\_\_

Place ~~OUR~~ \_\_\_\_\_

~~REDACTED ADDRESS~~ WE SHOULD NOW  
~~OUR PAPER~~ BE ~~REDACTED~~ PUBLISHED  
 WITHOUT REGARD <sup>LESS OF</sup> ~~TO~~ <sup>EVERYTHING</sup> POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES STOP  
 KINGS CROWN HOTEL SZILARD

EVERYTHING

Sender's address  
for reference

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS SOLVE THE PERPLEXING  
QUESTION OF WHAT TO GIVE.

Sender's telephone  
number

STANDARD TIME INDICATED

RECEIVED AT

2708 B'WAY, N. Y. C.  
AC. 4-9899

TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS  
TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

# Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio

Commercial Cables



All America Cables

Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLEGRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE PREAMBLE OR IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE. SYMBOLS DESIGNATING SERVICE SELECTED ARE OUTLINED IN THE COMPANY'S TARIFFS ON HAND AT EACH OFFICE AND ON FILE WITH REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

Form 16

N54 14 CABLE VIA FRENCH=PARIS 1850 APR 7 1939

LC SZILARD=

KINGSCROWN HOTEL NY=

( SZILARD CARE KINGS CROWN HOTEL 420 W 116 ST )=

QUESTION ETUDIEE SUIS D AVIS MAINTENANT PUBLIER AMITIES=

JOLIOT=

3 15P=

COPY

PAISER PHYSICAL LABORATORY  
Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey

March 30, 1939

Dear Paul:

I am writing to you in a rather serious matter this time. The enclosed letter, sent by Szilard to Joliot on February 2nd is self explanatory. Experiments undertaken since that time by Fermi and by Szilard did not help to dispell the fear which ~~my~~ prompted Szilard's letter. In realization of the danger mentioned in this letter, all efforts are made here to delay publications relating to this subject as there could possibly enhance the danger of a grave misuse by certain powers. The papers of Szilard and of Fermi, although received by the Physical Review some time ago, are withheld from publication and it is intended that they be printed only in the form of reprints to be distributed among the most interested laboratories in England, the U.S., France and Denmark. Similar arrangements are intended for all papers on this subject by other workers in the United States.

Halban-Joliot-Kovarski's letter to Nature prompted the physicists who loyally cooperated here to inquire today by cable concerning Joliot's attitude in this matter. Bohr undertakes to communicate with Copenhagen and a cable is sent simultaneously to Blackett. The proposition made in there communications is to use for the publication of all papers, relating to this subject, the method foreseen for this purpose for workers in the U.S. and described above.

What we would like to ask you at this time is to get in touch with Blackett and to actively support him in his endeavours if you find our position to be the reasonable one.

It is my impression that there is some urgency in the matter. Although there exists apparently a great willingness for cooperation here, it is realised that the interests of the scientific workers in the U.S. may be prejudiced to some extent if ~~it~~ America abeyed alone by the proposed procedure.

Hoping to hear from you soon and with best regards to all,

Sincerely,

(signed) Jenö

C  
O  
P  
Y

COLLEGE DE FRANCE

Paris 19 avril 1939

Monsieur L. SZILARD  
Kings Crown Hotel  
420 West 116th Street  
New York

Mon cher Szilard,

J'ai bien reçu votre lettre du 7 avril et votre intéressante note sur la libération des neutrons. Nous avons continué les recherches sur cette question et vous trouverez ci-joint le texte manuscrit d'une note que nous avons envoyée à Nature. Il est malheureusement trop tard pour que nous puissions ajouter en référence votre communication, cependant nous ne manquerons pas de le faire dans un article général qui sera publié prochainement.

J'étais très embarrassé en ce qui concerne l'ajournement des publications sur ce sujet, étant certainement l'un des premiers à comprendre vos raisons. Cependant vous pouvez comprendre que nous ne sommes pas, ainsi que ceux que vous avez pu prévenir, les seuls à nous occuper de cette question, et rapidement nous avons pu lire dans des publications scientifiques et dans la presse d'information, en France et à l'étranger, des articles où étaient clairement expliquées les conséquences énergétiques du phénomène en question. Ce sont les seules raisons qui ont motivé les termes de mon dernier cable. Je suis certainement d'accord avec le principe d'une entente, mais pour qu'elle soit efficace il faut qu'elle soit étendue à tous les laboratoires susceptibles de s'occuper de la question.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire part de considérations aux collègues américains que vous avez pu toucher.

Avec mes sincères salutations,

G. Joliot



COPY

COLLEGE DE FRANCE

Laboratoire de Chimie Nucléaire

Paris, le 19 avril 1939

Monsieur L. Szilard  
Kings Crown Hotel  
420 West 116th Street  
New York

---

Mon cher Szilard,

J'ai bien reçu votre lettre du 7 avril et votre intéressante note sur la libération des neutrons. Nous avons continué les recherches sur cette question et vous trouverez ci-joint le texte manuscrit d'une note que nous avons envoyé à Nature. Il est malheureusement trop tard pour que nous puissions ajouter en référence votre communication, cependant nous ne manquerons pas de le faire dans un article général qui sera publié prochainement.

J'étais très embarrassé en ce qui concerne l'ajournement des publications sur ce sujet, étant certainement l'un des premiers à comprendre vos raisons. Cependant vous pouvez comprendre que nous ne sommes pas, ainsi que ceux que vous avez pu prévenir, les seuls à nous occuper de cette question, et rapidement nous avons pu lire dans des publications scientifiques et dans la presse d'information, en France et à l'étranger, des articles où étaient clairement expliquées les conséquences énergétiques du phénomène en question. Ce sont les seules raisons qui ont motivé les termes de mon dernier câble. Je suis certainement d'accord avec le principe d'une entente, mais pour qu'elle soit efficace il faut qu'elle soit étendue à tous les laboratoires susceptibles de s'occuper de la question.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire part de ces considérations aux collègues américains que vous avez pu touchés.

Avec mes sincères salutations,

(signed) F. Joliot

COPY

c/o Liebowitz  
420 Riverside Drive  
New York City

February 2nd, 1939

Professor M. Joliot  
Laboratoire de Chimie Nucléaire  
Collège de France  
Paris

Dear Professor Joliot:

The only reason for my writing to you this letter to-day is the remote possibility that I shall have to send you a cable in some weeks, and if that happens this letter will help you to understand what the cable is about. This letter is therefore merely a precaution, and we hope an unnecessary precaution.

When Hahn's paper reached this country about a fortnight ago, a few of us got at once interested in the question whether neutrons are liberated in the disintegration of uranium. Obviously, if more than one neutron were liberated, a sort of chain reaction would be possible. In certain circumstances this might then lead to the construction of bombs which would be extremely dangerous in general and particularly in the hands of certain governments.

It is of course not possible to prevent physicists from discussing these things among themselves, and, as a matter of fact, the subject is fairly widely discussed here. However, so far, every individual exercised sufficient discretion to prevent a leakage of these ideas into the newspapers.

In the last few days there was some discussion here among

physicists whether or not we should take action to prevent anything along this line from being published in scientific periodicals in this country, and also ask colleagues in England and France to consider taking similar action. No definite conclusions have so far been reached in these discussions, but if and when definite steps are being taken I shall send you a cable to tell you what is being done.

We all hope that there will be no, or at least not sufficient, neutron emission and therefore nothing to worry about. Still, in order to be on the safe side, efforts are made to clear up this point as quickly as possible. Experiments at Columbia University are in charge of Fermi and <sup>he</sup> will perhaps be the first to give reliable results.

Perhaps you have also thought of the same things and have contemplated or started such experiments. May be you are able to get definite results at an earlier date, which, of course, would be very valuable towards ending the present disquieting uncertainty. Whatever information on the subject you might care to transmit by letter or cable at some later date will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated. Also, should you come to the conclusion that publication of certain matters should be prevented, your opinion will certainly be given very serious consideration in this country.

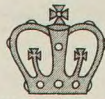
Yours sincerely,

signed: (Leo Szilard)

JOLIOU COLLEGE DE FRANCE PARIS

HAVING RECEIVED YOUR CABLE IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO PUBLISH PAPERS  
PREVIOUSLY SENT TO PHYSICAL REVIEW GREETINGS SZILARD

# Kings Crown Hotel



420 WEST 116TH STREET  
NEW YORK

OPPOSITE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Apr. 7. - 39.

Dear Professor Joliet,

enclosed you will find a  
manuscript, for your  
personal information, which  
has been sent to Phys. Rev.  
on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Its publica-  
tion has so far been delayed  
for reasons ~~of~~ which you know.

A definite policy in this  
respect was not agreed  
upon until March 20<sup>th</sup>  
and I was on the point of  
sending you a cable about  
it on that day, when I  
learned of your Note to Nature.

I sent you a cable yesterday  
and when we shall have your  
reply we shall discuss here  
again this question of postpo-  
ning publications.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Leo B. Ford

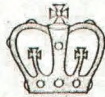
Approximate

JOLIOU COLLEGE DE FRANCE PARIS

HAVING RECEIVED YOUR CABLE IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO PUBLISH PAPERS  
PREVIOUSLY SENT TO PHYSICAL REVIEW GREETINGS SZILARD

UNDER  
KNOTT MANAGEMENTTELEPHONE  
UNIVERSITY 4-2700

M King's Crown Hotel

420 WEST 116TH STREET  
NEW YORK

OPPOSITE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Apr. 7 - 39.

Dear Professor Joliat,

enclosed you will find  
a manuscript, for your  
personal information, which  
has been sent to Phys. Rev. on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>. - Its publication  
is being delayed for reasons  
of which you know. A defi-  
nite policy in this respect  
was formulated on March  
20<sup>th</sup> and I was on the point  
of calling you on that day  
when I was told about  
your note to Nature. -



I have cabled to you yesterday in reply to your cable to Weisskopf, (who returned to Rochester N. Y.) and when we shall have your cable reply ~~the~~ the matter of withholding publications may come up again for discussion.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Leo Filard

July 5th, 1939

Professor F. Joliot  
Collège de France  
Paris

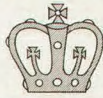
Dear Professor Joliot:

I thank you for your letter of April 19th and the enclosed manuscript. Please excuse my delay in acknowledging its receipt. I personally regret very much that it was not possible to arrange for a universally accepted policy with regard to publications. As far as I can see, the really dangerous questions have so far not been raised, and maybe it will be possible later, if the necessity arises, to halt certain types of publications and so to establish a sort of second line of defense. I may write to you again about this at some later date.

Meanwhile I am, with kind regards to all,

yours very sincerely,

# Kings Crown Hotel



420 WEST 116TH STREET  
NEW YORK

OPPOSITE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

April 7, 1940

Professor F. Joliot  
College de France  
Paris

Dear Professor Joliot:

Many things have considerably changed since our correspondence dealing with chain reactions. I therefore wonder whether these changes have led you to adopt a different policy with regard of publication. It is reported that publications on uranium are prevented in Germany and that there work on uranium is carried out in secrecy.

I am inclined to think that the question of delaying publication might now appear in a new light to those who discussed it last year. If you share my view, would you be kind enough to let me know your comment on this point.

We all hope that you and your colleagues will not suffer too many inconveniences on account of the war and that your work will go

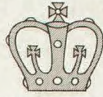
on uninterrupted.

With best wishes to all,

yours sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

# Kings Crown Hotel



420 WEST 116TH STREET  
NEW YORK

OPPOSITE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

April 12, 1940

Professor F. Joliot  
College de France  
Paris, France

Dear Professor Joliot:

Many things have considerably changed since March last year, and therefore I should like to raise once more the question whether or not results concerning chain reactions in uranium ought to be published.

It is reported that such publications are prevented in Germany and that work on uranium there is carried out in secrecy.

As you know, my own inclination would be to delay publications on this subject, but I have not discussed this matter with anyone else here in America since April last year, and I do not know what view others would take if the question were to be raised again. If, however, I should hear from you that in the meantime you

have adopted some new policy of delaying publications, I could then perhaps talk to others here and find out what the general feeling is on this subject.

Everybody here hopes that you and your colleagues will not suffer too many inconveniences on account of the war and that your work will go on uninterrupted.

With best wishes to all,

yours sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)

Callahan || Adm.  
Bowen

3656

# King's Crown Hotel



420 WEST 116TH STREET  
NEW YORK

OPPOSITE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

April 12, 1940

Professor F. Joliot  
College de France  
Paris, France

Dear Professor Joliot:

Many things have considerably changed since March last year, and therefore I should like to raise once more the question whether or not results concerning chain reactions in uranium ought to be published.

It is reported that such publications are prevented in Germany and that work on uranium there is carried out in secrecy.

As you know, my own inclination would be to delay publications on this subject, but I have not discussed this matter with anyone else here in America since April last year, and I do not know what view others would take if the question were to be raised again. If, however, I should hear from you that in the meantime you

have adopted some new policy of delaying publications, I could then perhaps talk to others here and find out what the general feeling is on this subject.

Everybody here hopes that you and your colleagues will not suffer too many inconveniences on account of the war and that your work will go on uninterrupted.

With best wishes to all,

yours sincerely,

(Leo Szilard)



## COMMÉMORATION DU DIXIÈME ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA MORT DE LORD RUTHERFORD

Organisée par

L'Association Française des Travailleurs Scientifiques  
 La Fédération Mondiale des Travailleurs Scientifiques  
 Le Syndicat National de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique

Sous le Haut-Patronage de M. le Président de la République  
 et de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris

Comité d'Honneur

M. le Président du Conseil  
 S. E. M. l'Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne  
 S. E. M. le Ministre d'Australie  
 M. le Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale  
 M. le Président de l'Académie des Sciences

Paris, le 22 OCT. 1947

Comité d'organisation

Président : F. Joliot-Curie  
 Membres : P. Auger  
 L. Barrabé  
 E. Bauer  
 J. D. Bernal  
 M. de Broglie  
 J. Cabannes  
 J. G. Crowther  
 G. Teissier

Secrétariat : P. Biquard  
 P. Bonet-Maury  
 Trésorière : Mlle L. Cassin

Professeur Leo SZILARD  
 Institute of Nuclear Studies  
 University Chicago  
 CHICAGO. (Ill) (U.S.)

Mon cher Szilard,

Je suis très heureux d'avoir reçu votre télégramme du 20 octobre qui m'annonce votre acceptation de participer aux cérémonies commémoratives du dixième anniversaire de la mort de Lord Rutherford.

Le Comité d'organisation, dans sa dernière réunion, m'a prié de vous demander de bien vouloir faire un exposé d'un quart d'heure environ, dans la séance du 8 novembre, dans l'après-midi que je présiderai et qui sera consacrée au sujet suivant :

" Le développement de la physique moderne et ses conséquences sociales "

Je vous serais reconnaissant de m'adresser votre réponse le plus rapidement possible, et je vous prie de croire, mon cher Szilard, à mes sentiments dévoués.



F. JOLIOT-CURIE.

Dear Szilard,

I was extremely happy to hear that you were coming to Paris. If ever you preferred not being in an hotel, I would be delighted to put you up. We have just moved in a new flat 3 weeks ago, it is still a little bit disorderly, but it ought to be "à peu près" comfortable by the time you arrive. In any case I am <sup>(x)</sup> looking forward to see you in 3 weeks, very best regards

Adresser toutes communications au Président de l'Association Française des Travailleurs Scientifiques, Avenue Pasteur 166

Bertrand Goldschmidt

my address is  
 24 rue Galilée  
 PARIS XVI  
 Place Copernic 57-18

(x) So am I  
 L. Kowarski

# WORLD FEDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

President ... .. Professor F. JOLIOT-CURIE  
Membre de l'Institut ; For Mem. R.S. ; Prix Nobel  
Vice-Presidents ... Professor J. D. BERNAL, F. R. S.  
Professor LI TZE-KWANG, Vice-Pres., Academia Sinica  
Academician A.I. OPARIN, Mem. Acad. Sci. U.S.S.R.  
Professor LINUS PAULING, Mem. Nat. Acad. Sci., For. Mem. R.S.  
Professor C. F. POWELL, F.R.S., Nobel Laureate  
Treasurer ... .. Dr. W. A. WOOSTER.  
~~Secretary-General ... J. G. CROWTHER.~~

~~All communications to be addressed to~~

~~THE SECRETARY GENERAL.~~

~~15, HALF MOON STREET,~~

~~LONDON, W.1~~

Paris, le 11 mars 1955

Monsieur le Professeur Leo SZILARD,  
1155, East 57th Street,  
Chicago  
Illinois  
U.S.A..

Mon cher Szilard,

La lecture de la lettre que vous avez adressée au "New York Times" et qui a paru le 6 février 1955, m'incite à vous écrire, car elle est le reflet d'un sentiment qui se répand de plus en plus et selon lequel il est nécessaire d'entreprendre une action susceptible d'arrêter le dangereux mouvement vers un conflit généralisé, dans lequel seraient utilisées les armes de destruction en masse. A cet égard, vous penserez sûrement comme moi que les scientifiques ont une responsabilité particulière.

La Conférence organisée par l'O.N.U., en Septembre 1955, à Genève, sur les applications pacifiques de l'énergie atomique n'abordera pas l'ensemble des problèmes posés à l'humanité par la libération de l'énergie nucléaire. Aussi, beaucoup de scientifiques, dans tous les pays, pensent qu'une initiative devrait être prise relativement aux dangers que font courir à l'humanité les armes atomiques et thermonucléaires. C'est dans cet esprit que j'avais, tout d'abord, écrit à M. le Président de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies ( vous trouverez ci-joint copie de ma lettre) puis à divers collègues, tels que HAHN, UREY, LORD RUSSELL, MINNAERT, POWELL, SKOBELTZYN, RABINOVITCH, etc...

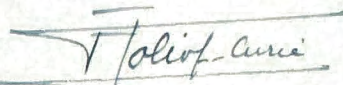
L'impression que je suis à même de retirer de ces divers contacts est qu'un désir se manifeste, plus ou moins clairement, de voir se réunir une Conférence Scientifique Internationale, au cours de laquelle seraient

.../

précisés de manière incontestable les dangers des armes atomiques et thermo-nucléaires. D'ailleurs, dans de nombreux pays déjà des conférences scientifiques nationales sont prévues pour traiter de ces mêmes problèmes.

Pour bien préciser ma pensée, je crois utile de joindre à la présente, à titre confidentiel, copie de la lettre que j'ai adressée à H.C. UREY.

J'aimerais beaucoup recevoir vos commentaires et vos suggestions et, dans cette attente, je vous prie de croire, mon cher Szilard, à mes sentiments dévoués.



F. Joliot-Curie,  
Collège de France,  
Place Marcelin-Berthelot  
Paris 5e.

Inclus: 2 annexes