6, Halliwick Road,
London, N.10.

23rd February, 1934.

Dear Polanyi,

I shall be certainly until Monday evening in the Strand Palace Hotel, room 415. You can reach me by 'phone only until 9 a.m. in my room, and later on you must leave a message, and ask them to page me as it is urgent. I should like to know, if possible in advance, when you are coming, there is no delivery of telegrams on Sunday.

I have wired to Wigner, thanking him and stating that I am very interested in high voltage, that I could without difficulty visit ~~Knight~~ Breit if required, and that I am unable to decide before I have seen him. I should like to tell you many interesting things, but I wont write about them, as I hope to see you.

Yours

Leo Szilard.

R-1

6, Halliwick Road,
Muswell Hill,
London N.10.

13th July, 1934.

Dear Mr. Polanyi,

I should like to discuss with you questions of policy in connection with the patents of which you know. The development is up till now very favourable and exactly along the lines forshadowed in my patents. It is rather the "Neutron" Line than the "Explosion" line that has become ripe for action. The development is also interesting from the point of view of chemistry as it will be possible to have ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ radio-active isotopes of very many elements and use them as radio-active indicators both in chemistry and physiology. I almost believe now that you should consider taking up this field and have already bullied Paneth into building a Geiger-counter. Perhaps you could let me know how long you will stay in Manchester and I may then visit you for a few days if convenient.

Yours

P.S. I am sending you a memorandum dated July 13th which I would send also to Wigner, Fellner and Lange but not to the others mentioned therein. I may also send you a letter to the editor of "Nature" a rough draft not overhauled from the point of view of English.

R-46

ABSCHRIFT.

Von:ë M. Polany,
Kenmore,
Didsbury Park,
Manchester. Tel. 3838 Didsbury.

11. Nov. 1934.

Dear Szilard,

I have spoken to Donnan about you when he was staying with us during the past two days. I have mentioned no details, it was he who did the speaking mostly. He would like to help you. His idea is a financier, a very rich man, who would let you do just as you please, asking only for a dividend at the end. Do you want him to follow up this direction ? Personally I do not feel too confident of the success, but the plan is not unintelligent. Furthermore: will you let me report to Aschner that you are in the course of making great inventions and that I would see a favourable opportunity for an investment as stiller Gesellschafter. He could ask me and Donnan to be his trustees. Especially if you come to work in Manchester. These overcautious people are often the first to invest their money under such extraordinary conditions.

Donnan told me that there is an opposition to you on account of taking patents. A physicist (not Rutherford) told him so.

Please answer question about Aschner soon, since I am about to write him about something else.

Yours

M.P.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Von: H. Foley,
Kenmore,
Midbury Park,
Manchester.

11. Nov. 192

Tel. 2424 Midbury.

Dear Sailard,

I have spoken to Donman about you when he was staying with us during the past two days. I have mentioned no details, it was he who did the speaking mostly. He would like to help you. His idea is a financier, a very rich man, who would let you do just as you please, making only a dividend at the end. Do you want him to follow up this direction? Personally I do not feel too confident of the success, but the plan is not unintelligent. Furthermore: will you let me report to Donman that you are in the course of making great inventions and that I would see a favourable opportunity for an investment as stiller dessiphonetter. He could ask me and Donman to be his trustees. Especially if you don't go to work in Manchester. There overcautious people are often the first to invest their money under such extraordinary conditions.

Donman told me that there is an opposition to you on account of taking patents. A physicist (not Rutherford) told him so.

Please answer question about Assmer soon, since I am about to write him about something else.

Yours

H.F.

Harcourt Pulleine

B or C

Charges to pay s. d.

TIME OF RECEIPT

9.25 a M

From

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

If there is doubt about the accuracy of any part of this telegram ring "Telegrams Enquiry" or call at the Office of delivery for free repetition.

This form, and if possible the envelope, should accompany any enquiry other than by telephone.

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8.14a Euston Rl 31

M

To

THE INFORMATION OVERLEAF WILL INTEREST YOU.

Polany Kenmore Didsbury Pk Manchester

Miscalculated temperature yesterday by taking 4 instead of 10000 as exponent of 2 stop temperature obviously about thousand to ten thousand million centigrades

B or C

Charges to pay s. d.

TIME OF RECEIPT

9.25 a M

From

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

If there is doubt about the accuracy of any part of this telegram ring "Telegrams Enquiry" or call at the Office of delivery for free repetition.

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No. one cont'd

Office Stamp

DIDSBURY 25 JU 35 MANCHESTER

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

M

To

THE INFORMATION OVERLEAF WILL INTEREST YOU.

Kind regards

Szilard

BOOK 1960

Polanyi → LS.

THE VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2681.

PROFESSOR M. POLANYI.

28th,
June,
1935.

My dear Szilard,

I gather from my talk with Weizmann that he is favourably inclined towards the foundation of a research corporation on the lines discussed by us in Manchester. He will raise this point with Willstätter by the end of this week, and will probably ask me to come to London for a discussion on this matter. I have promised to go if he requires me; so we might meet soon again.

Yours,

M. P.

Dr. L. Szilard,
The Clarendon Laboratory,
O x f o r d.

16, ADDISON CRESCENT
LONDON, W.14.

5th July, 1935.

Professor M. Polanyi,
Manchester University,
MANCHESTER.

My dear Professor Polanyi,

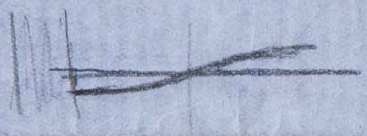
Willstatter was here for only a very short time, and I felt it would have been too much trouble to ask you to come to London. But I had a word with him with regard to Dr. Szilard's affairs, and I think he shares your view. I shall take some steps in the near future, and shall let you know if anything develops as a result of them.

With kind regards,
I am
Very sincerely yours,

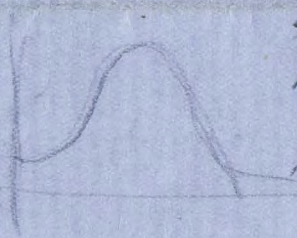
Ch Weizmann

Scattering Reichweite

$\frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi}$ für scattering



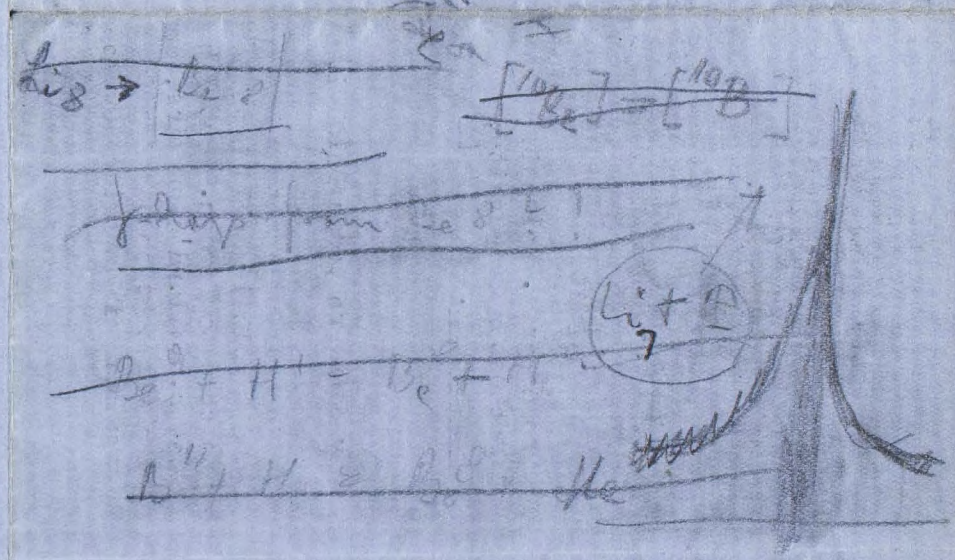
Sprünge



was kann man über Größenordnung von Größen sagen wenn Welle ring L. T_0 ist

$L \ll l$

Welche Kern Lepmung



5229 Laderburg

Cambridge

[SZILARD PAPERS, BOX 3, FOLDER 45]

sbs from folder "important persons Xerox"

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

FROM
PROFESSOR M. POLANYI

TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2681.

June 18th 1940.

Dear Szilard,

I am interested at the moment in devising a method for the purification of the light isotope of uranium. I know that this is a subject on which a large number of workers are engaged and in order not to waste my time I would like to ask you to help me. I would like to know how far the work has been carried out already in the United States and which is considered there to be the most promising line of attack. I believe that the centrifugal method in the form of a fractionation column, as suggested by Urey, is the most hopeful, but I have no experimental experience of anything of the kind and in consequence do not trust my estimate very much. The method of Clusius seems also capable of development to a practicable degree but again I feel uncertain about this possibility.

This letter written by anyone but myself to anyone but yourself would seem very silly but in view of our old friendship you will understand the sort of advice I need in this matter. My only trouble is your unwillingness to write letters but may I please assure you that this may be really important, both to me and to my collaborators in the Physics Department here.

We are not in high spirits here at the moment but are sufficiently composed to carry on with work even though it may not be of immediate utility for the war but, of course, all other interests are almost completely effaced. I hope that I may yet see you and Wigner again and would be grateful to receive a letter from either of you.

Yours ever,

Michael Polanyi

Dr.Leo Szilard,
Pupin Physics Laboratories,
Columbia University,
NEW YORK.

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

August 18th, 1939

Dear Polanyi:

Today I am writing to you in order to enquire about a letter received by Wigner, a copy of which I enclose.

May I first of all tell you for your information that your beryllium block is being used in experiments concerning the possibility of chain reactions in uranium. The last experiment of this type, which was jointly reported by Fermi and myself, was published on August 1st in the Physical Review, and I am enclosing a manuscript in place of a reprint which is not yet available. It appears to be difficult to obtain another beryllium block, and so we would very much like to keep yours if you do not actually need it. Should the letter of Gilson be a mere matter of routine, and if your department does not really need the block, we would very much like to purchase it from your department in case this is feasible. On the other hand, at any time when you should want the block, please send me a cable, and the block will then be sent by the next fast boat or by air mail.

It appears that all those things about which we talked in 1936 in connection with the possibility of a nuclear chain reaction are now coming true, and we are working at present at high pressure.

Are you not going to visit America this fall?

Yours,

(Leo Szilard)

From Michael Polanyi

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

FROM
PROFESSOR M. POLANYI

TELEPHONE: ARDWICK 2681.

June 18th 1940.

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Yours ever,

Michael Polanyi

Dr.Leo Szilard,
Pupin Physics Laboratories,
Columbia University,
NEW YORK.

R. Sherman

— Clarence Street

Union Now

10E 40 St.

Union House

October 6, 1953

Professor Michael Polanyi
Victoria University
Manchester
England

Dear Polanyi:

I was away from Chicago when your telegram arrived and didn't receive it until it was too late. Otherwise, I should have called you over the telephone.

I hope that you will perhaps be back again for another visit before long to talk to the Ford Foundation people. I expect to spend most of my time in the East during this coming academic year and expect to be every week a few days in New York and the rest in Boston. If you come to New York again, you can find out where I am staying by calling the secretary of A. N. Spanel at Longacre 3-5000.

I was happy to learn from Eva that you are exceptionally well and flourishing.

Yours,

Leo Szilard

LS:jda

Merton College
Oxford
5. Jan. 1959

Dear old friend, Leo Szilard,

The news of your illness, of which I had heard a rumour from Rabinovich, reached me belatedly through a letter from Wigner which was retained at Merton College during my absence abroad.

Our miserable ignorance of the destiny of man makes communication with a friend suffering from inoperable cancer stupidly inadequate. But I know that you want your relations to men, things and above all, to work, to remain unchanged. And you have the strength of mind to carry this out and to show us in doing so, what is right, as you have done before so often. So I shall follow your directive.

I know that cancer of the bladder usually grows slowly, and I hope you will allow me to keep you company during that period, perhaps a little more frequently than lately.

Let me share with you the loss of my sister who had much affection for you. She was the only really maternal figure to me, since my mother was in a way rather impersonal. It is odd that you should have known my sister for a number of years now, so much more closely than I did, owing to the Atlantic between us. I am sure you liked her too.

I know that you intend to complete the important papers which you mentioned when we last met at Beekman Towers. Having spent 10 years of desperate effort to complete a book of which I knew that I shall never see the effect on men's thought, I know the fascination of such a task. From what the doctor told me about my cardiogram my end may be nearer than yours, but I now feel safe inspite of this.

A few weeks ago I was guest of the Continuation Ctee of the Pugwash Conference at a cocktail party. I talked to Rotblat whom I liked very much, and to Price and a young woman who may have been his wife, whom I did not like. I found them dogmatic and aggressive. It is true, I was depressed from the first moment by the rapid increase in the participation of ci-devant and not so cidevant fellow-travellers. I have confidence in the good sense of Communists who have lived under Stalinism. Judging by Polish contacts, I can see a close parallelism between their craving for a humane philosophy, protected from mechanistic reductionism and my own efforts in this direction. I shall soon send you a copy of my forthcoming Eddington Lecture which explains more clearly the community of problems between East and West in this period of post revolutionary revisionism, as I see it.

It is part of this effort to debunk the notorious mortal conflict between

the capitalistic and communistic systems. After many years of pondering the problem, I have at last got a clear idea how central directives can imitate the functions of the market and why the resultant dys-economies appear in higher production figures. For technical reasons this paper is coming out for the first time in French, but I hope to be able to send you a copy of an English draft of it fairly soon. Perhaps you could advise me how to turn his idea politically to the best advantage.

I know that you need no help from me, but let me remind you that went in fear of my life in 1940 it was you who moved heaven and earth to save me. I have had no more faithful friend than you in a life that was rich in friends indeed. So let me hear from you from time to time, and, as a crowning favour, let me have some request from you for something pleasant or useful.

M. P. Polanyi

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION

AIR LETTER

AEROGRAMME

OXFORD 8 -PM 11 APR 1960 A

Please forward.

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

SIXPENCE-POSTAGE

NOT PRICES

Dr Leo Szilard
c/o Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
5750 Ellis Avenue,
Chicago 37, Illinois
U.S.A.

First fold here

Second fold here

Sender's name and address: M Polanyi
Merton College,
Oxford

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

Merton College, Oxford
16.4.60

Dear Leilard,

If I would write to you as often as I think of doing so, you would be flooded with letters from me. But uncertainty about your address and contradictory reports about your condition, cause my pen to hesitate ever again to voice my thoughts. However, there is one matter I feel confident to speak about, namely your splendid article in the Atomic Scientists' Bulletin. You mentioned it on the night when we last dined together at the end of November, and I am sure you were right to insist that it should be published at full length. Indeed, it would have been to the public advantage if you had enlarged a little further on the period of the next 4-5 years during which instability will be at its worst. But perhaps you have said all that you wanted to say about this period by assessing the probability of our survival at less than 10%. — Meanwhile Magda and I have settled down in Oxford, and I wonder whether your affliction permits you to visit us here. If so, now is the time to do it, while the long English spring is spreading its blessings over the gardens, both within the Colleges and around our houses. You would be more than welcome, both to physicists and mere friends, like ourselves. Believe me, M. P.

22 UPLAND PARK ROAD
OXFORD
TEL. 58288

18 May, 1961

Dr. Leo Szilard,
Hotel Dupont Plaza,
Washington 6, D.C.,
U.S.A.

My dear Szilard:

I do not know exactly when the copy of your "Voice of the Dolphins" arrived, for I have been away, abroad, for a month and have only just returned. I read the little book at one go, though I had seen parts of it before. It reminded me of Voltaire's "Candide" which he wrote as a joke at the age of 80 and is today the only of his writings still alive in the popular mind. Maybe that you will be remembered by these light-hearted fancies long after your contributions to science will have joined the melting pot of anonymity. However that may be, I do hope that future editions will remind the reader that you indulged this playful mood while suffering from inoperable cancer. However important your political ideas may prove I think that your example in facing your predicament may prove of even greater benefit to men.

Your jollity is so genuine that I read you without any painful thoughts. Instead, I enjoyed throughout the authentic ring of your voice, the very gestures and mannerisms with which you would produce your amusing sallies. In fact, the whole panorama of our past meetings was evoked, right back to our days in Dahlem. You have so vividly brought back your whole person to me that I feel I have for the first time taken true possession of it.

A few weeks ago I had a letter from Eva Zeisel from which I gather that she sees you frequently. She thought that you are warmer and more human than you ever were before. Perhaps she is right. We do not normally express our feelings but live them until the time comes to sum our lives spent with those we are going to leave behind.

I suppose this is why I am writing to you as I would have never done before. It is that I realize that my life on which I now look back has not been flowing through the

world at large but was channelled and shaped by intimacy with a small group of people. It is odd. It has always puzzled me to hear that the Cambridge philosopher G.E. Moore regarded human relations as the supreme value in life. I suppose it simply means that our existence is largely composed of such relations.

This reminds me that I just had a letter from James Franck (congratulating me on my 70th birthday) for it was Franck who first told me of the arrival in Berlin of a curious young man called Szilard; and thereby hangs a story which I want to verify with Franck before I pass it on to you.

I wonder whether it is true that you are writing your autobiography. This story would fit in nicely.

So much for the moment. A few weeks ago, John had a daughter who is our first grandchild, so we propose to go to see them at the end of August. I trust you will be well enough to see me about ten days later. I shall try to find my way to you, whether you are in New York or in Washington at the time.

Yours, in many forms,
Polanyi;
Michael or
Misi
as it may be.

LS → Polanyi

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

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

To Rotary 19

Street and No. 30 Sandringham Ave

Place Willington Manchester

understand action started by Taylor in May was favourably proceeding when you called off. Hope kindly state by cable whether you would be glad to accept invitation for one year or more. Outlook cool Strike.

Sender's address for reference

Sender's telephone number