

December 9, 1963

John Freeman, Editor
NEWSSTATESMAN
10 Gt. Turnstile
London, W.C. 2

Dear Mr. Freeman:

I am enclosing a manuscript which might perhaps interest you. It is written for publication in England. I sent a copy to Melvin Lasky, Editor of ENCOUNTER, but I suspect that because of its length, they will not be able to publish this manuscript in one piece. I would be rather reluctant to have it appear in two parts, at an interval of one month.

I realize, of course, that it would be even more difficult for you than for ENCOUNTER to accomodate the whole manuscript in the one issue of the magazine, but I would find it tolerable if the paper were to appear in two parts with an interval of one week.

I asked Mr. Lasky to cable and advise me whether ENCOUNTER would want to print this paper and print it in one piece. I shall cable you if his reply is negative and if you were interested in printing this paper, but had to split it into two parts, I would suggest that you split it on page 11, at the spot which is marked by three stars.

Irrespective of whether or not you mean to print this paper, I should appreciate any comments which you might care to make.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard

P.S. Until Christmas, mail will reach me best if addressed to me at the Hotel Dupont Plaza, Washington, D.C. 20036.

LS

December 12, 1963

Editor Freeman
NEW STATESMAN
10 Gt. Turnstile
London, W.C. 2

RE LETTER DECEMBER 9 IF YOU CAN USE MANUSCRIPT EITHER IN ONE PIECE OR
TWO PARTS PLEASE GO AHEAD PRINTING TEXT AS IT STANDS STOP ALTERNATIVE
TITLES: THE STING OF THE BEE IN SATURATION PARITY, OR, YOU HAVE BEEN
WARNED.

LEO SZILARD

HOTEL DUPONT PLAZA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 13, 1963

John Freeman, Editor
NEW STATESMAN
10 Gt. Turnstile
London, W.C. 2

Dear Mr. Freeman:

I sent you yesterday a cable and mailed you a confirmation copy that if you were interested in printing the article that I sent you either in one piece or in two parts in consecutive issues, you could go ahead and do so. Monday, the 16th, I shall airmail you an edited version of the article unless you advise me in the meantime that you are not in the position to print it.

To-day's NEW YORK TIMES gives the impression that as the result of the current conflict between France and Germany, the Common Market might break up by January 1st of next year. I find it hard to believe that but if you should regard the situation as very serious then it might perhaps be advisable to hold up the printing of the manuscript until it becomes clear that current Franco-German conflict is not going to break up the Common Market in the near future.

Mail will continue to reach me at the Hotel Dupont Plaza, Washington, D.C. until January 1st.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard

New Statesman

GREAT TURNSTILE LONDON WC1

Telegrams: *Newstat Westcent London*

HOLborn 8471

13 December 1963

Dear Professor Szilard,

I have very great and sincere regret in writing to tell you that I don't see my way to publishing your article in the predictable future. Part of the difficulty is one of space. It is good of you to say that you would be prepared to have it split in two, but I should not care to publish it in this way. It seems to me that it ought to stand as a single piece, and as such, it would take nearly four pages of the *New Statesman*. We can't manage to undertake enterprises of this kind more than very occasionally, and I already have two such features lined up for the early weeks of 1964.

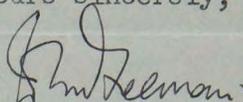
But there is another, and more serious, reason, which I will tell you candidly. I have read the article with the greatest possible respect and interest. I do not agree with all of it, but I think some of your points are very telling and I think the whole piece is stimulating and worth discussion. Just at the moment, however, we are editorially engaged in trying to awaken our readers to a more lively realisation of some of the problems of defence, and, with a general election pending, this politically explosive subject has to be dealt with very carefully if serious argument is to be given due weight. We have a sequence of articles planned over the next three months on the general theme of Western strategy, which are designed to lead the Labour Party in Britain very gently into a better informed and more coherent position. This is an operation which with British left-wing readers has to be undertaken very carefully at the best of times, and in the weeks before an election, with the Labour Party scenting victory, requires an unusually delicate judgment. I can't fit your free-booting piece, admirable though it is, into this scheme, and I am unwilling to disturb a carefully planned and, I believe, constructive operation by distracting our readers' attention at this moment from the message we are trying to get across to them.

I hope you will not take this amiss. I should not write so candidly if I did not hold you personally in such high respect, and I may add with equal candour that it would give me enormous satisfaction at a slightly more convenient moment to have your name in the New Statesman.

Meanwhile, it occurs to me that the journal in this country which would surely welcome such a piece, and could publish it without any of the party political implications which exist for us, is Survival. Of course I understand that publication in such a learned periodical would not give you anything like such a wide readership, but you would be read in Survival by the opinion-forming elite, whom after all essentially you're addressing. I think it would be impertinent of me not to return your article to you promptly and leave you to decide what you do next, but I have been tempted to show it to Alastair Buchan at Survival, and I seriously suggest that you might consider sending it to him.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,



John Freeman

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

December 16, 1963

John Freeman, Editor
NEW STATESMAN
10 Gt. Turnstile
London, W.C. 2

Dear Mr. Freeman:

I am writing to thank you for your very kind letter of December 13, 1963. I am quite curious to learn just what foreign policy and military strategy you think Labor ought to pursue if they were to assume office, after the next elections.

In October, I spent ten days in London and talked with quite a number of people in the Labor party including some of the members of the Shadow Cabinet, but I didn't have the impression that they had thought through the problem and had reached a consensus.

I shall seriously consider submitting my paper to SURVIVAL as you suggested that I do.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard

New Statesman

GREAT TURNSTILE LONDON WC1

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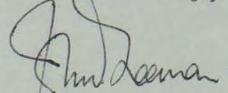
3 January 1964

Dear Professor Szilard,

Thank you very much for your amiable letter.

We have been trying consistently and carefully for some months now to focus the attention of British Labour on what seem to us to be the essential problems in the field of defence strategy. We are not in fact in full agreement with your thesis, but that seems to me in one sense of minor importance. What is essential is that the men who are likely to form a government here within months should be forced to face realities and base their judgments on reality and not on a series of political evasions. I am appalled, as you are, by the lack of clarity in much defence thinking in this country - not only on the Labour side - and I am determined that, as far as lies within our power, we will make the Labour movement at least face facts.

Yours sincerely,



John Freeman

Professor Leo Szilard,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago 37, Illinois,
U.S.A.