

COPY OF LETTER FROM WEISSKOPF TO BLACKETT, ENGLAND, MARCH 1939

Victor Weisskopf
University of Rochester

Dear Blackett,

I hope you were not too much upset about my telegram but I believe that you realize the great danger which would arise, if one really could construct a bomb with uranium. The probability that this is possible might be small, but the product of the probability with the graveness of the consequences is high.

I enclose here first a letter which Szilard has written to Joliot Febr. 2. Joliot has not answered this letter and we do not know Joliot's attitude to the whole situation after his recent publication. I have sent to Halban a similar telegram as to you urging him to cooperate.

Further I enclose a note which Szilard has sent to Physical Review but the publication of which is being delayed. There are other papers from Columbia sent in and kept back, which could be sent to you if the cooperation begins to work. I am also enclosing a letter from Szilard to myself which gives you further details about his experiments.

I would like tell you how far the cooperation here for delaying "dangerous" manuscripts has developed so far. We know that the group around Tuve is now willing to cooperate. Lawrence is coming here on April 3rd. and we shall discuss the matter with him then. Tate (editor of Phys. Rev.) is being approached and it is suggested that authors who may send in manuscripts concerning "dangerous" neutron emissions be advised to communicate with us. We shall send you a cable when a definite procedure has been decided upon in connection with Phys. Rev.

Much love to your family.

Very truly yours

POST



CARD



Mr. F. S. Szellard

Imperial Hotel

Russelsquare

London

6. V.

Lieber Szillard,

Delbrück hat soeben telefoniert, daß er
dringend irgend etwas schriftliches, wie
Statuten Organisationsordnung etc für
den Vice chanceller von Bristol braucht.
Bitte schreiben Sie ihm, was Sie haben.
Weiter ist Born Ehren doktor von
Bristol und soll von dort aufgenommen
werden.

Grüsse Weisskopf

Victor Weisskopf
University of Rochester

Dear Blackett,

I hope you were not too much upset about my telegram. But I believe that you realize the great danger which would arise, if one really could construct a bomb with uranium. The probability that this is possible might be small, but the product of the probability with the graveness of the consequences is high.

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emissions be advised to communicate with us. We shall send you a cable when a definite procedure has been decided upon in connection with Phys. Rev.

Much love to your family.

Very truly yours

COPY.

March 31st, 1939

HANS VON HALBAN

11 RUE GUYNEMER
SCEAUX 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~~

WEISSKOPF FINE HALL PRINCETON N.J.
~~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

JOLIO
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 TUVES 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 SUI D AVIS MAINTENANT PUBLIER AMITIES
JOLIO

April 6, 1939

JOLIOU

COLLEGE DE FRANCE PARIS

REPLYING YOUR CABLE WEISSKOPF STOP ROBERTS PAPERS CONCERNING DELAYED
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 INCLINED SIMILARLY TO DELAY YOUR PAPERS OR WHETHER YOU THINK THAT
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 KINGS CROWN HOTEL SZILARD

April 8, 1939

ELT 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 ETUDIERE SUIZ D AVIS MAINTENANT PUBLIER AMITIERS
 JOLIOU

From copies sent by Szilard to Briggs, copy in Kowarski Papers.
 Original probably in AEC files, Pat. Compensation
 rec'd from S. Weart — Board Docket 18.
 2-18-74

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

March 31st, 1939

Dr. V. Weisskopf
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Weisskopf:-

Enclosed you will find two copies of a manuscript which has been sent to the Physical Review some time ago and the publication of which is being delayed.

We are at present attempting to estimate the number of neutrons emitted by using a hydrogen-filled ionization chamber. Our present estimate is independent of the range of the fission particles as we have calibrated our fission ionization chamber which has a thick uranium oxide coating by means of a thin uranium oxide layer. By the way, the "average" range assumed in our manuscript turned out to be too large by factor of more than two. On the other hand, by reducing the gamma-ray background and thereby being able to count smaller ionization pulses the observed number of recoils was considerably increased. At this moment we can only state that the number of neutrons per fission multiplied by the average cross section for a collision of a fission neutron with respect to a proton is larger than $5 \times 10^{-24} \text{cm}^2$. We are attempting to improve this lower limit and also by observing the velocity distribution of the fission neutrons calculate the average collision cross section.

I expect that within a week we shall have a fairly good value for the number of neutrons emitted per fission. As you know the problem is also attacked by experiments of a different type so that the results of the two methods will check each other.

I am enclosing a short memorandum stating what can be said at present from the point of view in which we are interested. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter sent to Joliot.

Yours,

March 31st - 39

MEMORANDUM

To the attention of Dr. Weisskopf:

It can not at present be stated with certainty whether or not the number of neutrons emitted per fission under the action of slow neutrons is larger than one. My feeling however is that this number is probably above one as I have the impression that we can still increase the number observed ^{neutrons} by further reducing the gamma-ray background.

If the number of neutrons is larger than one, this does not necessarily mean that a chain reaction is possible. If the neutrons are slowed down by water there may be enough radiation capture of slow neutrons in uranium to stop the chain. Observations carried out along this line showed so far a slight excess of neutrons absorption over neutron production, but it is quite possible that by changing the experimental conditions, for instance by increasing the volume of the solution used from 100 liters to 2- or 300 liters there will be an excess of production over absorption in uranium. In any case, explosions produced by neutrons slowed down by water do not seem to be too dangerous. It is true that by various engineering tricks such explosions could be made much more violent than would seem possible at first sight, but the destructive power will stay within bounds.

As to chain reactions via neutrons which are not slowed down by water, it seems rather likely, though not absolutely certain, that most fission neutrons will be slowed down to

about 100,000 volts by inelastic collisions in uranium before the disappear either through radiation capture or through fission capture. I think there is about an even chance that the radiation capture will stop the chain or that it will not. In any case it appears very likely that a fast neutron bomb will be too heavy to be carried by aeroplane. It could, however, probably easily be carried by boats, and it seems to be possible to devise engineering tricks for setting the reaction off in such a way as to cause an explosion the destructive power of which goes beyond imagination. There ~~will~~^{would} be no point in going into ~~further~~ details for the present.

In view of this situation I believe that, apart from determining the number of neutrons per fission, our most urgent task is to determine the ratio of the cross sections of fission and of ~~for~~ radiative capture ~~respectively~~ for neutrons of a few 100,000 volts energy. We are therefore measuring the fission cross section for photo neutrons from radium and beryllium and ~~also~~^{shall} try to measure the radiative capture cross section for these neutrons.

5640 Ellis Avenue

September 25, 1951

Professor Victor Weisskopf
Physics Department
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Weisskopf:

Enclosed you will find two sets of reprints.

The one which might interest you most is the paper in
the Proceedings of the Academy dealing with the Chemo-
stat.

The paper which is in the form of a dittoed
manuscript was presented at the Cold Spring Harbor Sym-
posium on Genetics and will appear in this year's volume
on the Cold Spring Harbor Symposium.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

The University of Chicago

CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics

5650 Ellis Avenue

October 2, 1951

Professor Victor Weisskopf
Physics Department
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Weisskopf:

Since I wrote you the other day two things have happened. First of all, I had a phone call from the Law Review of the University of Chicago saying that they would be very much interested in printing an article by you along the lines I discussed with Dr. Blum. Secondly, I learned from Paul Weiss that he is not free to disclose such information as he ^{may have} ~~has~~ on the subject because of his official connection with the Government.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds

cc: W. J. Blum
S. K. Allison
J. E. Mayer
Paul A. Weiss

5650 Ellis Avenue

October 4, 1951

Professor Victor Weisskopf
Physics Department
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Weisskopf:

I have a copy of your letter to Paul Weiss. In the meantime you will have received my letter explaining that Paul Weiss will not be in a position to give any information because of his official connection with the Government. I have also written to you that the Law Review of the University of Chicago is anxious to have an article by you on the subject. From here on you might as well correspond with them directly, although I would appreciate receiving a copy of your letters. The man on the staff of the Law Review who called me was Mr. Herzel, and the address of the Law Review is Law Building, The University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

October 9, 1951

Dr. Leo Szilard
Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics
The University of Chicago
5650 Ellis Avenue
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Leo:

I have received your letters and the one from Paul Weiss. He seems to be very strongly opposed to any publicity in the visa cases. I assume you don't agree with him, neither do I. However, I would like to know his reasons, but his letter is formulated in a way that I do not dare to ask him personally; maybe you do know his reasons.

I intend to write a piece on the visa problem, but I think that the Law Review is not the right place to publish it. I feel that such a thing, in order to be effective, should get somewhat wider publicity. I therefore intend to send it to ATLANTIC MONTHLY, if I ever get it done.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

V. F.

Victor F. Weisskopf

VFW:cas

5650 Ellis Avenue

October 25, 1951

Dr. Victor F. Weisskopf
Physics Department
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Viki:

I talked to Paul Weiss yesterday to find out why he would be opposed to publicity in the visa cases. It seems that his only concern was that if any protests are made they should be made by natural born Americans rather than by naturalized citizens. Since I believe what is needed is not so much a protest as a statement of the facts, I doubt whether his point of view is relevant to the case.

Have you seen the last issue of Colliers which deals with the Third World War? I believe it is quite important that you should thumb through it even though you may not wish to read most of the details. The fact that this issue could be published deserves, it seems to me, some thoughtful interpretation.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

File

March 24, 1952

*answered
Apr 3/52*

Dr. L. Szilard
Institute of Nuclear Studies
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Leo:

The first approach through Mr. Cabot was not successful. He himself was very interested in it and tried to contact Mr. Minot who is the general secretary of Saltonstall, and here are a couple of paragraphs from his letter to Cabot as quoted from Cabot to me.

"This will acknowledge your letter of March 4th concerning Professor Weisskopf and his associates. I would be glad to talk to the gentlemen but I do not know just what good it would do at the moment.

"There is an omnibus immigration bill which is now on the Senate Calendar that has been worked out by the Senate Judiciary Committee over a period of years. I am enclosing a copy of this bill in case Professor Weisskopf would care to go over it and let us know what his opinion of it is as to whether it answers in any way the questions which he raises and what amendments he believes should be proposed and the reasons therefore."

As to the second paragraph, I wonder whether you have people in Chicago who could do or are doing such a study. Do you know of anybody who would be able to give constructive advice? Maybe, this is a way to do something about the bill. I am sure you have a copy of it. Its name is S.2550, Report No. 1137. Let me know soon about this. With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Viki

Victor F. Weisskopf

VFW:cas

V. Weisskopf
64 Gray Street
Arlington Mass.

Oct. 24 1956

Dear Szilhard,

Here enclosed you find an
interesting letter. The writer is the
Author of the Book "The Accused." You
know him from the Strikers, I think.

I cannot avoid having a funny
feeling that his "Confession" is
phony. What do you think?? Shall
one collaborate?

Let me know!

Best regards

Viki

Please return the letter!

November 29, 1952

Dr. V. Weisskopf
64 Gray Street
Arlington, Mass.

Dear Weisskopf,

Enclosed I am returning a letter from Weissberg which you sent me. I do not know whether Sydney Hook's activities, well meant as they are, actually accomplish anything good. The meeting in Hamburg is supposed to be a big demonstration rather than a meeting devoted to the search for the truth; therefore it seems to me doubtful that many scientists of quality will be eager to go. This is just my first reaction for what it is worth.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Enclosure

LS/llt

August 5, 1957

Dr. Victor Weisskopf
CERN
Genève 15, Aéroport
Switzerland

Dear Weisskopf,

You mentioned to me the name of a man whom you suggested that I meet when an occasion arises, who is working with Max Millikan, and who you told me was a man of ideas of a constructive sort. I thought I made a note of his name but it seems I have lost it. Could you drop me a line giving me his full name and address?

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

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Abschrift

Adr.: bis 31.10 Göttingen
ab.1.11. Hamburg, Phil.Seminar d.Universität
Bornplatz 2

Unterwegs 16.9.1957

Lieber Szilard!

Ihre Sendung vom 16.8. hat mir ganz ausgezeichnet gefallen. Ihr Tagungsplan ist der erste, der mir einleuchtet. Vor allem der Verzicht auf unnütze Publizität. Zwar konnte ich ohnehin nicht nach Pugwash kommen, aber wie ich mir dachte, man werde von allem ein Communiqué machen, war ich froh, dass ich nicht kommen konnte. Ich finde die Auswahl der Leute, den Zeitplan sowohl fuer die Reihenfolge der Treffen wie fuer die Themen des ersten Treffens, die Art der vorsichtigen Einherziehung der Publizisten und Politiker, all das ausgezeichnet. Natürlich behalte ich mir vor, noch andere Einfälle zu haben und plötzlich zu sagen, dies oder jenes sei doch nicht ausgezeichnet und müsste anders sein; dies ist aber meine erste Reaktion. Wenn ich es irgend machen kann, will ich gerne an der Konferenz teilnehmen -- aber nur, wenn Sie durchsetzen, dass man es mit dem Communiqué so hält wie Sie vorschlagen. Chicago als einladende Stelle sehr gern.

Zur Sache ein paar Notizen. Sie gehen von einer Voraussetzung aus, die mir noch ein bisschen optimistisch erscheint; ^{dass nur die} denn von dem ~~beiden Grossmächten wird~~ ^{und} vielleicht England Atommacht sein werden. Zugabe, dass es den andern Ländern heute noch technisch schwer fällt, selber Bomben zu machen -- das kann sich ändern und der Wunsch nach diesem schönen Spielzeug ist allerseits lebhaft. Gerade wenn man Ihnen zustimmt, dass unser heutiges Problem nicht ist die Bomben abzuschaffen, sondern mit ihnen zu leben, scheint mir die Einschränkung ihres Besitzes auf die Grossmächte sehr wichtig. Denken Sie, was geschähe wenn die Deutschen ernstlich in Gang kämen eigene Bomben zu machen. Das rechtzeitig zu verhindern war das wichtigste politische Ziel der Göttinger Erklärung. Der Erfolg war nicht = 0, aber auch nicht = 1 bisher. Immerhin denke ich, dass jetzt bei uns niemand sich so leicht an eigene Produktion machen wird.

Ein wichtiger Discussionsgegenstand ist einerseits "graduated deterrence" (Ihre "restraint"), andererseits Nato-Polizeitruppen. Aber ich will jetzt nicht ins Einzelne gehen. Schön wäre, wenn ich bei Gelegenheit dieses Treffens einmal mit Teller reden könnte. Ich hörte gerne einmal aus seinem Munde, was er denkt. Ich bin nicht mit ihm einig und mag ihn doch gern.

Die besten Grüsse

Ihr C.F. v. Weizsäcker

Adr: bis 31.10. 1957

ab. 1.11: Hamburg, Platonstr. 10. 1. 1957
Börseplatz 2

Unterweg, 16. 9. 57

Werbung?

Meine Sendung vom 16.8. hat nun ganz ausgepackt und fallen. Ihr Tagesplan ist die erste, die nun einleuchtet. Vor allem der Vergleich auf unregelmäßige Publizität. Zwar kommt ich dunkler nicht noch Puzsch kommen, aber da ich nun doch, was werden vor allem ein Communiqué machen, was ich fest, dass ich nicht kommen konnte. Ich finde die Auswahl der Leute, den festplan sowohl für die Redaktionsplan der Treffen wie für die Themen des ersten Treffens, die Art der vorliegenden Einbeziehung der Publizisten und Politiker, als dies ausgepackt. Natürlich behalte ich mir vor, noch andere Einträge zu haben und plötzlich zu sagen, dies oder jenes sei doch nicht ausgepackt und nicht anders sein; dies ist aber meine erste Reaktion. Wenn ich es irgend wann kann, werde ich gerne an diese Konferenz teilnehmen - aber nur, wenn Sie durchsetzen, dass man es mit dem Communiqué so hat wie Sie vorschlagen. Chicago als ideale Stelle sehr fern.

Im Sach eine ganz Notizen. Sie gehen von einer Voraussetzung aus, aber was noch ein bisschen gekürzt ist: dass man die beiden Formwörter und schließlich England Atomwörter sein werden, gegeben, dass es den anderen Ländern heute noch fehlende Schlüssel, selbst Baubau zu machen - das kann sich fördern und der Versuch nach diesem schonen Spielzug ist allerdings beliebt. Gerade wenn man ihnen vorstellen, dass unser heutiges Problem nicht ist, die Baubau abzuschießen, sondern mit ihnen zu leben, scheint mir die Grundstruktur ihres Bezuges auf die Formwörter sehr wichtig. Darüber ist, was geschah, wenn die Deutschen wirklich in ganz können, eigene Baubau zu machen. Das recht fest zu verlocken war das wichtigste politische Ziel der föderalen Entscheidung. Der Erfolg war nicht = 0, aber auch nicht = 1. Ich habe. Inzwischen denke ich, dass jetzt beides niemand sich so leicht als eigene Produktion machen wird.

Ein wichtiger Informationsgegenstand ist ein neues „graduated deterrence“ (eine „restraint“), andererseits Nato-Politik. Aber ich will jetzt nicht ins Eingekerkerte gehen. Schon war, wenn ich bei Gelegenheit dieses Treffens einmal mit Ihnen reden könnte. Ich würde gerne einmal aus meinem Mund, was es denkt. Ich bin nicht mit Ihnen einig und mag Ihnen doch fern.

Die besten Grüße

Der C. F. W. P. 1957

**LUFTPOSTLEICHTBRIEF
AÉROGRAMM**



Prof. Dr. Leo Spicard

*Curcio Ferri Institute for Medical
Studies*

*University of Chicago
Chicago, Ill
USA*

**MIT LUFTPOST
PAR AVION
BY AIR MAIL**

Seiten zusammenfalten, den unteren Teil des Briefes
hochschlagen und mit der Klappe verschließen

DRITTER FALZ

DRITTER FALZ

Wenn dieser Brief irgendwelche Einlagen enthält,
wird er nur durch gewöhnliche Post befördert

Absender:

CF Weipacker
Göttingen
Bismarckstr. 16
Germany

ZWEITER FALZ



ERSTER FALZ

ORGANISATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LA RECHERCHE NUCLÉAIRE
CERN EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH

Téléphone : 34 20 50 (10 lignes)
32 00 40 (10 lignes)

Télégramme : CERNLAB-GENÈVE

Télex : GENÈVE - 2 25 48

Adresser la correspondance :

CERN Genève 23

Professor Leo Szilard
1155, East 57th Street

CHICAGO - 37
Illinois

Votre référence :

Notre référence : CERN/8514

Meyrin-Genève, le

20 May, 1963

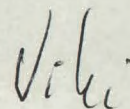
Dear Professor Szilard,

I should like to confirm that the Second Meeting on an International Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Europe will be held on 28 June, 1963, at CERN.

The meeting will start at 10 a.m. in my conference room (2nd floor, Administration Building), and I very much hope that you will be able to join me for lunch on that occasion.

Needless to say that, if your Institute cannot bear your travel expenses, CERN will be glad to reimburse them.

Very sincerely yours,



Victor F. Weisskopf
Director-General.

June 7, 1963

Dr. Victor Weisskopf
Director General
CERN
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Weisskopf:

Sometime ago, I had a correspondence with Weizsaecker about the possibility of setting up a biological laboratory in Geneva, and his response was very positive. I believe that you have copies of the exchanged letters in your file. It is conceivable that one might get the Volkswagenstiftung, which has \$25 million a year to spend, interested in this problem, and this is a matter in which Weizsaecker could be of great help.

In these circumstances, I wonder whether you might not be able to prevail upon him to attend your meeting at the end of the month.

I have received your letter and I plan to be there.

Sincerely,



Leo Szilard

June 17, 1963

MEMORANDUM

From: Leo Szilard
To: *Victor Weisskopf*
Subject: Conversation with Dr. Andre Cournand

On June 15th, I discussed with Dr. Andre Cournand the problem of setting up a European laboratory for biology in Geneva. He was very enthusiastic about this possibility and offered to do whatever is necessary to get the French Government interested in the project.

He will be in Paris from July 10th until the 22nd and possibly until the 25th. He offered to arrange for me to see Marechal (Delegue General, Recherche Scientifique et Technique), Piganiol (the former Delegue General) and also Palewsky. He said that it would probably be possible for me to meet Marechal in Chamonix between July 14th and 20th.

I told Dr. Cournand that I shall write him, after the meeting of June 28th in Geneva, at his New York address, 1361 Madison Avenue, New York.

Since it is probably true that nobody is a prophet in his own country, I am perfectly willing to see in Paris whoever Dr. Cournand wants me to see, if this is deemed advisable. I am inclined to think that thereafter somebody from England, either Kendrew or Waddington, ought to take over and maintain contact with the French "Establishment".

We can discuss all this at the Geneva meeting on June 28th. At that time we can also discuss whether perhaps Monod ought to establish and to maintain contact with the British Government.

Cournand is visiting Paris three times a year. His address in Paris is care of Dr. Sauvage, 20 rue Vaneau, Paris 7^e, telephone: Invalides 14-38. As long as he is willing to carry the ball perhaps it would be best to channel everything through him.

We can discuss this issue on June 28th.

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June 18, 1963

Professor Victor Weisskopf
Director General
CERN
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Weisskopf:

I have a private communication from a friend who is with the Volkswagenstiftung advising me that in his opinion the Volkswagenstiftung might be induced to contribute to the initial cost of the building, but not to current cost of maintainance. I have entre to the General Secretary of the Foundation, Mr. Gambke, who read the VOICE OF THE DOLPHINS and I understand that he would be very much interested in discussing the matter with me, ~~and~~ Kendrew and also Weizsaecker, if Weizsaecker is interested. My friend suggests that we ought to involve Delbruck also because of his contacts with the Foundation. Accordingly, if Delbruck is generally sympathetic to the project, I would suggest that you try to get him to attend the June 28th meeting.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



Leo Szilard

June 19, 1963

Professor Victor Weisskopf
Director General
CERN
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Weisskopf:

Enclosed is a memorandum which I propose to discuss with you, Monod, Kendrew, Waddington and the others at our meeting of June 28th.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Enclosure

cc & enclosure: Jacques Monod
John Kendrew

May 7, 1964

Professor Victor Weisskopf ✓
Director General
CERN
Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Vickie:

Enclosed is a preprint which might interest you.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS:jm

Enclosure

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

19

To

Street and No.

Place

COPIED FROM ORIGINAL
IN THIS OFFICE

~~MANUSCRIPTS TO COOPERATING LABORATORIES IN AMERICA ENGLAND FRANCE AND
DENMARK STOP COMMUNICATING BLACKETT AND DIRAC IN ATTEMPT TO SECURE GIFT
COOPERATION OF NATURE AND PROCEEDINGS ROYAL SOCIETY STOP PLEASE CABLE
WEISSKOPF FINE HALL PRINCETON NJ~~

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

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PRESIDENT

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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

19

To HANS VON HALBAN

Street and No. 11 RUE GUYNETER

Place SCEAUX 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 SECONDS 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 COMMUNICATED IN

Sender's address
for reference

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

Sender's telephone
number

HANS VON HALBAN

11 RUE GUYNEMER

SCEAUX 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 SCILLARDS LETTER TO JOLIOT FEBRUARY
SECOND AND THESE PAPERS ARE STILL HELD UP BUT
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
BE HELD UP UNTIL IT IS CERTAIN THAT NO HARMFUL
CONSEQUENCES TO BE FEARED STOP RESULTS WOULD BE
COMMUNICATED IN MANUSCRIPTS TO COOPERATING
LABORATORIES IN AMERIKA 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

HANS VON HALBAN

11 RUE GUYNEMER

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BEFORE PUBLICATION OF YOUR NOTE STOP AUTHORS
AGREED HOWEVER TO DELAY PUBLICATION FOR REASONS
INDICATED IN ~~SE~~ *SE* *12* *AR* *DS* 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
~~BE HELD UP~~ 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 COMMUNICATING BLACKETT AND DIRAC IN ATTEMPT
TO GET COOPERATION OF NATURE AND PROCEEDINGS ROYAL
SOCIETY STOP PLEASE CABLE

WEISSKOPF

FINE HALL PRINCETON NJ

COPY.

March 31st, 1939

HANS VON HALBAN

11 RUE GUYNEMER
SCRAUX SEINE

KINDLY INFORM JOLIOU 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 JOLIOU FEBRUARY SECOND AND THESE PAPERS ARE STILL HELD UP STOP NEWS FROM JOLIOU 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 JOLIOU 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 "21" FEVRIER SUR TRAVAUX ROBERTS STOP LETTRE SUIV
JOLIOU HALBAN KOWARSKY

April 6, 1939

JOLIO
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 TUVES 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

MLT 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 SUIIS D AVIS MAINTENANT PUBLIER AMITIES
JOLIO

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

April 17.

Lieber Szilard,

Danke für Ihren Brief. Sie haben hoffentlich
Blackett vom Zusammenbruch der Kooperation
telegraphisch mitgeteilt.

Ich bin sehr neugierig auf die Resultate
Ihrer weiteren Versuche. Ich bin Donnerstag u.
Freitag in Washington, Samstag u. Sonntag in
New York. Die langsame Bombe dürfte nicht
fehlen auf Grund von Diskussionen zwischen Teller, Rohr,
Bethe u. mir.

Reyl. fress

Her Wissenschaft

positive

negative

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Omit

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
College of Arts and Science
Rochester, New York

Department of Physics

April 17

Dear Szilard,

Thank you for your letter. I hope you telegraphed
Blackett about the collapse of cooperation.

I am very curious about the results of your further
experiments. I will be in Washington Thursday and
Friday, in New York Saturday and Sunday. The slow
bomb¹ might not come about according to discussions
between Teller, Bohr, Bethe and me.

Best wishes,

Yours,

Weisskopf

Translation from German.

54
THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
College of Arts and Science
Rochester, New York

Department of Physics

April 17.

Lieber Szilard,

Danke für Ihren Brief. Sie haben hoffentlich
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Washington, Samstag u. Sonntag in New York. Die lang-
same Bombe¹ durfte nicht gehen auf Grund von Diskussion
zwischen Teller, Bohr, Bethe u. mir.

Herzl. Gruss

Ihr

Weisskopf

Original is handwritten.

1. I.e., bomb with slow-neutron chain reaction
(as in a nuclear reactor), in contrast to one with fast
neutrons.