

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR WORLD GOVERNMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, S.W.1

19 October, 1953.

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*Clerk to Group*

PATRICK ARMSTRONG

Telephone: WH1tehall 6240  
extension 625

Dear Professor Szilard,

I think you may be glad to have copies of the Resolutions which the World Government Conference adopted at Copenhagen in the last week of August.

The recommendations in Chapter II were designed as immediately practical changes which the UN might now adopt. It was felt that if these alterations could be agreed the effectiveness of the UN, and thus the general atmosphere of international relations, might so improve as to make the ultimate transformation of the UN into a World Federal Parliament, envisaged by the recommendations of Chapter I more feasible.

The fact that the governments of USA, Holland, Argentina and Egypt have now each officially announced their intention to support some kind of Charter Revision in 1955 provides our work with an increased relevance. In his speech to the UN on September 17th Mr. Dulles said that the proposals for Charter revision currently being canvassed by 'unofficial organisations' should be carefully examined.

This Group sent eleven of its members, led by our Chairman, to the Copenhagen Conference. There were over 450 delegates from 25 countries present, including parliamentarians from 16 of them. The principal delegates were officially received by the Danish Foreign Minister and by the Mayor of Copenhagen.

We are encouraged by the success of the Conference to believe that 1955 will offer a real opportunity to the world to take a step towards strengthening the UN in the direction of World Government. We believe that widespread discussion of the issues involved will greatly assist the chances of successful action by governments. I shall therefore look forward to receiving your comments on our proposals. We shall value very much any contribution you may care to make to this Great Debate.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Osborne  
John See

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PATRICK ARMSTRONG

Telephone: Whitehall 6240  
extension 625

13th July, 1954.

Dear Professor Szilard,

Professor Alexander Haddow, who is at present on a journey to Brazil, has passed on to me a copy of your letter to him dated the 26th June and his reply of 1st July. Just before leaving, he informed me that the prospects of money from the Carnegie were not very encouraging, but I do hope this will not prevent you from coming. I think it is of the greatest importance that you and if possible some of your colleagues should be present at our Conference or in the few days immediately preceding. I understand from Professor Haddow's office that Domagk, Edsell, Girard, Andre Mayer, James Warburg and possibly Oliphant have accepted invitations. de Castro is coming from Brazil and there are three further people whose replies have still to come in.

As regards the Conference itself, twenty-six members of the British Parliament have stated that they hope to participate. I am sure there will be many more if distinguished scientists like yourself are present. As you know the Hydrogen bomb has had a profound affect in this country, and for the first time in years people are ready to listen. I wish we could help by financing you to get over here but our till is pretty well empty and we are going to have very big expenses for this Conference which keep me awake at night, I can tell you.

We are the more anxious that you shall come because we want you to be one of the principal speakers at the big meeting in the Central Hall Westminster on Thursday, September 9th. This is the hall where the United Nations Assembly first met in 1946.

I understand that Haddow's office is writing

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to the other names you suggested. We very much hope that some of them will be able to accept.

Yours sincerely,

*Henry Usborne*

Henry Usborne M.P.

Chairman

Conference Arrangements Committee

Professor Leo Szilard,  
Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics,  
University of Chicago,  
Chicago 37,  
Illinois,  
U.S.A.



House of Commons,

London, S.W.1

Private

3rd August, 1954.

Dear Dr. Szilard,

Thank you for your letter of July 24th.  
I appreciate your views.

I agree with you that the most important job for us to do right now is to try and find a line of satisfactory policy for application in the context of today's political realities. This is very difficult.

The other day I committed some of my most recent thoughts to paper for the benefit of a few of my colleagues in the House of Commons. I am not entirely satisfied with the position I am seeming to adopt. But I know no better one. If you had a moment to let me have your reactions to the enclosed document I should be most grateful. Please keep all this private and out of print.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Henry Osborne'.

Henry Osborne

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

Encl.