

Plas Penrhyn,
Penrhyndeudraeth,
Merioneth,
N. Wales.

15 January, 1956. ¹⁹⁵⁷

Dear Mr. Eaton,

Thank you very much for your letter of December 3rd last, and the generous offer which you make for the support of the international conference which we are hoping to arrange. After discussion, my colleagues and I have reached the conclusion that Nova Scotia would be a very suitable place to hold our conference and I am very glad to accept your offer.

You have very kindly indicated that you could provide for the accommodation of members of the conference and, where necessary, for some of the travelling expenses: and that you anticipate that the Canadian government would raise no objection to the admission of scientists from Communist countries. This would solve most of our difficulties, but there is one further point on which I should like to seek your advice:-

In sending out invitations, I thought it expedient to emphasise that the meeting would be an entirely private one. I suggested that, at the end of the conference, it would be for the members to decide whether the fact that it had been held should be made known, and whether any of its conclusions should be published. I took this course to avoid attendance being limited by the fear of publicity, and to help in securing the widest possible representation at the conference. I should therefore be much obliged if you would inform me whether, in your view, a meeting in Pugwash could be of the private character I have indicated.

I believe that a successful meeting in Pugwash would be of great value in promoting an exchange of views between widely representative scientists from all the major countries. Such a meeting in the summer would be very timely, and my colleagues and I greatly appreciate the assistance which you have offered. In view of the fact that many of those who have tentatively accepted invitations are university professors with particular responsibilities in the early summer, we have made enquiries to find the earliest date generally convenient. We find that the first week in July is too early for some members. The best dates for the conference appears to be July 8th - 11th inclusive, with the members assembling on July 6th and 7th.

Yours sincerely,

Russell

Mr. Cyrus S. Eaton,
Chairman,
The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company,
Terminal Tower,
Cleveland, Ohio.

January 21, 1957

My Lord:

Many thanks for your cable of the 11th and your letter of the 15th. I am delighted to know that you and your colleagues have concluded that Pugwash would be a suitable place to hold your conference.

The meeting can, of course, be of a completely private character in the sense that only those whom you invite will participate. I am in complete sympathy with your desire to avoid all publicity. Inasmuch as some members of the conference will need Canadian visas, there is some possibility that word of the impending visit of renowned scientists may leak out of Ottawa. I know I need not remind you that you, for instance, are a world-famous personage, to whose activities tremendous public interest attaches.

The dates from July 6th through 11th that you mention are fine. In fact, we are holding Pugwash at your disposal from the 1st to the 14th of July. If you would prefer an even later time, however, the dates could be re-arranged to suit your preference if you would let me know by return message. There are two conferences of college presidents for which the dates are to be set as soon as the time for your meeting is definitely fixed. Unless I hear from you to the contrary this week, I shall assume that you will plan on the July 6th through 11th period.

I shall be glad to send along some funds to cover preliminary expenses if you will give me some idea of what you think might be needed. I should like to have you feel free to obtain whatever clerical assistance might seem desirable. Perhaps you will also want to enlist the cooperation of someone in Great Britain who can relieve you of as many burdensome details as possible. I should appreciate it if you would let me have your ideas on this subject.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

The Rt. Hon. Earl Russell
Plas Penrhyn
Penrhyndudraeth
Merioneth
N. Wales

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Plas Penrhyn,
Penrhyndeudraeth,
Merioneth.

8th February, 1957

Dear Mr. Eaton,

I thank you very much for your letter of January 21st confirming that the dates suggested for the International Conference of scientists are suitable to you and that it will be of a completely private character. I suggest that the formal business of the Conference should be conducted between July 8th and 11th, but that the scientists should arrive on July 6th so as to give them two days for preliminary informal talks.

I am now writing to all the scientists invited to confirm that they will be able to come. As soon as I have the list of acceptances I will send it to you. I expect that there will be about 25 participants. I shall also let you know at the earliest opportunity the number of people who will require financial assistance for travelling expenses.

It is very kind of you to offer some funds to cover preliminary expenses. At the moment these are small and we are managing with our own resources. Much of the preparatory work is being done by

Professor J. Rotblat,
Physics Department,
Medical College of St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
Charterhouse Square,
London, E.C.1.

and perhaps you would get in touch with him if you want details about the organisation of the Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Bertrand Russell