

Via Trans-Atlantic Air Mail

December 3, 1956

My Lord:

Many thanks for your letter of November 19th. I am pleased to know that you are considering Pugwash as the possible site of the proposed international meeting of nuclear scientists.

Pugwash enjoys ideal summer weather, but the severity of its late winter and early spring climate would make an Easter meeting impossible. Canada will be holding a national election in 1957; the date has not been fixed, but early June is the probable time. It would be well to have the election out of the way before the meeting. Much as I recognize the merit of your Easter suggestion, therefore, I should like to propose a period that would include both July 1, Canadian Dominion Day, and July 4, U. S. Independence Day, two national holidays that are dedicated to the highest principles. The ideal starting date would be June 29 or June 30.

I would, of course, provide all necessary meeting, sleeping and dining facilities, as well as any clerical help that might be required. I would also be glad to assume traveling expenses for those participants who desired it. Last summer, Soviet Russia and the People's Republic of China preferred to pay the traveling expenses of their representatives.

For a successful conference, I agree completely with you that the Communist countries would have to be represented. Inasmuch as Canada allowed us to have scholars from Soviet Russia and the People's Republic of China at Pugwash last summer, I would anticipate no difficulty on this score in 1957. I shall be seeing the Prime Minister of Canada later this month, and will get his assurance at that time.

In our international meetings at Pugwash in 1955 and 1956, we had the cooperation of McGill University, through Dr. Cyril James, Principal, and Dr. Noel Fieldhouse, Dean. I am sure McGill would again want to play a helpful part in 1957. I would also look for the blessing of The University of Chicago, of which I have been a trustee for many years, and which has had a vital role in nuclear developments. I am also a long-time trustee of Case Institute of Technology, whose President is a past member of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Microfilm Edition of the Papers of the American Historical Society, 1085. For more information, see the American Historical Society, 1085. For more information, see the American Historical Society, 1085.

Canada, as one of the world's major sources of uranium, would be a highly appropriate setting for an international meeting of nuclear scientists. From my old friendship with Prime Minister St. Laurent, I feel sure we could count on Government cooperation. Pugwash is in Nova Scotia, adjacent to both Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, so that we can also be assured of the friendly interest of all three of these Maritime Provinces.

I would naturally rely on you to select the participants in the meeting, set up the agenda and arrange the procedure. If my ideas appeal to you, perhaps you would let me know soon what starting date would be convenient and for how long a period you would like to have the meetings run.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

The Rt. Hon. Earl Russell
41 Queen's Road
Richmond
Surrey
England

CE:rmb

P.S. I am also sending a copy of this letter to your address in N. Wales.

C. E.

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