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Mr. Cyrus Eaton
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Dear Mr. Eaton:

You may be interested to know that Professor Topchiev sent us a cable agreeing to the suggested postponement, and asked that the Conference committee meets in London in September to discuss the matter. While he appears to be not very happy about the postponement, I hope that at the Committee meeting, he will be convinced that our suggestion was not motivated by any reluctance to attend a meeting in Moscow, but only by a desire to assure the best possible participation, and we did not want to make the Russians go through considerable efforts of preparation only to be disappointed by the size and quality of the American group. I hope the Russians will agree to have the meeting held in the USSR later this year.

On this occasion, may I tell you of some thoughts which have been on my mind for several months? Dr. Szilard's illness, in particular, has made me acutely aware of the uncertainty of efforts based on a single or a few individuals. I feel that the Pugwash activities, as well as the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' initiated and carried on by a few individuals, need a more stable foundation.

I firmly believe that with the Pugwash meetings of scientists, we have started something really important, for the future of mankind, something extending beyond the immediate problem of influencing the policies of our governments in the direction of greater reasonableness.

The new age, opened by the discovery of atomic energy, will require all peoples and all governments to readjust their traditional thinking and to discard many deeply engrained attitudes. All peoples will have to learn tolerance for different political and economic systems, to make scientific and technological cooperation among all nations possible. We will need to foster greater political consciousness of scientists as well as greater scientific consciousness of politicians. We will need growing international cooperation among scientists, and continuing efforts of scientists to influence their governments and the public opinion at home.

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Mr. Cyrus Eaton

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I believe that an important step could be the creation of a center devoted to the study of these problems, fostering of constructive ideas and strengthening of progressive influences; and where could such a center be more appropriately located than in Chicago, the birthplace of atomic energy?

Such a center could give a permanent home to the Pugwash movement and to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; and it could be used for studies and conferences on relevant subjects, including securing and maintaining peace, fostering constructive cooperation, and developing new educational programs, needed to bring to the people a better understanding of the new role of science in public affairs. Fellowships to students and young graduates interested in the subject, could be provided--in particular, travelling fellowships for foreign students from all countries. Special library facilities could be established, to complement the large facilities existing in the different Chicago libraries.

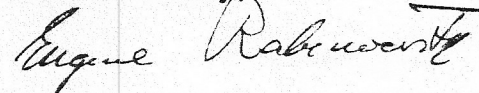
Knowing your deep concern with the perils of the atomic age, which may arise from unenlightened ^{the} views of scientific discoveries, and your awareness of the unlimited possibilities of constructive use of science for the benefit of all mankind, I thought you may be interested in such a project. I believe that it could make you feel that your great initiative in helping mankind to overcome the dangers of the present arms race, will not end with your life, but will continue working for a long time in the future.

I feel in the same way about my own efforts on behalf of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and the Pugwash movement, and therefore hope for your understanding.

If you are interested in this plan, I would be glad to discuss it with you and Mrs. Eaton in a more concrete way at some early time at your convenience.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



Eugene Rabinowitch
Editor

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