

COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/327
8 September 1982
Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT ENTITLED "THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WAR" ISSUED AT THE 32ND PUGWASH CONFERENCE HELD IN WARSAW, POLAND, FROM 26 TO 31 AUGUST 1982.

I permit myself to enclose herewith the text of the Declaration of the PUGWASH Movement and 97 Nobel Laureates on "The Dangers of Nuclear War" issued at the 32nd PUGWASH Conference held in Warsaw, Poland, on 26-31 August, 1982, on the occasion of the XXVth Anniversary of PUGWASH Movement.

May I ask you that this Declaration be circulated as an official document of the Committee on Disarmament.

(Signed) Dr. Bogumil Sujka
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WAR: DECLARATION OF THE PUGWASH MOVEMENT ^{*/}
AND 97 NOBEL LAUREATES

Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein, together with nine other eminent scientists, issued in July 1955 a clarion call to the world scientific community. The devastating power of the hydrogen bomb and its evident ability to destroy civilization in the event of a nuclear war was the driving force behind their Manifesto which began: "In the tragic situation which confronts humanity, we feel that scientists should assemble in conference to appraise the perils that have arisen as a result of the development of weapons of mass destruction", and it continued: "We are speaking on this occasion, not as members of this or that nation, continent, or creed, but as human beings, members of the species Man, whose continued existence is in doubt ..."

In response to this appeal, the first Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs was held two years later in July 1957, in the Canadian village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia. It heralded the start of a series of meetings of scientists, from all parts of the globe, that is now reaching its XXVth Anniversary.

In the years following the Manifesto, the "cold war" abated and an important start was made in the process of détente. Thus, the achievement of the Partial Test-Ban Treaty of 1963, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1970, the Biological Weapons Ban of 1972, the first Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I), including the ban on anti-ballistic missiles (ABM), also in 1972, and its recently negotiated successor (SALT II) of 1978, all stand as milestones to past progress. In these achievements, Pugwash and other scientists played a significant role.

But these steps represent only a small beginning towards the vital goal of comprehensive nuclear disarmament under effective international control.

In addition to this modest progress in the realm of nuclear arms control, some useful actions were undertaken by the relatively affluent nations towards narrowing the tragic and unacceptable economic gap between themselves and the less-developed nations, another major cause of the tensions and conflicts that could lead to the world holocaust we are so desperately trying to avert.

In spite of these advances, the dangers to human survival posed by the increased arms race and by the dangerous confrontation between the major antagonists have in recent years grown more ominous. Disarmament seems further away than ever. Indeed, weapons of mass destruction proliferate, and some national leaders seem to accept such dangerous and delusory concepts as "limited" or even "winnable" nuclear wars. The spill-over of the strategic confrontation between the major powers into the Third World, and the endless chain of wars that have taken place among small nations since World War II, add to these dangers. The world continues to head at an ever-accelerating pace towards the ultimate crisis from which there is no return.

^{*/} On the occasion of the XXVth Pugwash Anniversary Conference in Warsaw, 26-31 August 1982

As long as nuclear weapons remain in the arsenals, with the number of nations possessing them threatening to increase greatly in the absence of a more effective world-wide non-proliferation arrangement, we shall continue to live on the brink of global disaster. Pugwash has studied these problems for many years, and we remain convinced that disarmament is technically possible; all that is lacking is political will. Comprehensive nuclear disarmament — and, eventually, disarmament of chemical, "conventional", and other weapons as well — must remain our major goal. In the meantime, however, pending the achievement of this aim we must strive to build an effective barrier, universally accepted and adhered to, against any actual use of nuclear weapons. As our medical colleagues emphasize, casualties resulting from only one large nuclear bomb on one major city could not be effectively dealt with by the medical resources of an entire country. The nations of the world, and especially the so-called nuclear powers, must recognize and accept the fact that nuclear weapons simply cannot be used to resolve any possible issue between them, and that the use of a nuclear weapon in a conflict is suicidal folly that may well spell the extermination of the antagonists, as well as a large portion of the rest of the world.

The current monstrously high levels of deployed nuclear arms must be reduced as soon as possible. To reverse the present arms race we must first stop racing. This calls for a "stand-still freeze" on current nuclear arsenals as an effective way of initiating the essential process of nuclear disarmament. Such a freeze should also include the development of new weapon technologies, a major factor in fueling the runaway competition in modern weapons and systems of mass destruction.

In the circumstances in which mankind now finds itself, the warning sounded so eloquently 27 years ago in the Russell-Einstein Manifesto takes on a new urgency: "There lies before us, if we choose, continual progress in happiness, knowledge, and wisdom. Shall we, instead choose death, because we cannot forget our quarrels? We appeal, as human beings to human beings; Remember your humanity and forget the rest."

There is still time to choose, but this time is fast running out.

WE NOW APPEAL:

TO OUR COLLEAGUES OF THE WORLD'S SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY: ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AND BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ACTIONS TO AVERT NUCLEAR WAR.

TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD: SEEK A COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AIMED AT ELIMINATING THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR, AND THE DANGER TO CIVILIZATION INVOLVED IN ANY USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

TO ALL PEOPLES: SUPPORT MEASURES TO REMOVE THE NUCLEAR MENACE THAT THREATENS THE SURVIVAL OF MANKIND.

LIST OF NOBEL LAUREATES WHO SIGNED THE PUGWASH DECLARATION
ON ITS 25th ANNIVERSARY

Australia

Frank MacFarlane Burnet (Physiology or Medicine)

Canada

Gerhard Herzberg (Chemistry)

France

Jean Dausset (Physiology or Medicine)

Francois Jacob (Physiology or Medicine)

Alfred Kastler (Physics)

André Lwoff (Physiology or Medicine)

Germany

Adolf Butenandt (Chemistry)

Manfred Eigen (Chemistry)

Ernest O. Fischer (Chemistry)

Karl von Frisch (Physiology or Medicine)

Rudolf L. Mössbauer (Physics)

Ireland

Ernest T.S. Walton (Physics)

Netherlands

Nikolaas Tinbergen (Physiology or Medicine)

Pakistan

Abdus Salam (Physics)

Soviet Union

Nikolai Basov (Physics)

Pavel Cherenkov (Physics)

Ilya Frank (Physics)

Peter Kapitza (Physics)

Aleksander Prokhorov (Physics)

Nikolai Semenov (Chemistry)

Sweden

Ulf S. von Euler (Physiology or Medicine)
Ragnar Granit (Physiology or Medicine)
Kai Siegbahn (Physics)
Hugo Theorell (Physiology or Medicine)

Switzerland

Werner Arber (Physiology or Medicine)
Vladimir Prelog (Chemistry)

United Kingdom

Derek Barton (Chemistry)
John Cornforth (Chemistry)
Antony Hewish (Physics)
Alan Hodgkin (Physiology or Medicine)
Dorothy Hodgkin (Chemistry)
Godfrey Hounsfield (Physiology or Medicine)
Brian D. Josephson (Physics)
John Kendrew (Chemistry)
Archer J.P. Martin (Chemistry)
Peter Medawar (Physiology or Medicine)
Peter Mitchell (Chemistry)
Nevill Mott (Physics)
Max Perutz (Chemistry)
George Porter (Chemistry)
Rodney R. Porter (Physiology or Medicine)
Martin Ryle (Physics)
Frederick Sanger (Chemistry)
Richard L.M. Synge (Chemistry)
Alexander Todd (Chemistry)
Maurice Wilkins (Physiology or Medicine)

United States

Philip Anderson (Physics)
Christian B. Anfinsen (Chemistry)
Julius Axelrod (Physiology or Medicine)
David Baltimore (Physiology or Medicine)
Baruj Benacerraf (Physiology or Medicine)
Paul Berg (Chemistry)

Hans A. Bethe (Physics)
Konrad Bloch (Physiology or Medicine)
Nicolaas Bloembergen (Physics)
Baruch Blumberg (Physiology or Medicine)
Harold C. Brown (Chemistry)
Carl F. Cori (Physiology or Medicine)
Allan M. Cormack (Physiology or Medicine)
Andre Courand (Physiology or Medicine)
James W. Cronin (Physics)
Renato Dulbecco (Physiology or Medicine)
John F. Enders (Physiology or Medicine)
Richard P. Feynmann (Physics)
Val L. Fitch (Physics)
Paul J. Flory (Chemistry)
Ivar Giaever (Physics)
Donald A. Glaser (Physics)
Sheldon L. Glashow (Physics)
Roger Guillemin (Physiology or Medicine)
Haldan K. Hartline (Physiology or Medicine)
Alfred D. Hershey (Physiology or Medicine)
Roald Hoffmann (Chemistry)
Robert Hofstadter (Physics)
Robert W. Holley (Physiology or Medicine)
David H. Hubel (Physiology or Medicine)
Har G. Khorana (Physiology or Medicine)
Arthur Kornberg (Physiology or Medicine)
Polykarp Kusch (Physics)
Fritz Lipmann (Physiology or Medicine)
William M. Lipscomb (Chemistry)
Salvador E. Luria (Physiology or Medicine)
Edwin M. McMillan (Chemistry)
Robert S. Mulliken (Chemistry)
Daniel Nathans (Physiology or Medicine)
Severo Ochoa (Physiology or Medicine)
Linus Pauling (Chemistry)

Edward M. Purcell (Physics)
James Rainwater (Physics)
Burton Richter (Physics)
Emilio Segre (Physics)
George D. Snell (Physiology or Medicine)
Roger W. Sperry (Physiology or Medicine)
George Wald (Physiology or Medicine)
Steven Weinberg (Physics)
Thomas H. Weller (Physiology or Medicine)
Torsten N. Wiesel (Physiology or Medicine)