

41 Queens Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.

July 6th, 1956.

Dear Professor Dufeld

You will remember that in July of last year you were one of the signatories of a letter which suggested that scientists should meet in conference to appraise the perils associated with the development of weapons of mass destruction, and to discuss a resolution urging governments to find peaceful means for the settlement of all matters in dispute between them.

Nearly a year has passed since that letter was published and during this time there has been a substantial reduction in international tension; there still, however, seem to be important reasons for holding a meeting of scientists, some of which are set out in the appended letter.

The object of the enclosed draft letter is to invite a number of distinguished scientists to meet as a committee for the purpose of making an appraisal of the present dangers arising from weapons of mass destruction. I hope it will be generally agreed by all those who have been working towards this end, that, to be effective, such a committee should be drawn from scientists of the highest integrity who are widely representative of different political and other opinions. A proper balance in this respect appears to be of central importance.

It has been suggested to me that it would be both appropriate and possible for the meeting of this committee to be held in India, shortly before the Indian Science Conference which takes place in the first week of January, 1957, and I feel that it should be limited to about twenty scientists. I thought that invitations might be sent, in the first instance, to the following scientists :-

Oliphant (Australia); Li Tee Kuang (China); Bohr (Denmark); Lacassagne (France); Hahn, Hertz (Germany); Hinshelwood, Haddow (Great Britain); Kothari, Krishnan (India); Amaldi (Italy); Tomonaga (Japan); Hevesy (Sweden); Rabinowitch, Weisskopf (U.S.A.); Topchiev, Nesmeyanov (U.S.S.R.).

Doubtless not all those approached would feel able to take part, and other approaches would have to be made subsequently to such personalities as seemed desirable, in order that the prime requirements of a balanced committee should be fulfilled.

I should be glad to know, at your early convenience, whether you would consent to sign the draft letter, as it stands or suitably amended; whether you would feel able to take part in the work of the committee; and whether you would care to make suggestions of the names of other scientists whom you consider it would be appropriate to invite. I should be grateful if, in considering these proposals, you would not take into consideration, in the first instance, the expense of the journey to India and subsistence therein. I hope that it may be possible, by calling on a variety of resources, to make provision for a major part of the costs involved.

Yours sincerely,

Bertand Russell

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