

APPENDIX 4

Letter from Professor Joliot-Curie, President of the World Federation of Scientific Workers to Monsieur E.N. van Kleffens, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Paris, 5th November, 1954.

Mr. President,

I have the honour to address you in the name of the World Federation of Scientific Workers which includes 141,000 scientists belonging to 16 organisations in the principal countries, notably the United States, Great Britain, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, France, China, Japan, India, etc. I write, more particularly in the name of the Bureau of our Federation which includes besides myself:-

Professor J.D. Bernal, F.R.S. (Great Britain)
Professor Li Tze Kwang, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of China
Professor Linus Pauling, F.R.S. Member of the National Academy of Science (United States).
Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.
A.I. Oparin, member of the Academy of Science of the U.S.S.R.
Professor C.F. Powell, F.R.S., Nobel Laureate in Physics (Great Britain)
J.G. Crowther, Secretary General of the World Federation of Scientific Workers.

The questions which we would like, through your good offices, to place before the General Assembly, have concerned all our members since the foundation of our Federation in London in 1946. I am sure they have also occupied the thoughts of the majority of scientists throughout the world. They are the questions of the peaceful applications of the new discoveries of science (particularly atomic energy) and the problems posed by the development of weapons of mass destruction.

Many organisations, national and international, have, at various times concentrated their attention on these problems and have attempted to alert public opinion and the Governments of all countries. We have also learned with much interest that the General Assembly of the United Nations is going to discuss the convocation of international scientific conference which will have to consider these problems.

We would particularly draw your attention to two points:

1. The agenda of such a conference should deal not only with the peaceful application of atomic energy but equally with the problems which cause the greatest anxiety among all citizens and the solution of which rests a great deal with scientists conscious of their duty and responsibility. These are for example, the dangers of atomic, nuclear and biological weapons, etc.

The examination of the scientific and technical possibility of the control of atomic energy and atomic weapons in the light of the latest scientific data. The medical aspects of atomic energy, etc.

2. In order that the projected conference should have its full effect, it seems essential that scientific organisations, which concern themselves with the social implications of science, should be asked to participate in the conference.

That the opinions of scientists representing important scientific organisations, not necessarily designated by their Governments and for this reason free from prior instructions, should be heard.

We do not wish to give here a complete list of such organisations but will mention some examples:-

- (a) among international organisations: the World Federation of Scientific Workers, la Société Européenne de Culture, etc.
- (b) among National Organisations:
in Great Britain:- The Association of Scientific Workers (affiliated to the W.F.S.W.).
The Atomic Scientists Association, etc.
in the U.S.A.: The Association of Scientific Workers (affiliated to the W.F.S.W.). The Federation of American Scientists. The Society for Social Responsibility of Science, etc.
in the U.S.S.R.: L'Union des Travailleurs Culturels (affiliated to the W.F.S.W.).

in France:- l'Association des Travailleurs Scientifiques (affiliated to the W.F.S.W.).
Syndicat National des travailleurs de l'Energie Atomique (affiliated to the W.F.S.W.)

in India:- The Association of Scientific Workers (affiliated to the W.F.S.W.).

in Japan:- The Japanese Science Congress. The Union of Democratic Scientists of Japan
(affiliated to the W.F.S.W.).

in China:- The Chinese Federation of Scientific Societies (affiliated to the W.F.S.W.).

We are completely at your disposal to give you all the information that you wish to obtain.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my very high esteem.

for the Bureau of the World
Federation of Scientific Workers.

Frederic Joliot-Curie,

Membre de l'Academie des Sciences,
Prix Nobel de Chimie.

Letter from Monsieur E.N. van Klaffens, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to
Professor Joliot-Curie, President of the World Federation of Scientific Workers.

United Nations - New York,
Bureau of the President of the
General Assembly.
9th November, 1954.

Mr. President,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 5th which I have considered
with care.

The contents of this letter will appear in the document A/INF/60/Add. 5 which will be placed
before the members of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my high esteem.

E.N. van Klaffens
President of the General Assembly.