

Pres Smiley

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1006 JILA Bldg.

May 27, 1968

Prof. Abdus Salam
Institute of Theoretical Physics
Grignano, Trieste,
Italy

Dear Abdus:

I am writing to ask you to lend support to an idea in which I am trying to interest our Government.

Item 1 is an article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists for March 1964. Item 2 is a book review from the Bulletin for October 1967. Item 3 is a story from Karachi from the N. Y. Times for May 21.

I hope to enlist support for the broad idea of more support for international education. The only thing I am adding to the general idea as expressed by you in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists for February 1968 is that much can be accomplished by using military surplus property.

Specifically, I raise the question as to whether the base at Peshawar could be converted to use for international education by a joint agreement of the U.S., U.S.S.R., India, and, (is it too much to hope?) China, negotiated and set up through the good offices of the Pakistan government as the host nation.

You are, of course, familiar with the Middle East Technical University at Ankara. Item 4 is a brief description of it. What a wonderful thing it would be if we could convert the Peshawar base into an analogous center of international cooperation to serve this region as a meeting ground of Russians, Chinese, Indians, and Americans for scientific and technical cooperation under Pakistani auspices! How nice it would be if we could get the whole thing going before May 1970, the tenth anniversary of the famous U-2 flight which took off from there!

I think it would be fine if you would communicate this dream to Foreign Minister Arshad Husain and get his reaction to it. Do tell me if, because of your superior knowledge of the hard realities, this idea seems impracticable to you. If it is practicable, let's work together to put it over.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

E. U. Condon

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Encls.

Dear Joe: Maybe you can
lend a helping hand with LBJ!

Pres. Smiley

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER, COLORADO 80302

Ed

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1006 JILA Bldg.

May 27, 1968

Dr. Harold Brown
416 Argyle Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22305

Dear Dr. Brown:

I write to your home address because I would like to enlist your personal interest in an idea -- you will know best whether it is feasible and how best to push it in official channels if it is.

I have long been interested in promotion of education for world understanding. Item 1 is from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists for March 1964, based on a talk originally given at Oberlin College on November 1, 1962 at the time of the Cuban missile crisis. Item 2 is a book review of Michael Zweig's "The Idea of a World University" in which I return to the same theme.

What made me decide to write to you at this time is an article in the New York Times for May 21 (Item 3) about the closing of a base in Peshawar in Pakistan which is to occur next year. See also Item 3' about the NATO property in Paris. As time goes on there will be many other surplus American military properties overseas which would be admirably adaptable for use as educational centers for international good will.

America already has a splendid record of turning surplus military property to peaceful purposes in the Fulbright scholarships which were financed by sale of military surplus after World War II. Senator J. William Fulbright should go down in history for having provided the legislative basis for this. I do not know the details of that law: maybe it is broad enough to be used in the years ahead to turn surplus property overseas to educational use. If not, I am confident that Senator Fulbright would support a program for extended legislation along these lines.

What I am proposing right now is that you, as Secretary of the Air Force, or if possible, Clark Clifford, as Secretary of Defense, announce a study group to look into the possibilities and devise a procedure for making this kind of use for military surplus in the years ahead. Not only would action along these lines be good in itself, but it would be politically very useful at this time when there is so much discontent over the war in Viet Nam, with picketing of the Pentagon and the like. One needs a Defense Department initiative. Possibly the study and preparation of the working plans would best be handled by a non-military agency such as the U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. I know both Will Foster and Adrian Fisher from the days when we worked together in the Department

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of Commerce twenty years ago and I expect that they would respond eagerly. Another resource within Government is Arthur Goldschmidt, on the staff of the U. S. Mission to the U.N., who used to operate a U. N. technical aid program under Paul Hoffman.

Item 4 is a letter from Harold Taylor who is keenly interested in this subject. Note particularly his involvement in a conference to be held at the University of Rome in January 1969, and that his group works with the Rector of Charles University in Prague. Recent political developments in Czechoslovakia ought greatly to improve the possibilities for improved educational cooperation there. I would like very much to see a DoD planning board announced at once and arrangements made for strong American participation in the Rome meeting. I would be most happy to lend such help, personally, as I can to furthering of these aims.

A region where we have great resources that may soon be declared surplus is Turkey. I mention this in particular because I rather expect to be spending September-December 1969 as a visiting professor at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. Item 5 is a brief account of this new institution taken from the Zweig book. This is being arranged through Prof. Oktay Sinanoğlu of the department of chemistry at Yale, who is also head of the new department of theoretical chemistry at METU. We plan to hold a conference on quantum chemistry in Ankara in September 1969 to celebrate the inauguration of that new department. If some general plans were put in effect by that time, perhaps there would be some specific program that I could help arrange in that country in the fall of 1969.

We may be at a turning point in history at which a decisive step for world peace can be taken in this way, utilizing resources that might otherwise be wasted. I know you are extremely busy, but I do hope that you are sympathetic to the main idea and can bring it to the attention of Secretary Clifford and perhaps also to that of the President. It would be wonderful if he and Sen. Fulbright could reason together on this! Call on me if you see a way that I can help.

Sincerely,

E. U. Condon,

E. U. Condon

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