

The New York Times

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1957.

Scientists Wary on Giving Data Of Nuclear Perils to the World

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Special to The New York Times.

PUGWASH, N. S., July 10—Leading scientists from the Communist and non-Communist countries debated today how much they should tell the world about their conclusions on the outlook for civilization and survival of humanity in this nuclear age.

They have been meeting here since Sunday as guests of Cyrus S. Eaton, the Canadian-born Cleveland industrialist and financier. Among them are two of the Soviet Union's outstanding nuclear physicists. Also present are Prof. Chou Pei-yuan, vice rector of Communist China's Peiping University, and distinguished scholars from the United States, Britain, France and half a dozen other countries.

In their private sessions, many of the distinguished scholars in physics, genetics, biochemistry and related studies were inclined to agree with the views expressed by the absent sponsor of the conference Bertrand Russell, British philosopher and Nobel Prize winner, that either war must be abolished or civilization will be destroyed.

Some, like Dr. Brock Chisholm, former Director General of the United Nations World Health Organization, wanted and argued for a declaration that war in the nuclear age was impossible and that no nation on earth could protect its people from destruction once atomic war broke out.

The whole concept of a resort to force to settle international disputes must be abandoned and a system of world government, international police and international control of nuclear weapons must be devised for the preservation of peace and humanity, Dr. Chisholm said.

Prof. Hidaki Yukawa, director of physics research at Tokyo University and a Nobel Prize winner, urged his colleagues from other nations to join in an appeal to Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States to agree to a cessation of further test firings until science could determine definitely the effects of fall-out on this generation and on succeeding ones.

The Japanese appeal, which bore the signatures of several important Japanese scientists, said the purpose behind it was a "firm conviction that hydrogen bomb tests are pregnant with the possibility of inflicting suffering of an unpredictable magnitude upon the people of the entire world who are desirous of leading a peaceful existence."

"We are further convinced that if there were to be any disturbance in the balance of power in hydrogen bombs, so precariously maintained today there is danger of imminent disaster to the whole of mankind," Professor Yukawa added.

The gravity of the matters before the conference was illustrated by a statement by Prof. Rotblat of London University, an executive vice president of the Atomic Scientists Association who declared that "a little publicized effect of fall-out radiation and that of related character (such as X-rays) is its shortening of the length of life."

Shortening of Life Span

In a statement to the conference, he said that persons exposed to 300 roentgen units over a period of months or years as could happen in a fall-out region, might have their lives shortened by as much as four years.

If they received most of the dose within a few hours and survived, he said, their life span would be reduced still further. The effect of radiation and the loss of "man days" is even greater than the effect of radiation in causing leukemia and cancer.

The Soviet delegates to the conference, A. V. Topchiev secretary general of the Soviet Academy of Sciences; D. F. Skobeltsyn and A. M. Kuzin of the Academy of Sciences, kept to themselves and kept their own council.

There was an agreement at the beginning of the conference that the sessions would be closed and that the conferees could express their own views but might not report what others said at the formal session, which ended tonight.