

April, 1956

Boris Polevoy visited my grandfather with a delegation of other Russians.

I thought some of the excerpts from the letter he wrote to Grampa might be useful for your project as your focus on the cold war and the contribution to thawing the icy divide that Grampa contributed. I have the letter both in Russian and in English. In the last paragraphs he mentions a contribution I made as a six-year-old and that my mother (Ma S. Eaton) made helping host the group.

The following are quotes from his letter written more than a year before the Pugwash 1957 July conference.

“Like you, we believe that we must be tolerant of one another’s views, that we should try to understand one another, trade with one another, be friends and not interfere with one another’s way of life.

I have not forgotten what you said about it being ‘better to exchange pedigree cattle than atom bombs.’

My friends and I were extremely interested in your idea about setting up a “Haven for Minds”, where thinkers of the USA, the Soviet Union, Britain, China, France, Indian and other countries – men and women of different political and religious views – could exchange ideas and opinions in debate. Like any other free intercourse among people of different nationalities and convictions it would undoubtedly be of inestimable value in promoting mutual understanding. Today, when two completely different social systems exist on this crowded good old earth of ours, the greatest thing, as I see it, is to ensure that all the countries of the world might live side by side in peace and comfort like good neighbors, without elbowing one another or quarrelling over the fence: that they respect one another’s opinions, learn to be good friends and to trade with one another not only in pedigree cattle but, also say, technical inventions, ores, machines, and whatever else they possess that may be of use to their trade partners.

Please convey warmest regards from all seven of us to your charming daughter-in-law whom we have remembered as one of the most hospitable of the hostesses by whom we were entertained in your country. With your kind permission and hers I should like, at least from afar,, to kiss your smallest grand-daughter Catherine, that dignified young lady who was I believe the first to establish the most friendly relations with representations from the Soviet Union.”