

SCIENTISTS ASSAY THE NUCLEAR AGE

22 From 10 Nations Assemble
for Study in the Nova Scotia
Home of Cyrus Eaton

By RAYMOND DANIELL

Special to The New York Times.

PUGWASH, Nova Scotia, July 9.—Twenty-two scientists from ten countries are gathered here to assess the values and dangers of the atomic age that some of them helped to bring about.

Among them are distinguished scholars from the Soviet Union, Poland and Communist China as well as the United States, Britain, Austria, France and Japan.

The gathering includes some of the world's outstanding augenetics, biology and other sciences. The task they have set themselves is to weigh all the aspects of the testing and use of nuclear energy to determine where safety ends and danger begins for humanity now and in future generations.

The inspiration for the meeting came from Bertrand Russell, British philosopher and Nobel Prize winner, who, two years ago, with the late Dr. Albert Einstein and eight other scientists, called for a conference of scientists of the world "so that a true assessment of the dangers could be made."

Various obstacles intervened to prevent a proposed assembly in India under the auspices of the Indian Science Congress. Chief among them was financing the assembly of scientists from distant parts of the world who could not afford the cost of transportation.

This obstacle was overcome by Cyrus Eaton, Canadian-born Cleveland industrialist, who offered the hospitality of his family home and the town of his boyhood for the meeting, as he had for similar meetings of thinkers in the past. Mr. Eaton offered to pay the entire cost of bringing the delegates here.

Nuclear Control Problem

They began to assemble over the week-end in this little lobster fishing village on the shore of Northumberland Strait. In their sessions thus far the scientists seemed agreed that the use of nuclear weapons in war should

be avoided and some means of international control devised to divert the use of this new force of energy from destructive to useful peacetime purposes.

How this was to be done found the scientists as confused as most laymen. Some held that continued tests might be dangerous to generations yet unborn but others said that in reaching this conclusion some factors had been overlooked.

Dr. Hideki Yukawa, a Nobel Prize winner in physics from Tokyo, had no doubt that further tests of nuclear weapons should be halted, at least for a matter of months, to enable science to determine their effects fully.

He was supported by his nephew, Prof. Iwao Ogawa, of Tokyo University, and Prof. Shinichiro Tomanaga, also of Tokyo University department of physics.

A. V. Topchiev, secretary of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and head of the Soviet delegation of five, was the only delegate unable to express himself in English. But D. F. Skobeltsyn, director of the T. N. Lebedev Institute of Physics in Moscow, spoke eloquently in English on the need for peaceful coexistence between the Soviet Union and the West and the dangers of any encroachment by either on national sovereignties.

Sponsor Unable to Attend

Lord Russell, who is 85 years old, was prevented by his own and his wife's ill health from attending the meeting he had inspired and helped to organize. A recorded message from him was played to the delegates at their opening session by C. F. Powell, Nobel Prize winner in physics of the H. H. Wills Physical Laboratory in Bristol, England.

In it Lord Russell thanked Mr. Eaton for making the meeting possible. He pointed out that the participants were not official spokesmen for their governments but "represent only themselves so that they may put forward their point of view with frankness." His message continued:

"On some of the problems that will be discussed there is no unanimity among scientists. Even the effects of the weapons are subject to wide uncertainties. This is particularly the case with respect to nuclear weapons tests. It is first necessary then to try to establish what is definite and to separate it from

what has to be inferred or conjectured.

The delegates are meeting on the ground floor of the unadorned little brick Masonic Lodge in what until a few weeks ago was a schoolroom. The small desks were removed and a triangular rough board trestle table installed. Kitchen chairs were rounded up from among the families in Pugwash who could spare them and Mrs. E. R. Webb, Mr. Eaton's sister, found additional dining room chairs in a department store in nearby Amherst.

Mr. Powell, as Lord Russell's deputy, occupies the chair at the head of the improvised conference table.

At all the sessions the Soviet delegates and Professor Marian Danyaz of the University of Warsaw sat together as a group. All the rest, including Prof. Chou Pei-yuan, vice rector of Peking University, mingled with the other scientists from various countries.

Not all the delegates could be accommodated in the fifteen-room gabled white clapboard house with its lawn sloping down to Northumberland Strait that was Mr. Eaton's family home.

Some are staying aboard private cars of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway of whose board of directors the 73-year-old Mr. Eaton is chairman. Others are quartered in Village Armes.

THIS MATERIAL IS REPRODUCED BY
COPYRIGHT LAW, TITLE, U.S. CODE
WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1875 EAST