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PALMER PHYSICAL LABORATORY 湯川記念館史料室
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

March 7, 1952

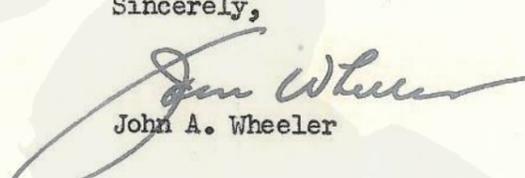
Professor H. Yukawa
Department of Physics
Columbia University
New York, New York

Dear Professor Yukawa:

In line with yesterday's discussion, I am writing to follow up Professor John Slater's query, "I wonder if it wouldn't be possible for you to get, from the Japanese, an estimate of what they would consider a proper amount of funds for us to have available for the transportation of Americans? Do they have a tentative list of persons whom they would like to invite, or do you know how the persons should be chosen?" It would be helpful to have whatever information you can give on this score by March eighteenth. To assist you in answering this question I am enclosing a copy of Professor Slater's letter to me, and also send a copy of it and the present letter to you to Kotani.

I send kind regards.

Sincerely,


John A. Wheeler

JAW:MMM

Enc.

cc: M. Kotani
J. Slater

John A. Wheeler
P. O. Box 451
Princeton, New Jersey



Professor H. Yukawa
Department of Physics
Columbia University
New York, New York

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PHYSICAL LABORATORY
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京都大学基礎物理学研究所 湯川記念館史料室
Princeton New Jersey

March 7, 1952

Professor H. F. Mott
Physical Laboratory
University of Bristol
England

Dear Professor Mott:

I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to Professor Fleury. I sent similar ones to Professor Auger and Dr. Fraser. Am I right in assuming that you plan to organize a big international assembly in England in the summer of 1954? If not, the plans of the Japanese will be very much affected and might conceivably wish to extend an invitation to the International Assembly to meet in Japan in 1945, that being the year fixed for the Triennial Assembly, as I understand it. I talked over this point with Yukawa yesterday, and we would like to know your opinion. In the meantime, we are operating on the assumption that the conference will be held in England, and, therefore, that 1954 would on this account be less appropriate for the Japanese meeting.

I learned from Professor John Slater that it will be important to have a definite idea of the Japanese plans by March eighteenth, if an application is to be made by the U. S. National Research Council to the National Science Foundation this spring for funds for travel of a certain number of United States physicists to the meeting.

Consequently, it would be very kind if you could send carbon copies of your reply to Professor Masao Kotani, Department of Physics, Tokyo University, Tokyo, Japan, and Professor H. Yukawa, Department of Physics, Columbia University, New York, New York, to whom I am sending copies of this letter. I should add that at the Copenhagen Assembly the idea informally proposed and generally considered with approval was that the Kyoto meeting should be held in 1953, but this factor in itself presumably does not exclude a change.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Wheeler

JAW:MMW

cc: H. Kotani
J. Slater
H. Yukawa ✓

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Brookhaven National Laboratory,
Upton, L.I., N.Y.
March 2, 1952

Prof. J. A. Wheeler
Princeton University
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Wheeler:

The day after seeing you in Princeton, I got some further light on the financing of the Japanese meeting from Harry C. Kelly in Washington. In case you don't happen to know him, he is now in charge of the National Science Foundation fellowship program; he is a physicist, having got his degree at M.I.T. years ago; and he was scientific attache on MacArthur's staff in Tokyo for several years after the war, so knows the Japanese situation well. He apparently has been in touch with Kotani and the others who are trying to get financing, and has two constructive lines which he is following. First, he is approaching the Ford Foundation for financing of travel expenses of non-U.S. physicists to the Japanese meeting; and the Ford people seem much interested. Secondly, he is practically certain that the National Science Foundation will be willing to finance the travel of a certain number of U.S. physicists to the meeting. The Japanese themselves would make the formal application to the Ford Foundation for funds, and they would handle that part of it; but I suggested to Kelly that our U.S. National Committee might well be the organization to handle the funds for the U.S. physicists. Kelly said the NSF would rather not get involved with the choice of who was to go, and individual grants to them, but would prefer to deal with an organization. Gibbs, of the National Research Council, says the right way to handle it is for NSF to make a grant to NRC, for the travel expenses, and in turn NRC will ask our US National Committee to administer the funds.

I talked to both Kelly and Gibbs a bit as to how much money we should need for US travel to the meeting, and none of us seemed to have a very definite idea. I asked Kelly if he thought expenses for about 12 persons would make sense to him, and he felt it would. But I knew you had been in touch with Kotani about the whole thing, and to avoid wire-crossing, I wonder if it wouldn't be possible for you to get, from the Japanese, an estimate of what they would consider a proper amount of funds for us to have available for the transportation of Americans? Do they have a tentative list of persons whom they would like to invite, or do you know how the persons should be chosen? Naturally it is the party of the Japanese, and they should be the ones, not we, who would have most say as to who should go. It would be desirable to have such information as we can get fairly promptly, since the NRC would have to apply for a grant from the NSF, and NRC has a meeting later this month, when they could well take the necessary action, provided they had the information as to what to apply for.

It seems to me that if these two sources of funds come across, as they well may (and, incidentally, Kelly is all ready to

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go to the Rockefeller people if the Ford ones turn him down, but he doesn't expect to be turned down), then it is worth considering whether it wouldn't be wise to have the 1953 Executive Committee meeting of the IUPAP in Japan. I would take it that there would be a good deal of point in your and my going to Japan anyway; it would be on the right side of the world for Krishnan and Oliphant; and if Ford came across, the others, Mott, Borelius, Amaldi, Huber, and Fleury, as well as Kramers if he wanted to go, could undoubtedly be transported to Japan, and would be very suitable delegates anyway. But if we were going to propose this, we would have to have the financing in pretty definite form long enough before our June meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris so that we could write at least Mott, Kramers, and Fleury informally about it ahead of time. How does it strike you? It seems to me that it would add considerably to the prestige of the Japanese conference if we combined it with our Executive Committee meeting, and I should think the Japanese would welcome it.

One thing occurs to me in connection with this NSF proposal, and that is that this might well start machinery which could be used whenever there is a IUPAP conference to which we wish to transport American delegates. There is no reason why the NSF should not be the normal source of funds for travel expenses (for members of the Executive Committee and of the Commissions, as well as for delegates to the General Assembly, and others going to colloquia), and it might be very wise for us to bring this possibility up right at the beginning, and have the NRC apply to the NSF for funds on this basis. I didn't talk this over with Gibbs and Kelly, but believe it is in line with Gibbs's previous thinking on the subject.

How does this all strike you? And specifically, do you have or can you easily get any suggestions as to just what the NRC should request in the way of funds for American travel expenses to Japan?

Sincerely yours,

John C. Slater