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PROJECT MATTERHORN  
京都大学基礎物理学研究所 湯川記念館史料室

COPY OF TELEGRAM

JAMES FORRESTAL RESEARCH CENTER  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, N.J.  
MAIL: P.O. BOX 451, PRINCETON, N.J.

October 25, 1951

Professor S. Kotani  
c/o Professor Robert Mulliken  
Physics Department  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH FAVORABLY DISPOSED BUT CAN MAKE NO  
COMMITMENTS SO FAR AHEAD. I AM WRITING THEM LETTER WITH COPY  
TO YOU TO PUT REQUEST ON RECORD. THEY CONSIDER LETTER FROM JAPAN  
SCIENCE COUNCIL NOT REQUIRED. REGARDS.

John A. Wheeler

A-762

CC: Professor H. Yukawa  
Physics Department  
Columbia University

J. A. Wheeler  
(PROJECT MATTERHORN)  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
P.O. BOX 451, PRINCETON, N.J.



~~Has~~ International Conference  
in Kyoto  
letters  
Dec. 7, 1951.  
March 5, 1952.

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

c071-018-013

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MAIL: P.O. BOX 451, PRINCETON, N.J.

December 6, 1951

Dr. Emanuel R. Piore  
Office of Naval Research  
Navy Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Manny:

In line with our phone conversation at the time of the welcome visit of Professor Kotani and Professor Yukawa to Princeton to discuss the plans for the Kyoto conference on quantum physics, statistical mechanics, and solid state physics, scheduled for September 1953, I am writing to put on paper two ways in which the Office of Naval Research could promote this important meeting. The reason I happen to be carrying the ball on this is that I had the misfortune to be elected a vice president of the International Union at the Copenhagen triennial general assembly in July 1951. The Kyoto meeting is especially important to the International Union of Physics. The IUAP has already asked the International Council of Scientific Unions and Unesco for a grant to take care of expenses to this meeting and a tentative commitment of ten thousand dollars has been made. When this is divided among the various participating countries relatively little will, of course, be left for the travel of physicists from the United States. The Japanese are raising twenty-two thousand dollars to take care of expenses in Japan proper. They are taking care of things from their end, so what can we do from our end? Obviously the cost of travel is the whole factor. Now it is a long way to Japan, and it is an expensive trip, particularly if done commercially. Commercial travel is out except for a financial well-favored few and, frankly, I don't think it would look right to spend that much on commercial travel. But I do think that we ought to have a delegation of twenty or thirty people in Japan, but I don't see how we can manage it unless they can travel by Military Air Transport Service — either timewise or costwise. Travel in bucket seats is sufficiently uncomfortable — as I can testify from this May's trip to Eniwetok — so that people willing to go that way are fairly clearly not going for the fun of it, but for what they can accomplish in the way of new ideas and worthwhile contacts. This is point one how ONR can help. The other way is by allowing travel in the United States to the point of pickup of MATS to be charged against ONR contracts.

2 — Emanuel R. Piore  
December 6, 1951

I write you about these points now simply to put these plans and requests on the books for whatever advance thinking can be done by ONR at this stage. As I gathered from our phone conversation, there are ways in which the persons in question might be delegated as naval ensigns for the purpose of attending this conference; support along these lines for the Kyoto conference would not differ in principle from what has been done on other occasions; you are sympathetic to the problems which I raise; it is too early for ONR to commit itself at this stage; you will keep this in mind and mention it on appropriate occasions; I will keep you informed of further developments in the plans; and a formal request will be made to you at the appropriate time.

I send kind regards.

Sincerely,

  
John A. Wheeler

JAW:MMM

cc: Karl K. Darrow  
Masao Kotani  
U. Liddell  
J. C. Slater  
H. Yukawa ✓