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Professor Dr. Otto HAHN

Göttingen, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1955  
Bunsenstrasse 10

Herrn  
Professor Dr. Hideki Yukawa  
  
The Research Institute  
for Fundamental Physics  
Yukawa Hall, University of  
Kyoto / Japan

Air Mail  
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Registered  
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Dear Dr. Yukawa,

As I have learned from our colleague Dr. Max Born you have agreed to be one of the "initiators" who on the occasion of the Meeting of the Nobel Laureates at Lindau / Bodensee in July intend to publish a Manifesto concerning the danger of a possible future war.

We have transmitted the draft of this manifesto to some of our colleagues. After a personal conference with Dr. A. H. Compton whom I met the other day, we agreed to a text being somewhat different and especially being a little shorter, the draft of which I beg to enclose herewith.

The contents is almost exactly the same as the one of the first draft to which you have already given your approval. But as a matter of form I should like to ask you to agree to this draft as well, especially in case you would not be able to attend the Lindau Meeting where we are going to discuss the manifesto finally in order to publish it at once.

But I do hope to see you at Lindau, together with Mrs. Yukawa.

I should be very grateful, if I might get a short reply by air mail immediately.

With kind regards,  
Yours very sincerely,

*Otto Hahn*

1 Enclosure  
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draft

We who sign this appeal are scientists from many countries, of several races, of different creeds, unconnected in politics. Our association is that we have all been privileged to be awarded Nobel Prizes.

Our appeal is to all men everywhere. We must recognize that ours is a common fate, that if we are to live, it can only be as brothers. The alternative is that we will die.

We have given freely a life time to the service of science. Science, we hold, is a way to a fuller life for mankind. But we have learned with horror that science has also provided man with the instruments for self destruction.

In an all out war the earth can be made so radioactive that whole nations will be destroyed. Many men and women of neutral countries also might be killed.

If the major powers engage in war where is the assurance that such an all out war will not develop?

A nation that engages in an all out war thus invites self destruction and endangers the whole world.

To us, it is self deception for governments to think over a long period that the fear of these weapons will prevent war from occurring. Fear and tension have too frequently produced war. Likewise, it is self deception to believe that minor conflicts can always be settled by the use of traditional weapons. In extreme need, no warring nation will deny itself the use of any weapon that scientific techniques can provide.

The independent nations must bring themselves to the decision by which they voluntarily renounce force as the last political recourse. If they are not prepared to do this, they will cease to exist.

v k.