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Declaration issued by eighteen Nobel Prize
Winners on July 15th, 1955, from Lindau.

We, the undersigned, are scientists of different countries, different creeds, different political persuasions. Outwardly we are bound together only by the Nobel Prize, which we have been favoured to receive. With pleasure we have devoted our lives to the service of science. It is, we believe, a path to a happier life for people. We see with horror that this very science is giving mankind the means to destroy itself. By total military use of weapons feasible today, the earth can be contaminated with radioactivity to such an extent that whole peoples can be annihilated. Neutrals may die thus as well as belligerents.

If war broke out among the great powers, who could guarantee that it would not develop into a deadly conflict? A nation that engages in a total war thus signals its own destruction and imperils the whole world. We do not deny that perhaps today peace is being preserved precisely by the fear of these weapons.

Nevertheless, we think it is a delusion if governments believe they can avoid war for a long time through the fear of these weapons. Fear and tension have often engendered wars. Similarly it seems to us a delusion to believe that small conflicts could in the future always be decided by traditional weapons. In extreme danger no nation will deny itself the use of any weapon that scientific technology can produce. All nations must come to the decision to renounce force as a final resort of policy. If they are not prepared to do this they will cease to exist.

ARTHUR H. COMPTON
OTTO HAHN
WERNER HEISENBERG
FRITZ LIPMANN
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W. M. STANLEY
KURT ADLER
MAX BORN
GERHARD DOMACK

HANS VON EULER
GEORG VON HEVESY
RICHARD KUHN
PAUL MUELLER
LIL RUZICKA
FRIEDRICH SODDY
HERMANN STANDING
HIDEKI YUKAWA
ADOLF BUTENDANT