

December 24, 1963

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Dear Dr. Lindop,

I am very sorry to have let your letter of 18 November go unanswered for so long. In case it is still of any use to you, here is a description of some of the impressions I received from the Dubrovnik Conference.

As a newcomer to Pugwash, and having gathered most of my impressions from one working group at Dubrovnik, my impressions of Pugwash are rather tentative. However, I got a rather strong impression that Pugwash, at least at Dubrovnik, had lost the initiative in its attempts to find ways of securing peace. The substantial lessening of international tensions and especially the signature of the Moscow Treaty left the Pugwash scientists not so far ahead of the general level of thinking in these matters as they used to be. Certainly this is a welcome development but it may require that Pugwash somewhat alter the nature of its conferences so as to maximize its leverage and relevance to the great international problems which remain to be solved.

Perhaps what is needed is an approach in ~~greater~~ depth than before to certain key problems of disarmament and international politics. Take the problem of arranging that great step toward general disarmament, the minimum deterrent or "umbrella" force. It would be most useful if Pugwash could invest the time and effort required to produce a thorough going analysis and set of proposals for reaching international agreement on such a step. I single this measure out from others because even in today's more relaxed atmosphere, we face the danger that technical developments, possibly in the area of missile defense, could drive the arms race to still higher levels making international agreements in other areas very difficult to reach. Even the decision to move toward a minimal deterrent would act strongly to damp down accelerating tendencies in the arms race. At Dubrovnik, this

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problem received considerable attention. I hope that in future Pugwash meetings it can be given a priority high enough to yield proposals capable of catching the attention of governments and of the general public. To accomplish this, Pugwash delegates will probably have to do more work in advance than most of us did for the Dubrovnik conference. It could be especially useful if an exchange of letters between interested Pugwash scientists on this and other important subjects could be conducted in advance of each meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson