

Joseph Rotblat

Founding the Pugwash Movement



Kit Hill

British Pugwash and author, “Professor Pugwash”

Sandra Ionno Butcher

Pugwash History Project

BSHS, Exeter, July 2011

Hiroshima 1945



Nagasaki



1955: News of his family – after 6 years

Jo's mother, his two brothers, and other members of the family survived the war, eventually coming to join him in England.

But his wife, Tola, had died in the Nazi extermination camp at Majdanek

1946

**Rotblat Co-founds
Atomic Scientists Association**

1946-47

Nuclear Physics Sub-committee
of
Cabinet Advisory Committee
on Atomic Energy

1949 (delayed to 1950)

Professor of Physics
as Applied to Medicine
St Bart's Hospital
Medical School

The Lucky Dragon

1 March 1954

“The sky in the west suddenly lit up and the sea became brighter than day... We watched the dazzling light, which felt heavy.”

Lucky Dragon crew member
Yoshio Misaki



(Delayed until) March 1955

“The Hydrogen-Uranium Bomb”

J Rotblat

Atomic Scientists Journal

Panorama – Rotblat & Russell Meet

- April 13, 1954
- Begin to educate the British public on the new hydrogen bomb
- The two stay in close contact over the years



Man's Peril, 1954

“I appeal, as a human being to human beings: remember your humanity, and forget the rest.”

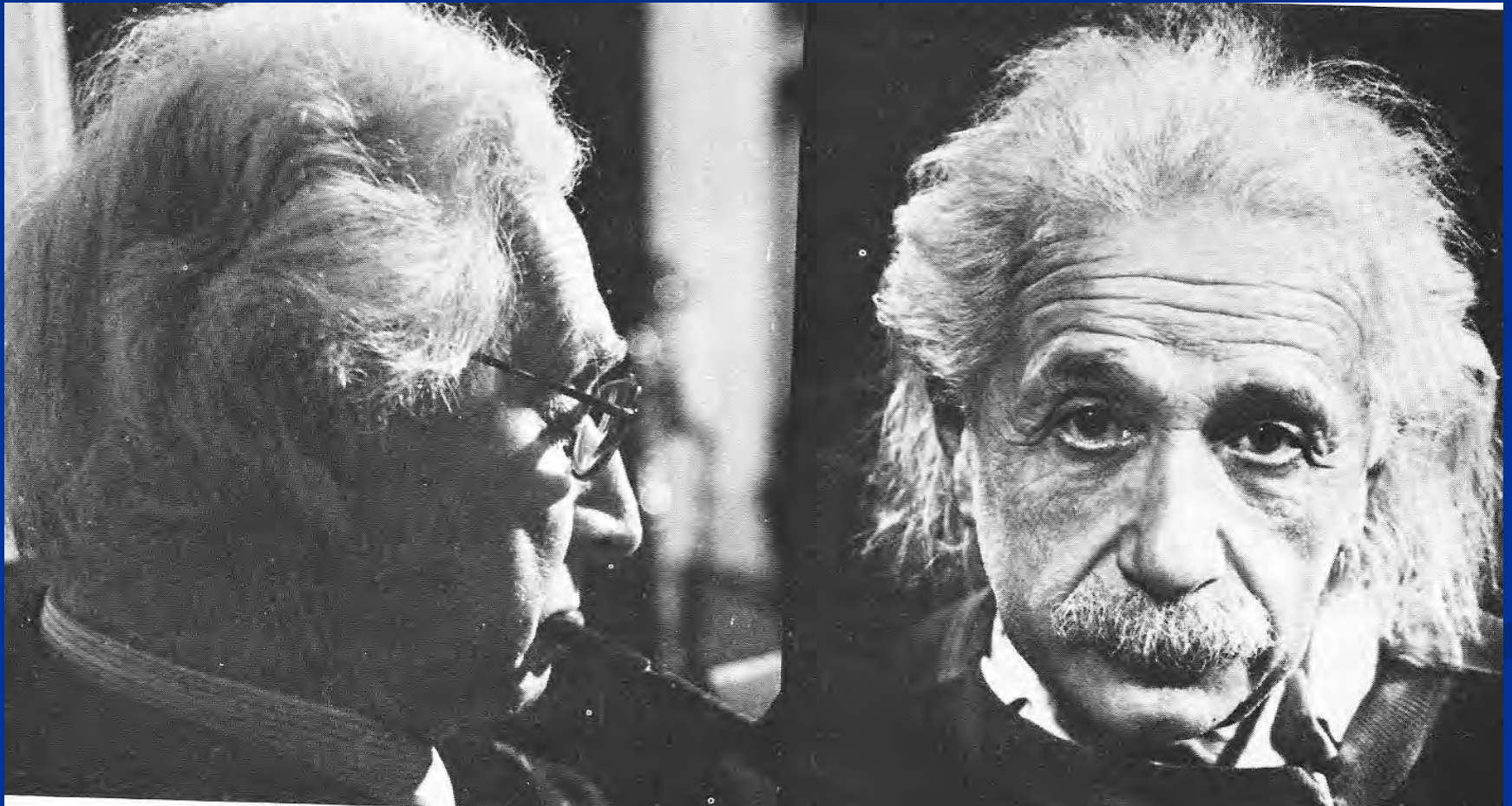
Bertrand Russell

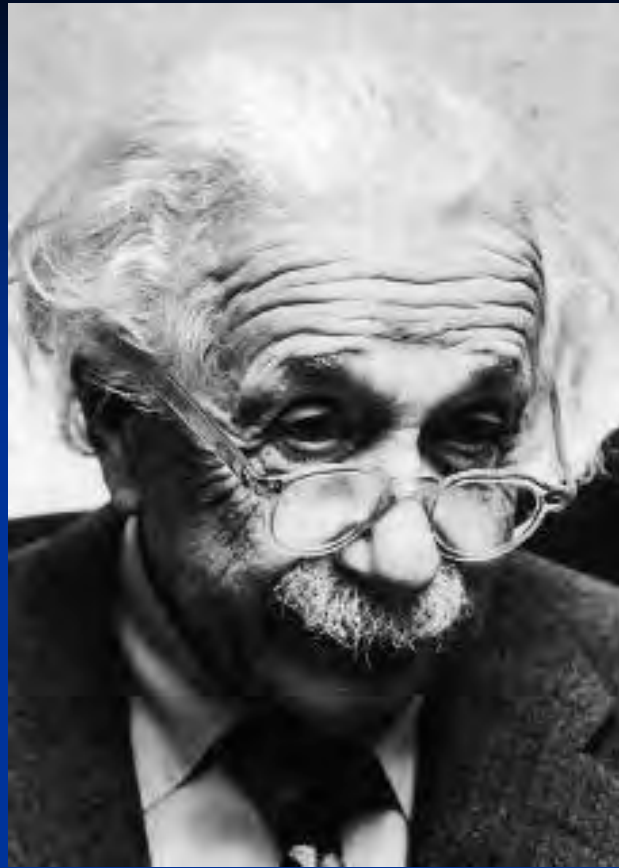
6 to 7 million people
heard the broadcast



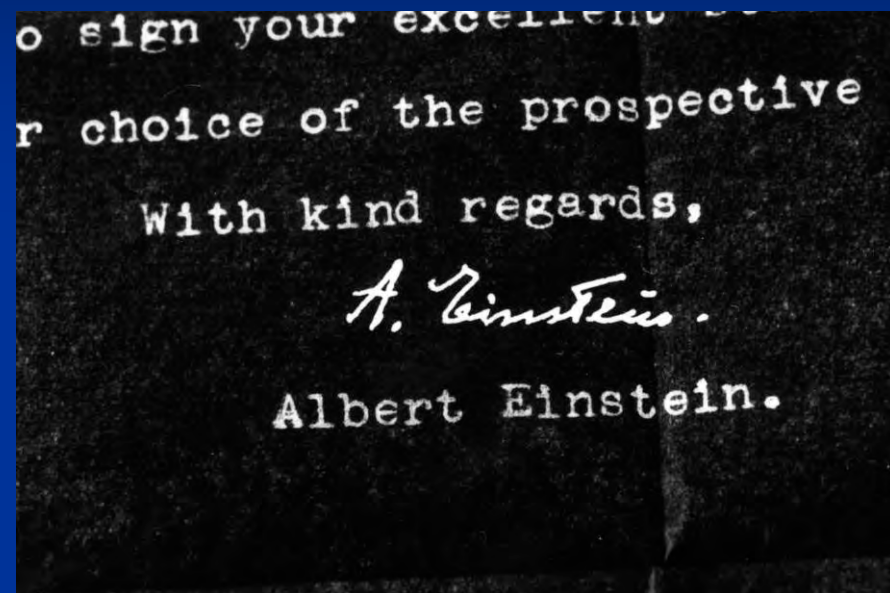
Russell Writes Einstein

February 11, 1955





Einstein's Final Act



“[T]he last message from the man who was the symbol of the great heights the human intellect can reach, imploring us not to let all this be destroyed by human folly.”

-- Joseph Rotblat

The Russell-Einstein Manifesto (extract):

In the tragic situation which confronts humanity, we feel that scientists should assemble in conference to appraise the perils that have arisen as a result of the development of weapons of mass destruction

Russell Einstein Manifesto: 9 July 1955

Caxton Hall, London

Rotblat chairing



Proclamation of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto at a Press Conference
in Caxton Hall, London, on 9th July 1955



A New Role for Scientists?

“[T]he idea that scientists should take an active part in world affairs was evidently approved by public opinion.”

Joseph Rotblat

Statement Signed By Einstein and 7 Others Is Released By Bertrand Russell

(Complete Text, Page A-14.)
Reuters

LONDON, July 9—The late Albert Einstein and seven other eminent scientists said in a joint appeal published today that mankind must abolish war or face the risk of extinction by “slow torture” from radioactive dust and rain.

Nine Noted Scientists Urge War Ban

Warning on Nuclear
Peril Was Signed
by Einstein

By PETER D. WHITNEY
Based in The New York Times.
LONDON, July 8—Nine eminent scientists, including the late Albert Einstein, have appealed to the nations to forego war because the hydrogen bomb threatens “the continued existence of mankind.”
Bertrand Russell, British mathematician and philosopher,

Statements on nuclear warfare will be found on Page 35.

revealed today that Einstein subscribed to the appeal in a letter that reached London the day the physicist died in Princeton, N. J., April 18.

The appeal called on other scientists, as both the Communist and non-Communist worlds, to join in a conference. The object would be to drive home to the average man the “very real danger of the extermination of the human race by dust and rain from radioactive clouds.”

Among the signers were seven Nobel Prize winners. One of them, Prof. Enrico Fermi, of



Associated Press Radiograms
Bertrand Russell reads a statement subscribed to by Albert Einstein just before his death and signed by eight other scientists calling for the renunciation of war.

“AS MEMBERS OF A SPECIES”

One cannot deny that Bertrand Russell, the late Albert Einstein and seven other thinkers and philosophers were expressing what might be called a global patriotism when they signed the statement on nuclear warfare released by Lord Russell on Saturday. They were hon-

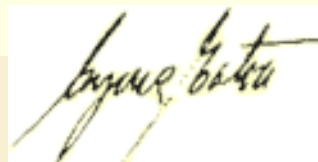
Eaton's Invitation

July 13, 1955
TransAtlantic
Air Mail

My Lord:

Your brilliant statement on nuclear warfare has made a dramatic world-wide impact. ...

Could I help toward the realization of your proposal by anonymously financing a meeting of the scientists in your group at Pugwash, Nova Scotia? I have dedicated a comfortably equipped residence there by the sea to scholarly groups....



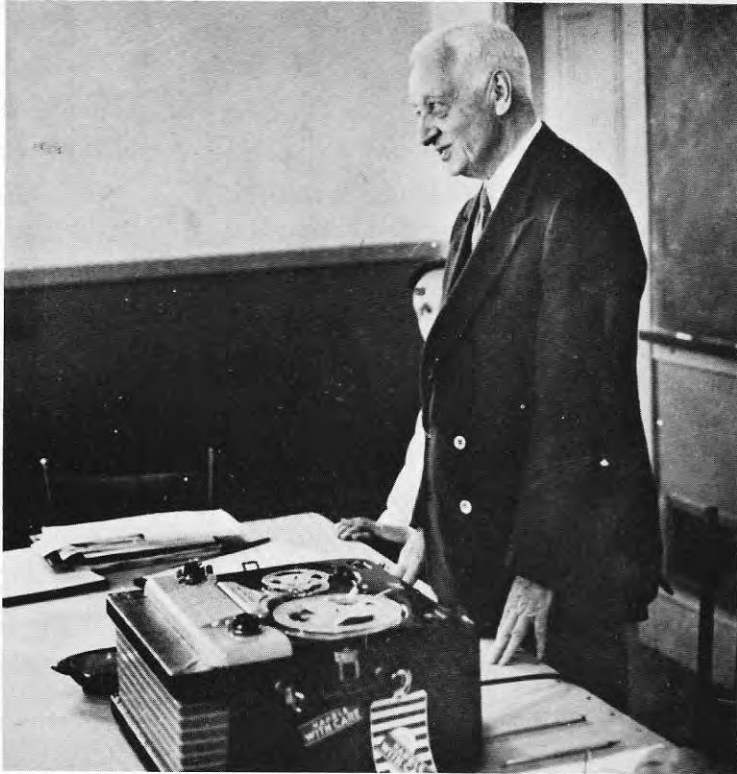
CAPTAIN PUGWASH



A Pirate Story by John Ryan



Courage



Cyrus Eaton giving the address of welcome

the “McCarthy witch hunt was still in the air. ... For many American scientists, participation in the Conference might have spelled the end of their professional career ...

It was only a fearless person like Cyrus Eaton, who broke the taboo, and made the Conference possible.”

--Joseph Rotblat

First Pugwash Conference

July 1957, Pugwash, Nova Scotia



“I came here with hope, but also prepared that it was going to be a complete fiasco.” Joseph Rotblat



Joseph Rotblat
And
Ruth Adams
At Pugwash,

“Pugwash”
Native American:
pagwechk –
shallow waters

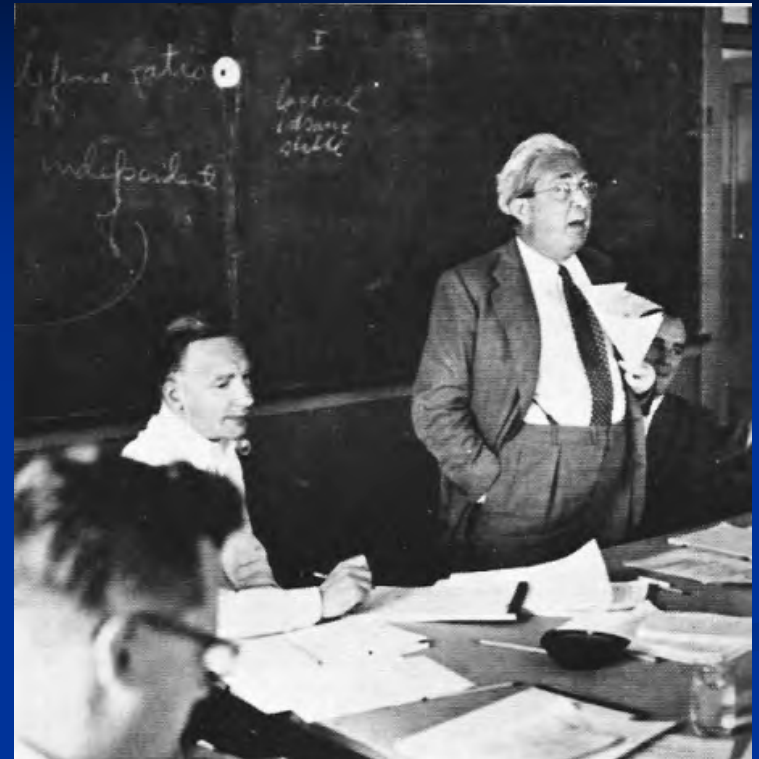


Lacassagne, Rotblat, Eaton, Skobeltzyn



Chisholm, Eaton

Rotblat, Szilard



Rotblat, Powell

Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

An Innovative 'Transnational Organization'

- People in individual capacities
- Non-attribution (Chatham House rules)
- People with access to corridors of power
- Scientific integrity

Nobel Peace Prize 1995

To Pugwash and to Joseph Rotblat



“for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and in the longer run to eliminate such arms.”



PROFESSOR PUGWASH

THE MAN WHO
FOUGHT NUKES

*The Life of
Sir Joseph Rotblat*

KIT HILL

with a Foreword by
Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal, PRS



www.pugwash.org

www.pugwashhistory.blogspot.com

Official historian: Sandy Butcher