



From: The Rt.Hon. Philip Noel-Baker, MP.

As from:
16 South Eaton Place,
London S.W.1.

25th August 1963

My dear Hans,

Thank you very much for your letter of 13th August, and for the quite admirable memorandum which you sent me, entitled "National Security Without Armaments".

I read the memorandum with growing pleasure. Every paragraph seems to me to contain thoughts that are new, stimulating, and unanswerable. Our civilization is indeed "immature". The last four centuries have been "essentially a dark age". Certainly the "vital importance of disarmament, far from fading out, will remain permanent" until a Treaty has been signed. Certainly the anti-missile missile is like Goering's FLAK. The juxtaposition of Kennedy and Khrushchev against Mao and Goldwater is brilliant. Certainly war is "as foolish as a duel". Certainly the Swiss idea of being a "soldierly nation" is a kind of ersatz. Moreover, I agree entirely with your argument about the national defence of Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Ireland, Finland. I am quite sure they could all safely adopt your plan, with great benefit to themselves. I should much like to see your new Vienna conference take shape.

But I must add one supplement to your concluding paragraph. I hope the effort given to your plan would not diminish the effort given by Austria and the other countries to general and complete disarmament. You may





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now have received a paper which I wrote for the Dubrovnik Pugwash Conference in which I argued that the smaller and non-aligned nations could play a much more active part. If the Austrian Government would instruct its General Staff and its scientists to prepare a draft Disarmament Treaty, they would render a great service.

We will talk further of all this at Dubrovnik. I shall not be seeing Harold Wilson before then, but I shall certainly talk to him at the Labour Party Annual Conference at the beginning of October.

With my gratitude again and warm regards,

Yours ever sincerely,

Philip Noel-Baker

Professor Hans Thirring.

