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# PUGWASH AND AUSTRIA

by Engelbert Broda

**P**ugwash is a village in Canada where a select group of distinguished scientists from East and West assembled in 1957 at the invitation of a generous American multimillionaire, Cyrus Eaton. They discussed the threatening state of the world in order to make available their experiences and skills in a struggle against the danger of nuclear war. They had followed the call of Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell. Among those present was also the famous theoretical physicist Hans Thirring from Austria. During the years of Nazi occupation in Austria he had suffered persecution because of his progressive and pacifist views. The international "Pugwash Movement" later became wholly independent of, but always remained grateful to, Cyrus Eaton.

Ever since, Austria has taken quite a part in the Pugwash Movement. We were host to the annual conferences of Pugwash in 1958, in 1959 and again in 1974. They were held at Kitzbühel and Vienna, and twice at Baden near Vienna. The "Vienna Declaration", adopted in 1958, is a

credo of the Pugwash Movement. Symposia to discuss specialized questions, with invited participants, were also held at our invitation: one in 1979 on the influence of armaments on development in the Third World, and another in 1980 on the role of the mass media in the world crisis. From the beginning Bruno Kreisky, then Foreign Minister, gave a helping hand, and the efforts of the Austrian Pugwash group have enjoyed the support of the Körner Foundation, named after the late Federal President, and also directly that of the Government—which is indeed indispensable.

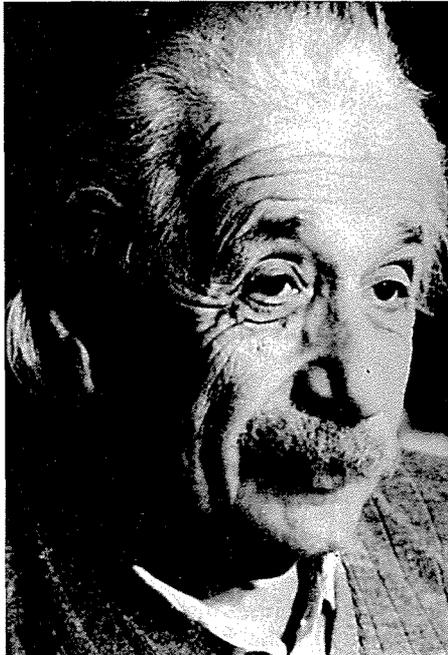
Many leading scientists from East and West, North and South, have taken part in Pugwash events, and the discussions have always been on a high level. While Pugwash, naturally, could not solve the world problems, it has definitely contributed to detente by preparing the ground for some international treaties, e. g. for the partial nuclear test ban and for SALT. It is an important factor that some of the participants are highly regarded in official quarters in their own coun-

tries, and therefore have access to their governments.

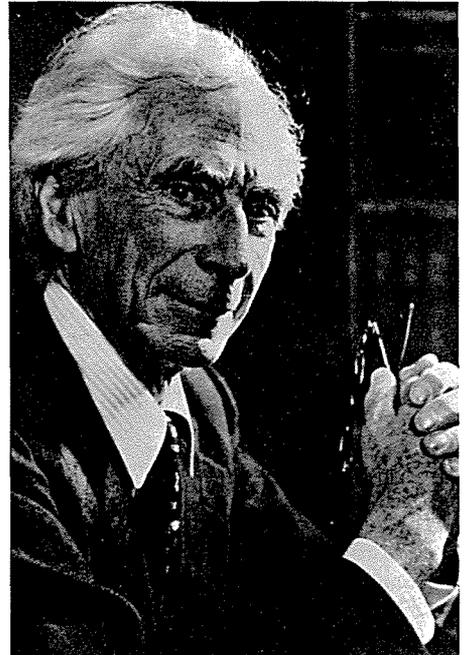
The Austrian hosts have always done their best to make "Pugwashites" feel comfortable, and there have also, traditionally, been outings to some attractive countryside. Let us here quote an impression the "Wachau" country made on Bertrand Russell: "In 1958, on a journey to a Pugwash Conference in Austria, I stayed on after the meetings and with my wife made a journey by motor car. We drove along the Danube to Dürnstein which I had wished to see ever since my boyhood delight in Richard Coeur de Lion. I was greatly impressed by the magnificent bleak grandeur of Melk on its bluff above the river and by the beauty of its library. Then we drove in a large circle through the mountains back to Vienna. The air was delicious and spicy. It seemed like a journey into the storybooks of my youth, both in the countryside, which is that of fairy books, and in the kindness and simplicity and gaiety of the people." The same stretch of country was chosen for the Pugwash outing in 1974. ●



*Hans Thirring, the late theoretical physicist*



*Albert Einstein*



*Bertrand Russell*