

June 21, 1957

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Cousins:

I read with interest your letter of June seventh. It seems to me that you have made a very personal interpretation of press conference statements which, even if fuzzy -- as you imply -- in the first uttering, were certainly amplified later in the same conference to say exactly what I meant.

Of course I do not have the scientific competence to argue one side or the other of the question of the ultimate effects of radioactive fallout from bomb testings. What I had to say with respect to the composition of the signers of the so-called "Pauling petition" was based on information similar to that given in the attached tear sheet from the "U. S. News and World Report."

With respect to America's intentions and good will in this matter, I call your attention to the fact that as long ago as 1947, this country, then enjoying a monopoly in the field, earnestly tried to put the whole development in the hands of an international organization and to insure that the atomic science would be forever devoted to man's betterment.

You may examine my own public statements over the past five years and find no wavering from this position. I ask -- as I believe any reasonable American should ask -- only some assurances that we are not exposing ourselves unnecessarily to unacceptable risks in the military field.

Sincerely,



Mr. Norman Cousins

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CC: Adm. Strauss

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<i>[Signature]</i>	2/13/97
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