

PHYSICS

Bohr Accepts Peace Prize

President Eisenhower, distinguished laymen and scientists attended ceremonies at the National Academy of Sciences honoring Niels Bohr, first recipient of Atoms for Peace Award.

Excerpts follow taken from the addresses given by President Eisenhower, by Dr. Bohr in response to the Award citation, and by Dr. Arthur H. Compton, distinguished service professor of natural history at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., and Dr. John A. Wheeler, professor of physics at Princeton University.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER:

. . . In these days when science is so obviously an essential source of national security and material welfare, it is well to remember that it is more than that. Scientific research is a great adventure of the human mind. It is the function of science, and indeed of all learning and education, to participate in the search beyond the present horizons of knowledge for a greater understanding of nature and for a steadily increasing illumination of truth. The whole world can gain through support and respect for basic research, for education and for learning. Science today is a priceless heritage from the past. We, as trustees of that inheritance, have an obligation to increase it for the benefit of posterity . . .

DR. BOHR:

. . . In science, where we build on the achievements of preceding generations and strive to enrich the heritage, the individual worker can only add a brick or shape a column to a great edifice—but to see it rising by common effort is a most inspiring adventure.

The exploration of the world of atoms, which has so greatly advanced our insight into the structure of matter and revealed novel aspects of our position as observers of nature, has at the same time provided mankind with unprecedented opportunities.

However, every increase in knowledge and potentialities entails greater responsibilities. Indeed, the rapid advance of science and technology in our age, which involves such bright promises and grave dangers, presents civilization with a most serious challenge. To meet this challenge, which calls upon the highest human aspirations, the road is indicated by that world-wide cooperation which has manifested itself through the ages in the development of science.

DR. COMPTON:

. . . Let every nation affirm, as basic to its policy, this principle: That it will do all in its power toward opening the way for everyone under its jurisdiction to grow to his full human stature, and will cooperate with nations affirming and adhering to this principle in helping each other provide such opportunity for their people.

In accord with this principle, each nation

that thus commits itself will endeavor to direct its own actions so as not to interfere with those of other cooperating nations in their efforts on behalf of their people. It will consult in advance before taking action that might affect adversely the plans of another cooperating nation. It will join with other such nations in defense against threats to any of them regarding its internal actions on behalf of its citizens.

The intent of the proposal is to turn the world's resources toward enabling men and women to become able and responsible citizens of their respective nations. Each nation cooperating to this end retains its sovereign right to choose its own method for providing its citizens with increased opportunity. Each can also count on the help of the others in providing and defending these opportunities. . . .

DR. WHEELER:

. . . Bohr's urgent discussions with leaders in Washington continued through the fall and winter on frequent visits from Los Alamos. They culminated in a second memorandum to President Roosevelt in the early spring. There Bohr outlined his ideas still more clearly, ideas which form the foundation of present day thinking about control.

The same day when Bohr completed this document to the President, the 24th of March, 1945, Roosevelt was working on his last speech, never to be delivered. Aware of the imminence of the atomic age, he wrote, "Today we are faced with the pre-eminent fact that, if civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships—the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together and work together in the same world, at peace." . . .

. . . Not peace alone, but also the advance of civilization depends upon openness, Bohr stresses. "The goal to be put above everything else," he urges, "is an open world where each nation can assert itself solely by the extent to which it can contribute to the common culture and help others with experience and resources. . . . Such a stand would . . . appeal to people all over the world, fighting for fundamental human rights, and would greatly strengthen the moral position of all supporters of genuine international collaboration. At the same time, those reluctant to enter on the course proposed would have been brought into a position difficult to maintain since such opposition would amount to a confession of lack in their own cause when laid open to the world."

Bohr asks our help. He says, "The efforts of all supporters of international co-operation, individuals as well as nations, will be needed to create in all countries an opinion

to voice, with ever increasing clarity and strength, the demand for an *open world*." Many have already committed themselves to the cause of openness. On encouraging days the slow leaven of his message can be seen working between the lines of foreign policy. Would that Benjamin Franklin were here today to join in the enterprise. Before one great philosopher, scientist and statesman the other could utter his famous prayer: "God grant that not only the love of Liberty but a thorough Knowledge of the Rights of Man may pervade all Nations of the Earth, so that a Philosopher may set his Foot anywhere on its Surface, and say 'This is my Country.'"

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