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CORRESPONDENCE March 1-15, 1961

N. WIENER · MC 22

AVA HELEN PAULING and LINUS PAULING
3500 Fairpoint St., Pasadena, California

AN APPEAL TO STOP THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

To the United Nations and to all nations in the world:

We, the men and women whose names are signed below, believe that stockpiles of nuclear weapons should not be allowed to spread to any more nations or groups of nations.

The world is now in great danger. A cataclysmic nuclear war might break out as the result of some terrible accident or of an explosive deterioration in international relations such that even the wisest national leaders would be unable to avert the catastrophe. Universal disarmament has now become the essential basis for life and liberty for all people.

The difficult problem of achieving universal disarmament would become far more difficult if more nations or groups of nations were to come into possession of nuclear weapons. We accordingly urge that the present nuclear powers not transfer nuclear weapons to other nations or groups of nations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the Warsaw Pact group, that all nations not now possessing these weapons voluntarily refrain from obtaining or developing them, and that the United Nations and all nations increase their efforts to achieve total and universal disarmament with a system of international controls and inspection such as to insure to the greatest possible extent the safety of all nations and all people.

Linus Pauling
Ava Helen Pauling

*(Names of other initial signers
are given on the opposite side)*

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Please mail this sheet with signatures to us at the above address.

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Dear Professor Wiener:

Sir Robert Watson-Watt is now able to fill a limited number of lecturing engagements. He wanted to let you know of his availability for the Spring and Fall terms for 1961. Should you wish to engage him for some special event to take place at your Institute, we would be pleased if you would let us have your preferred dates and subjects, so that we can assist you in making the arrangements.

Although we are certain that you are quite familiar with Sir Robert's contributions and achievements, we are enclosing a brief biography which we hope you may find useful..

We shall look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,



(Mrs.) Matie Molinaro
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[ca. May 1961]

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Questions answered with excellent.

Craig Pease
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Dear Dr. Wiener,

I am rather ashamed for not writing to you sooner and thanking you for the letter that you wrote to me--I enjoyed it immensely, and am deeply grateful to you for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer my inquiry. Here at Phoenix College my Psychology, Philosophy, and English professors were all very impressed with it. I know it has stimulated all of our minds a great deal, as many very interesting discussions have been started by the reading of your letter.

I feel deeply honored by your invitation to discuss this with you further, and if you are going to be in the East this summer, I would certainly appreciate having the opportunity of speaking with you then. If it is possible for you to let me know when you might be able to see me, I will plan my trip accordingly. Many questions which I would like to ask you would be difficult to convey in writing, but a discussion in person would allow much more effective communication.

I am deeply interested in the study of control and communication in animals and machines, and I would like to make Cybernetics my field of study, but I am a bit confused as to what subjects I should major in while in college so as to be best prepared for obtaining a clear understanding of Cybernetics. I know you are a mathematician, and Dr. McCulloch is an M.D., and this leaves me wondering just what would be the ideal education to take to be best prepared for research in Cybernetics. I do not have any desire to be an extremely specialized person with great knowledge of a very narrow field, and I think this is the main reason I am so stimulated by Cybernetics. I know it takes a great deal of basic knowledge from many other fields to clearly understand the

the physiology of either human or electronic brains. But, at the same time, I can conceive of someone doing specialized research for persons like you or Dr. McCulloch without having any deep understanding of the whole to which they are contributing. (Correct me on this if I am wrong.) I know that specialized research is necessary in any field, and I would be willing to do this type of research, but at the same time I would want to have an overall understanding of what was going on in the field. So my question is: What should I study to enable myself to have the opportunity of becoming an expert like you in the whole field of Cybernetics? Or is this impossible now? Will I have to settle for knowing a great deal about one narrow part of Cybernetics? If you had it to do over again, at the present date, what would you study in college to prepare yourself for Cybernetics? Would you become an M.D. first, and then specialize in neurology; would you become an electrical engineer specializing in computers; would you major in biology; or would you major in mathematics? I know there are other possibilities that I have overlooked, but these are the ones that I have considered carefully. At school, I cause my counselors no end of trouble when they want to know just what I am majoring in, as I still am wondering myself. It is rather ironic that even though I know what I want to do, I am undecided as to just how I should go about it. I hope you can help me with this problem, as it is causing me great difficulty in deciding just what to take up in school, and I have changed my major many times, which is rather disadvantageous. My counselors seem as confused as I am about this, and I find that many of them have never heard of Cybernetics, or do not know exactly what it is.

I look forward to hearing from you at your leisure, and thank you so much for answering my other letter. I wrote Dr. Warren S. McCulloch a letter similar to yours, and he sent me a few of the articles he has

written on the various aspects of Cybernetics. Many of my fellow students and some of the professors here have enjoyed them greatly, as I did. We all found them extremely enlightening, and they have whetted my appetite for Cybernetics more than ever.

Thank you again for everything, and I look forward anxiously to seeing you this summer if all goes well.

Sincerely,

Craig Pease

Craig Pease

[ans 3/13/61]

[Ca March, 1961]

Gabriel Klambauer
1063 Bruce Ave.
Windsor, Ontario,
Canada

Prof. Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.
Cambridge 39, Mass.
U. S. A.

Dear Professor Wiener,

Attached I send you
a copy of my efforts on a problem.
I would be very grateful for your
opinion.

Yours truly,

Gabriel Klambauer.

P. S. I am sending you by separate mail an essay in which I have tried to connect cybernetics and the theory of induction.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY PARK • PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Philosophy
Sparks Building

March 1st, 1961.

Professor Norbert Wiener,
Department of Mathematics,
M. I. T., Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener :

Although I cannot introduce myself in any other way than by saying I am one of the host of students of the philosophy of science who are profoundly grateful to you for splendid ideas, I am resolved to write to you on behalf of our entire University community for the purpose of extending an invitation.

The philosophy department would rejoice if you could consider giving a course of three lectures in May at your convenience at our University. A title like : Minds and Machines or Wise Use of Technology etc would be very appropriate, as would any title in the same general areas. We can offer traveling expenses and an honorarium of five hundred dollars.

I cannot really express to you what a splendid event this would be at our University where logical and philosophical studies are very seriously pursued. With earnest hopes that our invitation may be acceptable, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
Henry A. Finch
Professor in Philosophy.

[ms 3/8/61]

Chicago



Los Angeles

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March 1, 1961

No

Professor Norbert Wiener
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

The New York Chapter of the Institute of Management Sciences holds a banquet meeting each spring. This year the meeting is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, June 14, at the 60 East Club, in the Lincoln Building on 42nd Street.

This annual meeting is the climax of the year's activities and it has been the practice, and is the continued desire, of the Chapter to invite a man outstanding in the field of the application of science to human and management problems.

We have wanted to ask you to be our guest speaker each year since the Chapter started in 1954. However, due to natural reticence and limited resources, we denied ourselves even the possibility of a refusal.

I venture forth this year both because of my deep desire to have you speak and because of my discussions with Jason Epstein at Random House. We had spoken of you often when working at Doubleday and on my latest inquiry, Jason felt that you would enjoy speaking at our annual meeting. We would be most happy to make and take care of the travel and lodging arrangements.

The Institute of Management Science is a national organization and I do believe our references are good. The membership consists primarily of scientifically trained professional people (mathematicians and statistical economists) who are applying their talents to business, government and social problems. We have tried to bridge the gap - and it is a wide one - between ORSA and the American Management Association. The group is fairly sophisticated and, in a

Professor Norbert Wiener

March 1, 1961

-2-

sense, select. Although membership is open to all who wish to join, the base is not unmanageably broad. We have attracted people in industry and government who are now using their mathematical and analytical abilities on such diverse problems as advertising planning, decision problems in regulatory agencies, and the role of testing in education. We, therefore, would welcome any topic on which you might wish to speak.

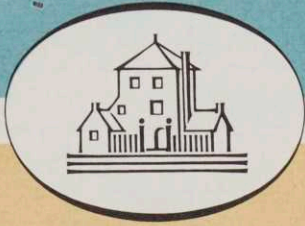
I do hope you will accept our invitation and hospitality, and am at your disposal if you desire any further information.

Yours sincerely

Richard W. Kislik

Richard W. Kislik:dbn

[ans 3/10/61]



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Jason Epstein, EDITOR

March 2, 1961

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Norbert:

It's wonderful to have your letter. I'm sorry that I missed you when you passed through New York on your return, but as you may have heard I was in West Africa during the month of February.

I ran into Azimov the other day in the office, and he told me that you are going to be in New York April 5th. Let's make it a date for lunch then, if that's all right with you, or tell me a more convenient time. Would you prefer dinner?

I'm pleased to hear that you've been asked to give the Yale Terry lectures. It's a great honor. But it's my impression that these lectures are always published by the Yale University Press as a condition of the endowment; and, as you undoubtedly know, Yale now publishes its own paperbacks. On the other hand, you say that these three chapters will become part of a full-length book, and as I understand it Yale would have no claim on a larger book of which the lectures may be part. Therefore, would you like to sign a contract now for the longer work? Or should we hold everything until you're here on the 5th? Do let me know.

With best wishes to you and Margaret from
Barbara and me.

Yours,


Jason Epstein

IBRO

INTERNATIONAL BRAIN RESEARCH ORGANIZATION ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE RECHERCHE SUR LE CERVEAU

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SECRETARIAT

IBRO - UNESCO
Place Fontenoy
Paris, France

or

IBRO - MNI
3801 University St.
Montreal, Canada

2 March 1961

Dear Professor Wiener,

On behalf of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) of Unesco, it gives me great pleasure to inform you of your election to Honorary Membership in recognition of your outstanding contribution to scientific knowledge of the nervous system.

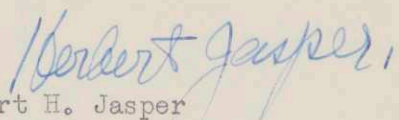
You have been elected by unanimous vote of the Central Committee of IBRO who would be honoured by your acceptance of this tribute from colleagues throughout the world now working together, through Unesco, to promote basic research on the brain.

You were selected not only because of your scientific and personal distinction. It was felt that you represent an outstanding example of achievement in a field of research of major importance to the objectives of IBRO.

The origin, goals, programme, structure and present membership of IBRO are presented in the enclosed Statutes and Bylaws.

We sincerely hope that you will be willing to accept this appointment as a token of esteem and admiration and with warm regards from your many friends and colleagues who are inspired by your example.

Respectfully yours,


Herbert H. Jasper
Executive Secretary

Enc: Statutes & *
Bylaws

* sent under separate cover

Professor Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Boston, Mass.
U.S.A.

MRS. CLAIRE MORTON PRINCE HANKS

The Ritz
Boston 17, Mass.
March 3, 1961

Dr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

Since reading William L. Laurence's book, "Men and Atoms", I have been so impressed with the idea which is substantiated by Mr. Laurence that the atom is composed of protons and neutrons, that I have pursued the idea as I am stimulated by Sir James Jeans in the closing chapter of his book, "The Mysterious Universe" and by Professor Compton, Professor of Physics, Chicago University, who fearlessly declares "Consciousness exists after the brain is destroyed". This led me through some of your students to read your book "Cybernetics and Society - The Human Use of Human Beings" and I also borrowed from the library at M.I.T. your book "Cybernetics", but in neither of these books did I find what I was looking for, namely, that you had said somewhere the human brain was a mathematical equation. Can you possibly tell me where I can find this statement of yours as I must substantiate anything I say by a verbatim quotation.

Laurence says on page 226 of "Men and Atoms",

"It is the special theory of relativity that contains what has become the world's most famous mathematical equation: $E = mc^2$, in which E stands for Energy, m for mass and c^2 for the square of the velocity of light.

"This equation, so simple that the average school-boy could work it out, represented one of the boldest intellectual concepts in history - that matter and energy, up to 1905 believed to be totally separate and distinct entities, were actually different manifestations of one and the same reality."

My interest in the atom stems in part from having seen and talked with Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence of the University of California. He was in his laboratory where he

Dr. Norbert Wiener 2.

March 3, 1961

was about to photograph his most recent success, the splitting of the atom. I even looked through the camera, so-called.

Being the daughter of my father, Dr. Morton Prince, you will well understand that I have an enquiring mind and a pragmatic sense for at an early age I was compelled to substantiate my statements by actual fact, or else!

Dean Fassett knows me as I have had quite a few of the M.I.T. students, many of whom have been in your classes.

I shall be most grateful if you will give this letter consideration. My career is that of Economist. I am not a Mathematician, as my family denied me this as being irrelevant to what they considered was then the outlook of the times for a lady.

Hoping very much to hear from you,

Sincerely yours,

Clara Morton Prince Hunt

[ans 3/10/61]

3 March 1961

Prof. E. R. Caianiello
Institute of Theoretical and Nuclear Physics
Napoli
Mostra d'Oltremare, Pad.19
Italy

Dear Prof. Caianiello:

As you may know, Prof. Wiener is one of the co-editors of a new journal devoted to the science of cybernetics which has been published by the Springer-Verlag in Heidelberg. It is Kybernetik. We were sent several announcement leaflets, and I enclose one so that you may have a chance to see what they are trying to do.

The Springer-Verlag has asked Prof. Wiener to contribute papers, if possible, and to suggest perhaps other possible contributors. Of course, your name came up, but I did not want to suggest it unless you were willing to consider a paper, or at least would be notified that I would suggest you as one of various people they might want to contact.

I hope you won't mind this suggestion. Springer will probably contact you, but at least you will be briefed! I also hope you enjoyed your stay in the U.S. and had a good trip home!

Sincerely yours,

Eva-Maria Ritter (Mrs.)
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

Enclosure

den 3. März 1961

Herrn Dr. Heinz Götze
Springer-Verlag
Heidelberg
Neuenheimer Landstrasse 28-30
Germany

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Götze:

Wir haben Kybernetik vor ungefähr einer Woche in guter Verfassung erhalten und danken Ihnen bestens für das Heft wie auch für das Ankündigungsblatt, das ich hier ein bisschen herungezeigt habe.

Sie erwähnten, dass Sie mit der festen Mithilfe Professor Wieners rechneten und auch, dass Sie sich freuen würden, wenn einige unserer Leute hier aktiv an Ihrer (unserer) Zeitschrift beteiligen könnten. Prof. Wiener dachte dabei an Prof. E.R. Caianiello, Institute of Theoretical and Nuclear Physics, University of Naples, Italy, und an Dr. John Barlow im Department of Physiology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Charles Street, Boston, Mass.*

Ich habe Herrn Prof. Caianiello geschrieben und ihn informiert, dass ich Ihnen seine Adress geben würde und habe mit Dr. Barlow vor einigen Minuten gesprochen. Dr. Barlow würde Ihnen sehr gern einen Artikel geben, aber das wird einige Zeit in Anspruch nehmen. Immerhin können Sie sich mit ihm in Verbindung setzen, wenn es Sie genügend interessiert. Dr. Barlow ist einer der Mitarbeiter an Prof. Wieners Gehirnwellenforschung.

In der Hoffnung, Ihnen einige Anregungen gegeben zu haben, verbleibe ich mit verbindlichen Empfehlungen

Ihre sehr ergebene

P.S. *Dept. of Physiology and Encephalography

[ms 3/10/61]

+

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY

600 NORTH PACA STREET

BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

March 6, 1961

Dear Dr. Wiener,

I received your last letter and was sorry to hear that I had caused you any concern about writing part of my paper on your life. I assure you that my only references for this part was your own published works. I had no intention to delve into your private life and I apologize if I ever gave any indication that this was my intention. Also, I must admit that the idea to include your 'bibliography' in my dissertation on Cybernetics was my own idea and not my professor's, under whose supervision I am writing it.

Again, I apologize for causing you any concern. Thank you for your time and trouble.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Kiely

Robert F. Kiely

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Professor D. Gabor
Dr.-Ing., F.Inst.P., M.I.E.E., F.R.S.

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DG/DM

6th March 1961.

Professor Norbert Wiener,
Department of Mathematics,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge 39, Mass.,
U. S. A.

Dear Wiener,

It was nice to hear from you and to learn what a delightful trip you had in Europe. Too bad that you could not visit us in London.

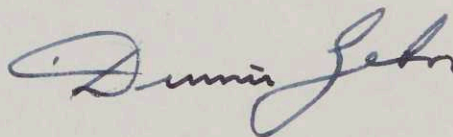
It so happened that Walter Rosenblith rang me up a few days ago and told me about your kind intentions with regard to our multiplier. I promised that I will give him every help, letting him have a specimen and full instructions. The trouble is only that we still have not found a manufacturer for this gadget and Walter naturally does not want to bother with manufacturing. There is hope though that somebody will be found in the next months.

I suppose if I send the material to Walter this will be as good as if I sent it to you?

I enclose with my compliments the manuscript of an article which appeared yesterday in a shortened version in the Sunday Times. I had Jerry Wiesner's approval for this publication. As I know how you feel about the unworthy scientists who are trying to spread panic in a situation which is bad enough as it is, I hope you will enjoy it.

With kindest regards, also to Mrs. Wiener.

Yours sincerely,



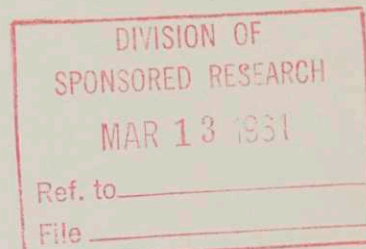
Encl.

D. Gabor.

[ans 3/10/61]

1.
GEORGE BRANDES
206 S. HOWARD
SPRINGFIELD 4, WASH.

March 7, '61



Gentlemen:

Could you help me out in a
research-problem?

A friend of mine, a psychologist wrote
me a letter a few days ago suggesting possibilities
for applying my (as he called it, but to me
does not seem like an appropriate label)

"*Epistemometer*" to new fields of knowledge."

Briefly this "epistemometer" represents a
way of measuring outer-inner structures
of "objects" be they thoughts, organisms, etc.

what it does becomes merely a way of
having "strings of symbols hang together
in n-dimensional-order of 'structure';
measurements of "structure," i.e. parts, &
how they hang together in joined unison, etc.

measurements of "variety" within a given part' & as a type of Combinatorics where we jump or transcend to "significance of joined integrated-parts, etc. a type of "Organizer" in math-form.

Back to my main-point, if we substitute for these "pure-symbols" dealing with say, two different kinds of "object," such as "concepts" or "pionis" of "organism"; then two applications present themselves:

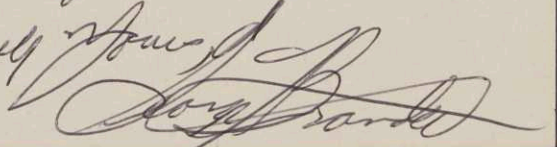
- a) mind-space & how to "measure" "MIND" in a vector mind-space as merely nothing but a string of "concepts" held together in organized-wholes in a hierarchy of displaced thought-processes, etc; math-organizer map-out a hierarchy of 'conceptual-forms' occurring in different thought-spaces. make much use of entropy-principle; measure 'variety' & 'significance' of these structures, etc.

(v) In 'Bernis' we have a string of interlaced "symbols" representing functional-parts of organic-system (isolated-system); tell how & why certain combination of part become impossible in a embryonic field; make strong use of Chains of Induction in successive-generations together with sets of formator-units combined into integrated-whole in turn determined by a type-specifier (analogue: genotype); embryonic-organizer map-out evolution-history of different specie-types, mostly degenerate-forms, measurement of different degrees of "specialization of parts"; asymmetrical-mobility of trajectory of line-development of said "whole", simply measurement of structure of different "object". Discontinuous-Function, etc.

Now, do you know of anyone doing basic-research in this type of phenomena? a) become more related to "Information & Retrieval-Systems"; b) become related to "Bionics".

My dominant-interest lies in areas of what I call "math-procedures", i.e., hardware-science doesn't interest me.

However, I would be quite happy in locating a group of scientist doing research in "robotics" or work in developing "Computers" that can handle "thought-concepts" or rather program a new species of electronic-form beyond mere "Computers", etc. I firmly believe that once we have materialized a "concept" we can then automate it into extended-form by sub-electronics, etc.

Sincerely yours,


BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
WALTHAM 54, MASSACHUSETTS

March 7, 1961

Dr. Norbett Weiner
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Weiner:

It was a real pleasure to share platform with you at General Education S. I got a lot out of it and I am sure the students did. Several of them have spontaneously mentioned that it was one of the most satisfactory meetings of its kind that they had attended. If I may briefly continue our discussion of the intermission, I would say that your success was due not only to the clarity with which you presented ideas, but also for the direct respect which you engendered in the audience.

Sincerely yours,



Ulric Neisser
Asst. Professor of Psychology

UN:vc

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Notre référence :

Meyrin-Genève, le

8 March 1961

Professor Norbert Wiener
Istituto di Fisica
Mostra d'Oltremare, Pad. 19
N A P O L I

Dear Professor Wiener,

Vicki Weisskopf and I, having moved a piece of M.I.T. to Geneva, are jointly worrying about the colloquim programme here at CERN. We are now interested in exposing ourselves and our colleagues to the more interesting new developments outside of our field of high energy physics and not necessarily even in the field of physics. Accordingly, I would like to invite you to visit us and to deliver a colloquium on some subject on which you are currently interested. Our colloquia are held on Thursday afternoons at 4.30 p.m. and the dates which remain open include April 27 and any Thrusday in May or June (except May 18 and June 8). Will you please let me know if you can come and if so, which of the dates you would prefer and what your subject would be. We cover expenses of course.

I think you would personally find a visit to the most successful enterprise in European collaboration interesting, not to speak of some of the things which are going on here in the forefront of elementary particle physics.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

B. T. Feld

B.T. Feld

P.S. - Vicki, as you may have heard, has temporarily returned to Cambridge for a hip operation; we are all hoping to see her but hope too long.

[ans 3/17/61]

March 8
1961

My dear Dr. Wiener;;

I know that you are a great authority on computing machines. Of course you are aware that lightning calculation may be more rapid than any machine. I send on separate sheets an account of a method of lightning calculation which I have discovered. I am trying to get a grant to support this work for Mt. St. Agnes college. I ask one question: Do you think the topic is worth my personal researches?

The nuns at Mt. St. Agnes who never got a single grant will most certainly thank you if you help me and them.

Very truly yours;

Lewis Bayard Robinson

131 E. North Avenue

Baltimore 2 Maryland

[ans 3/17/61]

Project

(I) Calculation of a Complete System of Affinors with the Aid of Non-Commutative Symbolic Multiplication

Using symbolic multiplication the author can solve infinite chains of partial differential equations as fast as the pencil can travel. The machine could not be more rapid.

The above is only a part of a work I am composing:

Extension of the Theory of Piquier, which would, if printed in full, be as big as Piquier's book.

le 8 mars 1961

Prof. E.P. Billeter
Director
Institute of Automation
University of Fribourg
Suisse

Monsieur le Professeur,

Je viens de recevoir votre lettre du 28 fevrier, et il me
plait beaucoup de lire que vous avez des plans d'organiser un
tour d'etudes aux Etats Unis.

Il me donnait beaucoup de plaisir de vous voir en 1959, et
ja suis plus que pret a continuer nos relations intellectuelles
et personnelles. L'apres-midi du 11 mai est a votre disposition,
et je serai tres heureux de voir vous et votre collegues dans mon
bureau.

Avec tous les meilleurs souhaits, votre bien devoue

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

March 8, 1961

Prof. Henry A. Finch
Department of Philosophy
Sparks Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Penn.

Dear Prof. Finch:

Many thanks for your letter of March 1st in which you extended such a tempting invitation. I wish I could accept it, but I feel I am loaded up with all the lectures I can possibly undertake until I go abroad for another year in Europe next spring.

I have to limit my efforts if I don't want to run myself out of ideas and energy. And the consideration of fees (although yours is a very tempting one) must come secondary to the question of how I wish to dispose of my time from now on.

Thanking you again for your very nice letter, and your paper, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

March 8, 1961

Prof. A.M. Letov
International Federation of Automatic Control
Moscow I-53
Kalanchevskaja ul. 15-a
USSR

Dear Prof. and Mrs. Letov:

Many thanks for your letter of February 25. My wife and I are back home after the most delightful of the many trips we have made to Europe and are looking forward to our next visit to Russia.

As you know, I am teaching one semester of each year here at MIT. The remaining time I shall probably spend abroad and shall very likely make my headquarters at the Institute of Theoretical and Nuclear Physics at Naples.

I am leaving for this trip in February 1962. If there is any possibility of our getting together some time during the ensuing year, I shall certainly let you know.

Margaret joins me in sending to both of you our best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

le 8 mars 1961

Monsieur G. Simondon
192 rue d'Entraigues
Tours (Indre & Loire)
France

Monsieur et cher collegue,

Je vous remercie beaucoup pour l'invitation au colloque consacré au "Concept d'information dans la Science contemporaine" a Royaumont cet ete. Malheureusement je serai bien occupe pendant cette annee ici aux Etats Unis, et il ne sera pas possible de vous donner une reponse positive.

Il est bien probable que, commençant en fevrier 1962, je serai a Naples pour un an. J' espere bien que pendant cette visite a Naples j'aurai l'occasion de reprendre les contacts intellectuels avec mes collegues francais, et peut-etre faire des conferences a Royaumont.

Veuillez agreer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingues et devoues.

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

ALBERT L. COLLOMS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.
—
MURRAY HILL 2-5923-4

March 9, 1961

Dear Prof. Wiener:

Many of us have long been concerned about repressive conditions in Franco Spain and the plight of political prisoners there. Now at last there are strong indications we can do something about it.

A letter to The New York Times (copy enclosed) was immediately followed by a supporting editorial (also enclosed).

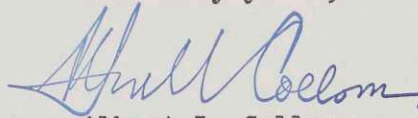
If one voice can lead to such a development, it is time for all of us to speak up and there is promise this will be effective.

It's time for another reason. The West European Conference for Amnesty for Spanish Political Prisoners and Exiles will convene in Paris March 25-26. Attached is the Conference Call, sponsored by many of Europe's leading personalities. Abroad, the movement for amnesty is massive and growing.

The conferees will be looking to the United States for understanding and support. I shall attend as a representative of the investigating Attorneys group, at the invitation of the International Sponsoring Committee.

Our country will really be represented if I bring with me evidence of the support so many of us feel for the Conference aims. Please sign the enclosed statement and return it to me so that America may be included in fact, as it always has been by tradition, in the company of the champions of great humanitarian causes.

Sincerely yours,


Albert L. Colloms

FROM THE

The New York Times.

Spain's Prisoners

Support for Amnesty for Regime's Political Opponents Urged

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

During November, 1960, an international commission of five lawyers made a personal, on-the-spot investigation of civil liberties, due process and the situation of the political prisoners in Spain. The investigation made a story meriting front-page treatment in a number of important newspapers throughout Europe. Even ABC of Madrid thought it important enough to run stories for almost two weeks.

As the United States member of that commission, which included Richard Turner of London, Angel Bustelo of Mendoza, Argentina; Jorge Jiles of Chile and José Sancho Miajares of Caracas, Venezuela, I feel that it is time for the appalling situation of the political prisoners and exiles of Spain to be presented to the conscience of the people of the United States.

Six thousand Spanish men and women are imprisoned there. They are of all political persuasions and of none. Their sole crime is differing with the Administration.

Many are subjected to outrageous sentences of twenty years or more. Many have been tortured. All have been convicted with so blatant a disregard of due process that the courageous lawyers of Spain are in the forefront of the fight for amnesty within Spain.

Backing for Movement

Indeed, leading figures in all Western Europe have joined in this movement, motivated by humanity and decency. Personages in the forefront of intellectual life, in the labor movement, in finance, in the professions and the arts are active in committees of their respective countries and are devoting their efforts to amnesty for Spanish political prisoners and exiles.

In Latin America too, this movement is widespread and deep-rooted. I have just returned from Montevideo, where the second Latin-American congress for amnesty for the political prisoners of Spain and Portugal was concluded.

Some 480 delegates of nine countries, representing 270 organizations, were in attendance. Four thousand greetings were received in the three days of the conference. The delegates were representative of the best of South America. There were political leaders, some officially representing their Governments, political groups were represented, as were intellectuals, workers, professionals, business men, labor leaders and Catholic orders.

A West European conference will be held in Paris in the spring which will be attended by delegates from every country in Western Europe.

It can only be that the present inaction of the people of our country is the result of lack of information. The American people are too sympathetic to be silent about the political prisoners in Spain once they know the real facts of the situation.

ALBERT L. COLLOMS.

New York, Feb. 15, 1961.

(March 1, 1961)

Prisoners in Spain

The letter from Albert Colloms printed on this page March 1 and dealing with political prisoners in Spain was a call to the conscience of all of us. Mr. Colloms was the American member of an international commission of lawyers who made an on-the-spot investigation of civil liberties, due process and political prisoners in Franco Spain.

Among their findings was that 6,000 Spanish men and women are in prison because they disagree with the regime. Many are serving sentences of twenty years or more, wrote Mr. Colloms, and "many have been tortured."

The facts speak for themselves. They are deserving of earnest consideration for two special reasons. One is that Franco Spain is a military ally of the United States. We signed a treaty—the 1953 Pact of Madrid—with Spain with the understanding, as Secretary of State Dean Acheson put it at the time, that Spain would make "substantial advances in such directions as increased civil liberties." The other reason is that international expressions of concern might help to bring about an amnesty for these unfortunate political prisoners.

(March 3, 1961)

Dear Mr. Colloms:

I have read the call of the West European Conference for Amnesty in Spain and endorse its purpose.

You may use my name to sponsor a United States Committee whose sole purpose will be Amnesty for the Spanish political prisoners.

Name _____

Address _____

CALL FOR A CONFERENCE ON AMNESTY
FOR SPANISH POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXILES

It is deeply disturbing that today, twenty full years after the end of the civil war, Spain still holds thousands of her countrymen in prison, of whom hundreds have been detained for the last ten, fifteen or twenty years, and that tens of thousands of Spaniards, amongst them eminent intellectuals of international repute, are exiled from their country; that men and women of every political colour and from every walk of life are arraigned before Military Tribunals for acts which, by ordinary democratic standards accepted in most European countries, are entirely legitimate or, at worst, minor civil offences.

We propose to pursue the aim of amnesty for all Spanish Political Prisoners and Exiles by means of a West European Conference as influential and representative as possible.

Signed:

IN GREAT BRITAIN:

Kingsley Amis
John Arlott
Malcolm Arnold
Professor A.J. Ayer
Michael Ayrton
H.G. Bellingham (SLADE&PW)
Professor Max Beloff
Sir Isaiah Berlin
Lord Beveridge
Roderic Bowen MP
Lord Boyd Orr
R.W. Brigginshaw (NATSOPA)
Professor A. Cairncross
Lord Chorley
Professor R.B.W. Ellis
George Elvin (ACT&AT)
Alan Fitch MP
James Fitton RA
Eric Fletcher MP
Anthony Greenwood MP
Professor L.C.B. Gower
David Garrett
Lord Henderson
F. Elwyn Jones MP
Dr. Horace King MP
Charles Laughlin MP
Laurie Lee
The Very Rev. George MacLeod
Rt.Hon. Hilary Marquand MP
Stanley Mayne (IPCS)
Bernard Miles
Bruce Millan MP
Sir Francis Meyrell
Henry Moore
Elaine Morgan
Iris Murdoch
Professor D. Needham
Professor J. Needham
John Newton (NUT&GW)
The Rt.Hon. P. Noel-Baker MP
George Pargiter MP
L.A. Pavitt MP
William Paynter (NUM)
Dr. Iorwerth Peate
John Piper
Sir Leslie Plummer MP
Sir Lynn Ungood-Thomas MP
William Shepherd MP
Viscount Chaplin
Lord Layton
George Darling MP

Rt.Hon. Emanuel Shinwell MP
Jeremy Thorpe MP
Gwyn Thomas
Professor H. Trevor-Roper
Sir Herbert Read
S. Schoffield-Allan MP
Betty Sinclair (Belfast TUC)
Mary Stock
Ernest Thornton MP
Harry Weaver (AUBTW)
Arnold Wesker

IN FRANCE:

Vincent Auriol (Ex-President of Republic)
Mr. Tanguy-Prigent (Ex-Cabinet Minister)
Pablo Picasso (painter)
Marc Chagall (")
Jean Cocteau (writer)
Francois Mauriac (writer)
Professor Laurent Schwartz
Andre Maurois (writer)
and many others.

IN ITALY:

A. Novella (Gen.Sec. It. Conf. of Labour)
Pietro Nenni (Gen.Sec. It. Socialist Party)
Ignazio Silone (writer)
Alberto Moravia (writer)
Renato Guttuso (painter)
F. Parri (senator, Ex-Pres. Council Ministers)
Roberto Rossellini (film director)
and many others.

IN BELGIUM:

Camille Huysmans (Ex-Prime Minister)
Chanoine Leclerc (Prof. Catholic Univ. Louvain)
and others.

and many other leading figures from:

NORWAY, FINLAND, IRELAND, SWEDEN,

GREECE, AUSTRIA, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND

More names are added every day to this list.

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WALTER J. JOHNSON, *PRESIDENT*

March 9, 1961

KURT JACOBY, *VICE PRESIDENT*

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener,

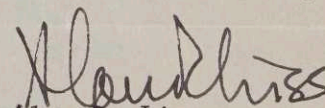
We understand that you intend to write a text based on the lectures on Harmonic Analysis for Engineers and Scientists that you will be giving at UCLA this year.

It would be a great pleasure for us if we could discuss with you publication plans for such a work. I am sure that it will be a most distinguished contribution to the literature and we would welcome an opportunity to publish it under our imprint.

I would like very much to be able to discuss such a project with you in detail and look forward to hearing your reaction to this suggestion.

Sincerely yours,

ACADEMIC PRESS INC.



Alan R. Liss

Assistant Vice President

ARL:sl

[ma 3/17/61]

March 10, 1961

Dear Dr. Wiener,

Quite a few years ago, when you lived in Belmont Mass., you were a next-door neighbor of my father's. I was wondering what to write for a mathematical term paper in school, when my father suggested to write about Cybernetics. I would be very appreciative if you could give me some information such as: how you came about inventing Cybernetics; what in general is Cybernetics and how it is used. I am a freshman in high school and would be very thankful if you could give me your information at a ninth-grade level.

Thank you very much Dr. Wiener.

Sincerely yours,
Craig Schreiber
Riegel Ridge Milford N.J.

[ans 3/17/61]



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JULIUS SPRINGER, Dr. Ing. e. h. · TONJES LANGE, Dr. med. h. c. · HEINZ GÜTZE, Dr. phil.

Dr. Heinz Götze

Professor Norbert Wiener's Office
z.Hd.von Mrs. Eva-Maria Ritter

(17a) HEIDELBERG, den 10. März 1961
Neuenheimer Landstraße 28-30
Telefon 279 01
Fernschreiber 04 61723

Gtz/Jr.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dept. of Mathematics
Cambridge 39/Mass.
USA

Sehr geehrte Mrs. Ritter,

Haben Sie vielen Dank für Ihren Brief vom 3.3.61 und für Ihre freundlichen Anregungen, die ich sofort an den federführenden Herausgeber der Zeitschrift "Kybernetik", Herrn Dr. W. REICHARDT, weiterleiten werde.

Ich bitte, Herrn Professor WIENER freundliche Grüße zu übermitteln und verbleibe mit wiederholtem Dank und den besten Empfehlungen

Ihr sehr ergebener

DB

10 March 1961

Mr. Hachiro Akama
77 Mountford Avenue
Boston 15, Mass.

Dear Mr. Akama:

When you came to M.I.T. to bring me a present from Professor Ikehara, I promised you that as soon as Prof. Wiener had gotten used to MIT again, I would get in contact with you to arrange for you to see Prof. Wiener.

Well, things have quieted down a bit, and I know he will be very glad to see you. I thought that if Wednesday or Friday seem good for you, I might set up a tentative appointment for you. Please give me a call on Monday or Wednesday morning and tell me what time would be convenient for you.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Eva-Maria Ritter (Mrs.)
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

10 March 1961

Prof. Jack Douglas
Department of Speech
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Okla.

Dear Prof. Douglas:

Thank you for your recent letter to Prof. Wiener in which you inquired if the shifting of the date to April 1962 would make it possible for Prof. Wiener to attend your conference. As it is, Prof. Wiener will most probably be in Europe at that time to spend another year in Naples.

I am sorry that I cannot give you a positive reply, but will write you if Prof. Wiener can think of anyone who might be capable to handle a discussion of the implications of cybernetics in human verbal communication.

Sincerely yours,

Eva-Maria Ritter
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

10 March 1961

Prof. Richard Phillips Feynman
Department of Physics
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, Calif.

Dear Prof. Feynman:

Segal is telling me that he is trying to get you to come here for some talks but that you don't seem to take the bait. I shall be here this term and next term until February 1962. If you could come while I am here, I'd have a lot to learn from you and perhaps you would be interested in some of the things I am doing, too.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

P.S. I shall be at UCLA this summer, July 17-28, to give a short course under the Physical Sciences Extension program.

March 10, 1961

Prof. Dennis Gabor
Dept. of Electrical Engineering
Imperial College of Science and Technology
University of London
Exhibition Road
London S.W. 7
England

Dear Gabor:

Many thanks for your letter. We are waiting for an example of your multiplier, and we either like to know its detailed characteristics or tests on it to determine it. I am wishing you all sorts of luck with the commercial success of your undertaking, and I think it is important that you get the apparatus into commercial production because I expect a great demand for it. A really good, reliable multiplier would change very much the balance between digital and analog apparatus.

There are firms here that are producing multiplier apparatus on a commercial basis. I shall be in touch with them again as soon as I can find their address in my filing cabinet, and if it is all right with them, I shall alert them to your apparatus and tell them to get in touch with you in case they might be interested.

I think your apparatus has great commercial possibilities but that you are in the fix that I have been in often -- that of doing a job too early. If I had full data here, I should be in a better position to help you should these people get in touch with me again as they have promised to.

As to your attitude about the bomb, I hope you are right. But I still think that you under-rate the possibility of a madman like Hitler getting hold of it and using it with suicidal ruthlessness. The bomb is the cheapest way of mass extermination yet found and may become much cheaper in the future. While there is as yet no large-scale immediate expectation of the use in a bomb of the reaction between matter and anti-matter, the existence of anti-matter has been established, and I wouldn't like to bet too heavily that the technical possibility of controlling it would last forever. The particular conjuncture by which the real effective control of the

Prof. Gabor

2

10 March 1961

bomb is in the hands of major powers who can put pressure on the minor powers in their orbit, is a pretty tenuous thing on which to hang the hopes of survival for the human race.

It is highly likely that we shall spend the year 1962 in Naples. Next time we must get together. Margaret joins me in sending our best regards!

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

10 March 1961

Mrs. Claire Morton Prince Hanks
The Ritz-Carlton Hotel
Boston 17, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Hanks:

Thank you for your interesting letter. I do not remember any statement of mine that the human brain is a mathematical equation nor even any statement which could be twisted into that form, although it is quite possible that this is a paraphrase in journalistic language of something that I may have said.

I am very familiar with your father's work and in particular with his book on the "Dissociation of a Personality". This concept of dissociation is one which I think is subject to a cybernetic analysis and which needs such an analysis. As a matter of fact, your father's book was one of those which have stimulated me in my interest in this field.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

10 March 1961

Prof. Olav Hilmar Iversen
Institute for General and
Experimental Pathology
University of Oslo
Oslo, Norway

Dear Prof. Iversen:

I have only just now found the time free to consider your interesting letter and article, and it pleases me very much. I think we must regard Volterra as an important forerunner of cybernetic thinking in biology so that it is completely appropriate to use the methods of Volterra in the study of the homeostasis of different tissues in the individual. Of course, Volterra's methods are largely, or predominantly, linear and we shall have to go well beyond them for quantitative results concerning processes as highly nonlinear as the life processes. This remains for future work and pioneer work such as yours naturally has a more limited scope.

I got up to Oslo last summer and tried to look you up, but you were out of town. I know now how hopeless it is to establish contact with Scandinavian colleagues during summer vacation. However, we shall probably be in Europe about a year from now and it is quite possible that we may be able to see you in term time.

Hjertelig hilsen,
Deres

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

10 March 1961

Mr. Richard W. Kislik
Ziff-Davis Publishing Co.
1 Park Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kislik:

Thank you for your recent communication in which you invited Professor Wiener to be the guest speaker at the annual spring banquet meeting held by the New York Chapter of the Institute of Management Sciences.

Were it not for the fact that he has just returned from a year abroad and thus has quite a back log of mail, lectures etc. waiting for him, he would be most happy to consider your generous invitation, but he feels that there is a limit as to how much time he can spend on lectures away from MIT. As this year's activities will keep him busier than he would like to be, I must, in his name, decline your invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Eva-Maria Ritter
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

10. 3. 61

Herrn v. Wehrenalp
Econ Verlag
Düsseldorf
Kreuzstrasse 21

Sehr geehrter Herr von Wehrenalp,

Im Auftrage Professor Wieners möchte ich Ihnen in diesem Schreiben mitteilen, wie es mit der Neuauflage des Buches "Cybernetics" steht und auch Ihre Anfrage hinsichtlich der Übersetzung ins Deutsche beantworten.

"Cybernetics" ist momentan in Korrektur. Es sollte nicht allzu lange dauern bis auch die Fahnenabzüge der zwei neuen Kapitel korrigiert sind, und dann kann mit dem Setzen begonnen werden, was wahrscheinlich in England gemacht wird. Ich habe mit Herrn Dr. Bryant von der Technology Press hier in MIT gesprochen und er hat mir versichert, dass er sich mit Wiley & Sons in Verbindung setzen wird -- hinsichtlich der Rechte etc. -- und keine Schwierigkeiten voraussieht. In ungefähr drei Wochen sollte man in dieser Beziehung klar sehen. Ich möchte noch bemerken, dass es in diesen geschäftlichen Dingen am Besten ist, wenn Sie sich direkt mit Herrn Dr. Bryant in Verbindung setzen.

Was Professor Wieners Roman "Under the Stone" angeht, so ist die Weiterarbeit daran bis zum Herbst verschoben worden, da Prof. Wiener augenblicklich zu sehr mit Vorlesungen beschäftigt ist und sich ausserdem für die Terry Lectures an der Yale Universität vorbereiten muss, die vielleicht auch in Buchform erscheinen werden. Sie werden von uns hören, wenn es soweit ist.

Sollten Schwierigkeiten oder sonstige Fragen auftauchen, wenden Sie sich ruhig an uns.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Ihre

Eva-Maria Ritter
Secretary to Prof. Wiener



UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI
ISTITUTO DI FISICA TEORICA
Mostra d'Oltremare, Pad. 19 - Tel. 303514
NAPOLI

Napoli, li 13/3/1961 196...

ER/1495/61/FT

Prof. N. Wiener
M.I.T.
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

I am very glad indeed to hear that both Mrs. Wiener and yourself are well, and look at your stay in Naples with such kindness. Your letter has reached immediately all the people to whom you intended to send your good word; needless to say what has most excited everybody, and this includes myself in the first place, is your confirming that you will be again with us next February: we are all looking forward to it with great expectation.

We shall be most happy to welcome here any person you may wish to send to us to continue your work on brain waves. The same applies to our Pisan friends, with whom we are now collaborating very closely.

I sent your article, with the request which was stated in your letter, to the editor of a highly representative magazine, who is a good friend of mine.

We shall be always glad to have news from you; I need not repeat how great our interest is in continuing research along the lines which you have set.

With best regards and greetings to Mrs. Wiener and yourself from everybody here and from home to home.

Sincerely yours,

E. R. Caianiello

ERC:amh

[ans 5/11/61]



UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI
ISTITUTO DI FISICA TEORICA
Mostra d'Oltremare, Pad. 19 - Tel. 303514
NAPOLI

Napoli, li 13/3/1961 196...

ER/1500/61/FT

Mrs. E.M. Ritter
Department of Mathematics, M.I.T.
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

Dear Mrs. Ritter:

I do thank you for your kind letter of March 3rd about the German Journal of cybernetics. We have seen its first issue, and have the impression that it might be an excellent medium for all those interested in this science. I am convinced that the fact that Professor Wiener is one of the co-editors will greatly help to bring its standard to a high place in the scientific literature.

I shall certainly be glad to consider the possibility of collaborating to it personally or through my co-workers; you may, therefore, mention our group or my name without hesitation.

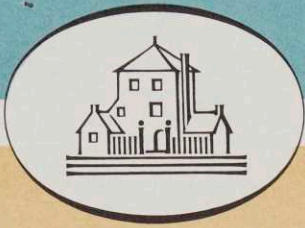
I appreciate your kindness in writing me on this subject in advance. I am happy to tell you that Professor Wiener conquered everybody in Naples, both at our Institute and in the world at large. We are now hoping to see him soon again.

With many thanks and very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

E. R. Caianiello

ERC:amh



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Jason Epstein, EDITOR

March 13, 1961

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Norbert:

It was terribly exciting to see you on Friday. The real impact of our discussion didn't strike me fully until the following day when it came to me that the implication of your ideas is that learning machines represent the next stage in evolution, or by analogy at any rate.

In any case, I hope by the time you get down here on April 5th we'll be able to discuss more fully the book you may write from which the Terry Lectures may be excerpted. I do look forward to your visit very much, and hope that you can spare a night for dinner as well as lunch on the fifth.

Yours,

Jason Epstein

P.S. I am returning SCIENCE AND SOCIETY which I found fascinating. Thanks ever so much for letting me read it.

[ans 3/17/61]

**STUDENT
RESEARCH**

McCulloch Hall B-21
Boston 63, Massachusetts

March 13, 1961

Mr. Norbert Wiener
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Wiener:

In 1936 the students in General Georges F. Doriot's Manufacturing class at this School allowed their imaginations to run riot and produced a list of the "most desirable developments for the next 25 years." All but one of these - wireless transmission of power - have since become practical reality.

Our class of Manufacturing students is as eager as were our predecessors to be well-informed and up-to-date in our ideas. Since the world has become incalculably more complex in the intervening period, a small group of us is asking you and a few other prominent men to contribute your thoughts about the next 25 years.

We plan to present this project to the class next month, quoting and discussing the thoughts we have collected. Would you be willing to cooperate in this endeavor?

We should like to have ten minutes of your time some day within the next two weeks. I shall plan to take the liberty of contacting your secretary to determine whether this is agreeable to you and to make an appointment.

Since your assistance means a great deal to us, we should appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

John H. Payne
John H. Payne

for Manufacturing Group 8

Interview
JHP:rmf

*Monday, 20th, 10:50
by telephone*

199, Cromwell Road,
London, S.W.5.

13th March, 1961.

The Dean,
School of Industrial Management,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
50 Memorial Drive,
Cambridge 39,
Massachusetts.

Dear Dean,

I have just received your cable in reply to my letter to Dr. Greenberger. I can quite see that my proposed talk doesn't fit into the series, and I will happily revert to the one I had originally planned. On May 6 I am due at Amherst, and I don't think I can fit in another lecture that day, so we had better leave my round-up of the Godkin comments for some other lecture, probably at Brandeis a week later.

Thank you so much for your kindness.

Yours sincerely,

C.P. SNOW

199, Cromwell Road,
London, S.W.5.

1st March, 1961.

Mr. Martin Greenberger,
Lecture Series Chairman,
School of Industrial Management,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
50 Memorial Drive,
Cambridge 39,
Massachusetts.

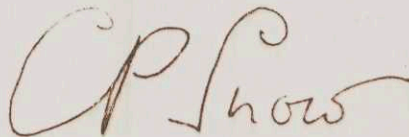
Dear Mr. Greenberger,

By the time I arrive in the United States at the end of April there will have been a good many comments on my Godkin Lectures. I see that Watson-Watt, who is a foolish man, has been having something to say. My inclination is not to reply piecemeal, but to include my recent thoughts on the subject, together with what is valuable in the critical comment, in my lecture on May 5. Is this all right for you? It will make the lecture rather different from the others in the series, but that it would be in any case. I think what I have to say will be of some interest.

If you see no objection, I shall probably let it be known in both the English and the U.S. press that I am reserving my comments on other people's comments until my lecture at M.I.T. Incidentally, this seems to me a level-headed method of dealing with controversies.

In the circumstances, I am not quite sure when I shall have a script of the lecture. I can't guarantee that it will be ready by April 10.

Yours sincerely,



C.P. SNOW

March 13, 1961

Mr. Robert Bernhard
Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp.
Bethpage, L.I.
N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bernhard:

Prof. Wiener's talk at Purdue has not found its way to paper yet, and I doubt very much that it will. I imagine rather that he will present it quite informally.

Therefore, I am afraid I cannot even give you an abstract or summary of the paper. Hoping that you won't be too disappointed at not having a chance of trading generalizations, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Eva-Maria Ritter
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

le 13 mars 1961

Dr. Paolo Bonetti
SCIENTIA
Via Roncaglia, 4
Asso (Como)
Italie

Cher Monsieur,

Nous avons reçu votre carte postale du 25 janvier dans laquelle vous exprimez votre désir d'obtenir un article par Professor Wiener pour "Scientia".

Comme vous savez, Monsieur le Professeur a été bien occupé pendant ses mois en Europe. Je n'ai pas un complet dossier à mon bureau quant aux correspondances entretenues pendant son séjour en Italie et je ne sais pas ce qu'il a promis. Mais en cas qu'il ait parlé de son article publié en Russie, je recommande que vous consultiez Prof. E. R. Caianiello, Istituto di Fisica Teorica e Nucleare, Univ. de Napoli. Il a la liberté de donner l'article pour publication à une revue de sa choix personnelle.

J'espère bien qu'il m'est possible de vous aider à ce sujet, mais si vous avez des difficultés, n'hésitez pas à m'écrire.

Veillez agréer, cher Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les plus distingués et dévoués,

Eva-Maria Ritter
(Secretary to Prof. Wiener)

March 13, 1961

Mr. Norwood Russell Hanson
Chairman of the Department of
History and Logic of Science
Indiana University
Bloomington, Ind.

Dear Mr. Hanson:

With regard to your invitation to Prof. Wiener to participate in the December meeting of AAAS in Denver, I am sorry to tell you that it will be impossible for Prof. Wiener to attend. He has a very heavy schedule for this year and will, in fact, be busier than he would like to be. As he has been away from MIT for the last eight months, he has a lot of things on his agenda which demand his attention. Under these circumstances, I hope that you will understand his situation.

Sincerely yours,

Eva-Maria Ritter
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

March 13, 1961

Mr. Ruben A. Holden
Secretary
Yale University
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Holden:

I have already written my acceptance to your invitation to give the Terry Lectures this fall, and I am in the midst of my work of writing these up. Certain issues have come up which I believe demand a more explicit understanding between us.

I find the best way for me to work up these lectures is first to write a more comprehensive survey of my ideas on the implications of cybernetics in religion and ethics and then, when I have clarified my own attitude and know better the amount of material available for me, to select from this larger book of writing the three lectures to be given viva voce. When I have done the larger writing, it would be a shame not to publish it in book form.

Here, several considerations come up. The 2,000 dollars which you offer me are generous for the lectures themselves and for a printable manuscript covering these lectures. Since my plans for a larger book have been developed subsequently to my letter to you, I can't see that they are covered by the agreement which you propose in your letter. I should like to avoid that certain important auxiliary rights should go by default or lie in a no-man's land concerning which we have made no explicit decision.

The larger book which I am proposing to write will represent a more mature form of the ideas which I have published in the "Human Use of Human Beings" under the imprint of Houghton-Mifflin. Besides normally good sales of the hard back edition, the sales of the paper back edition over the years have amounted to something between 50,000 and 100,000 copies. In addition, the book has been translated into ten languages. All these editions have had quite good sales and I believe that the total more than the sales of the American paper back edition. In view of this it is a reasonable expectation that my new book may do comparably well. I am disposing of a fairly valuable literary property; one much too valuable, in fact, to be handled casually. I, therefore, feel that we should be explicit and make a clean-cut contract covering the rights that you have acquired and the rights for royalties which remain to me. It is my understanding that you have acquired all rights whatever to a book

Mr. R. A. Holden

2

March 13, 1961

consisting of the Terry Lectures alone. What your attitude is to the further treatment of the larger book is not clear to me. Please understand that I am not attempting to dictate terms, but I think it essential that you be apprised now of a situation which is bound to arise in the future and which will certainly cause much misunderstanding if we do not provide for it in advance.

In closing, let me say that I shall appreciate greatly any advice you can give me in this matter and remain

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/enr

March 13, 1961

Mr. Craig Pease
3040 N. 2nd Street
Apt. 210
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Mr. Pease:

Cybernetics is a subject which can be approached from many different angles, but all of them make a demand on a certain minimum knowledge of mathematics and mathematical techniques. It is also desirable to be enough of an electrical engineer to understand the details of the apparatus which one is to use and, of course, for the medical aspect of cybernetics, an acquaintance with physiology is essential. Many of the best men of cybernetics and cybernetic work, both here and in Europe, have come from the ranks of the theoretical physicists. Thus there are many avenues of approach to a training in cybernetics.

As to the order in which the various components in one's training are to be taken, I do not think I can give a unique answer. Whichever subject you take as the main theme of your education, you should at least read extensively in the other fields and try to have a certain minimum operative acquaintance with them.

Until you write to me more of the details of your intentions, this is about all I can say at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

March 14, 1961
New London, Conn.

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Professor Wiener:

The enclosures may recall our former correspondence and our personal talk in 1953.

From the 3d to the 5th of April I will be in Boston and would appreciate the opportunity of seeing you again. I would like to discuss the application of my experimental procedure, auditory tracking, especially in connection with the measurement of the "frequency standard of hearing" (as I phrased absolute pitch in my various publications). Furthermore, I would like to approach you with the applications of auto-correlation to musical consonances. I believe that Euler's magnificent " Tentamen novae theoriae musicae" and Fourier analysis could not solve the problem and that the auto-correlation function offers a perfect answer.

Please give me also an opportunity to talk about a conference I attended last year in Detmold, Germany, at which the applications of information theory to music and to musical hearing were in the foreground of interest.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Sincerely yours,

Andrew G. Fikler

Andrew G. Fikler
Research Psychologist
USN Medical Research Lab.
USN Submarine Base
New London, Conn.

[and 3/17/61]

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
77 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

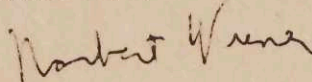
South Tamworth
New Hampshire
August 11, 1954

Mr. Andrew G. Pikler
Code 2920/f
U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory
San Diego 52, California

Dear Mr. Pikler:

As to your letter of August 4, I am not quite certain whether I have answered it or not. As to the question of digital processes in hearing, I am not convinced. By this I mean that a digital process might well be the explanation of a sense of pitch which is ~~an~~ absolute pitch, but I do not believe that there is any sufficiently sharp distinction between digital processes and analogy processes to make this conclusion irrefutable. I shall be very glad to see you in Cambridge any time after the beginning of September.

Sincerely yours,



Norbert Wiener

NW:jc

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

South Tamworth
New Hampshire
July 29, 1954

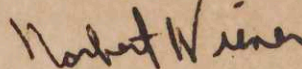
Mr. Andrew G. Pikler
Code 2920/f
United States Navy Electronics Laboratory
San Diego 52, California

Dear Mr. Pikler:

The notion of relative pitch I believe depends as you suppose on some sort of clocking. When this clocking is unusually sharp and constant you may get absolute pitch, but if it is variable and drifts, all you can hope to get is relative pitch. Where this clocking takes place, I do not know. My suspicion is that the brain contains not one but many clocks of different periods. The alpha rhythm clock is being studied now very carefully at the Massachusetts General Hospital by means of autocorrelation methods or in more familiar physical language of interferometer methods. We have succeeded in showing definitely that this clock which beats at about ten per second is accurate in frequency to at least a twentieth of a cycle and very possibly to a fiftieth of a cycle. Whether it is still more accurate, we do not know, but even at a fiftieth of a cycle we are getting to ranges well within the audio limit. I don't think that the alpha rhythm is what you are looking for, but it is still quite possible that it may excite high overtones of a sufficiently sharp frequency to be useful in pitch recognition.

The relativity of hearing with which you are concerned almost certainly has nothing to do with optical relativity. The uncertainty of frequency as heard by a person without absolute pitch simply does not bring you to a range where the velocity of light is of any importance.

Sincerely yours,



Norbert Wiener

NW:je

100 Franklin St. Apt. 1H29
Morristown, New Jersey

March 14, 1961

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener,

While a graduate student at M.I.T. (in the Department of Electrical Engineering, 1952-1957), I had the pleasure of hearing you speak on a number of occasions including a Graduate House dinner, and meetings of the Skeptic's Seminar. Thru your lectures and writings, you have contributed to my understanding of many subjects, both technical and social. Your concern with the responsibility of scientists toward society particularly impressed me as being of the greatest importance.

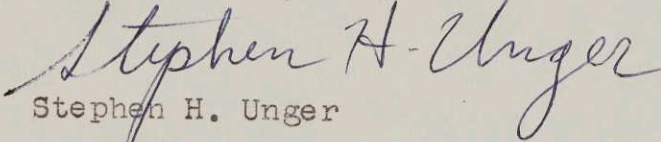
During the past few years, a campaign directed toward ending the international arms race has gained considerable backing, both in this country and abroad. Public meetings have been held, books and magazine articles written, petitions circulated, and prominent figures from the intellectual world have discussed the matter on radio and television forums. Enclosed is a petition whose original list of signers (see the reverse side) includes distinguished scientists from many nations.

Conspicuously missing from this list is the name Norbert Wiener, and, to my knowledge, you have not recently stated your views publicly on this subject.

A decade ago, in *The Human Use of Human Beings*, you warned against the dangers of the arms race, referring to it as "this vast apocalyptic spiral". Even prior to that, you set an inspiring example to the scientific community by publicly announcing your withdrawal from scientific work connected with military applications.

Does your recent silence indicate that you have altered your views?

Respectfully yours,


Stephen H. Unger

P.S. While reading about the problem of detecting clandestine underground tests of nuclear weapons, it occurred to me that this was a situation to which statistical communication theory was undoubtedly being applied. In fact

the general problem of detecting violations of disarmament agreements seems to fit into the broad category of communication problems that you have done so much to clarify. Perhaps some game theoretic aspects also enter into the picture. I wonder if you have given any thought to this problem?

J. H. U.

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

MEDFORD 55, MASSACHUSETTS

March 15, 1961

Dr. Norbert Wiener
53 Cedar Road
Belmont, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wiener:

On behalf of the University Lecture Committee, and of the entire University, I wish to thank you for the brilliant lecture that you gave us last night. I need not tell you that the abundant questions and the vigorous applause were signs of the audience's keen interest in you and your topic.

As an individual, I wish to say that the lecture was not only the best in this year's series (that was to be expected) but the best lecture I have ever heard. Again let me express my gratitude.

Sincerely,



Sylvan Barnet, Chairman
University Lecture Committee

SB:ap

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA

NORMAN BRIDGE LABORATORY OF PHYSICS

March 15, 1961

Professor Norbert Wiener
Department of Mathematics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Professor Wiener:

You are right that Segal has been working on me and I haven't taken the bait. Your letter makes the bait much more enticing, to be sure. But I don't like to travel and want to stay at home.

I believe I will be in town when you are at UCLA and I look forward to talking to you then.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Feynman

RPF:n

March 15, 1961

Dr. Elliot Q. Adams
5525 Clement Drive
Maple Heights 37
Ohio

Dear Elliot:

I am, in fact, back in Cambridge, or so at least is my impression. Let us hear more about your recent work. You can count on my being in the States for the better part of another year.

Yesterday, I gave a talk in the Tufts chapel so that I revisited something of our old stamping grounds. Apart from the general down-at-the-heels appearance of all the suburbs which used to be rather charmingly semi-rural, it seems to be much the same.

Best regards,

Yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/omr

March 15, 1961

Dr. Konrad P. Mangold
729 Fifth Street
Yazoo City, Miss.

Dear Dr. Mangold:

Please forgive my overdue answer to your letter of Feb. 13 in which you enclosed your article.

I agree with you that it is a significant question as to how a machine can have consciousness if we ourselves meet the solipsist obstacle in the consciousness of other beings. The answer is that the world is, to my mind, a parasite on philosophy. The only question we can ask about machines is the same question that we can ask about other people; namely, is their behavior such that purely as behavior we should naturally interpret it as signifying consciousness. Consciousness as an objective scientific term can only be a description of behavior, and I think it is now perfectly clear that machines do show the sort of behavior that we would term consciousness if we didn't see the wheels going around or the vacuum tubes flash.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

March 15, 1961

Mr. Mundy I. Peale
President
Republic Aviation Corp.
Farmingdale, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Mr. Peale:

Flattering as your letter is, I have an ingrained disinclination to answer questionnaires, even questionnaires that are to be buried underground for the use of hypothetical posterity. Frankly, in writing my conjectures about the future, I prefer to do it in my own way, in my own time and in my own books. I hope then that you will not take it too amiss if I do not find myself able to go along with you in your scheme for the time capsule; all the more particularly as I am now engaged in writing a book which will inevitably contain some of my conjectures.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

15 March 1961

Dr. Bryan W. Robinson
Bldg. 9, Room 124
Dept. of Health, Education
and Welfare
Bethesda 14, Md.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

With regard to your recent inquiry concerning your interest in the relation between your field and that of cybernetics and information theory, Prof. Wiener has suggested a few sources of information which might prove useful to you. Much in that area is being done at the Max-Planck Institute of the University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, and by Prof. Aldo Masturzo, president of the International Society of Cybernetic Medicine, Via Roma 348, Naples, Italy. There is also a new journal which is devoted entirely to cybernetics, called KYBERNETIK, published by the Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, Ger., and last not least, the second edition of Prof. Wiener's book "Cybernetics" will have a new chapter dealing with these questions.

As to the possibility of pursuing this interest and progressing toward a Ph.D. in mathematics here at M.I.T., I have no immediate answer. I have forwarded your letter to Prof. Martin, head of the math. dept. at M.I.T., and expect that you will hear from him soon.

Sincerely yours,

Eva-Maria Ritter
Secretary to Prof. Wiener

15 March 1961

Dr. Jerome Wiesner
Chairman
President's Science Advisory Committee
Room 200
Executive Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Jerry:

I have recently received the enclosed brochure from the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, Inc. It is dealing with matters which you know by intimate contact and which I know only peripherally. I know how busy you are and I do not ask you to spend time on reading this, but I consider it quite possible that you have already seen it and have formed an opinion on it. Can you write me in a few words what you think of it in case my conjecture is correct?

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Wiener

NW/emr

Enclosure