



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 25, 1958

To Members of the Faculty and Staff:

Dr. Leo Szilard, Professor of Biophysics at the University of Chicago, begins a two-week stay at M.I.T. on Monday, April 28, as the tenth Arthur Dehon Little Memorial Lecturer. While at the Institute, Dr. Szilard will participate in seminars and discussions with faculty and students in the Departments of Physics and of Biology, his principal fields of interest.

Born in Budapest in 1898, Dr. Szilard is a graduate of the Budapest Institute of Technology. In 1922 he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Berlin where he also collaborated with Albert Einstein on problems in statistical mechanics and thermodynamics. During the mid-thirties Dr. Szilard was in England doing research in nuclear physics at London's St. Bartholomew's Hospital and at Oxford's Clarendon Laboratories. These studies resulted in a number of important discoveries including the Szilard-Chalmers reaction for the chemical separation of radioactive isotopes.

At the beginning of World War II Dr. Szilard was at Columbia University working on atomic energy. It was there that Enrico Fermi and he first proposed a specific way to use graphite as a moderator for a chain reaction. Then in 1942 he went to the University of Chicago where he worked closely with Fermi in the development of the first uranium-graphite pile. (Szilard, with Einstein, Fermi, and Eugene Wigner had been instrumental in interesting the government in starting the Manhattan Project.) Since the war, Dr. Szilard has devoted the major portion of his time to investigations in Biophysics, concentrating on the growth, mutations, and genetics of bacteria and bacterial viruses.

J. A. Stratton

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A-D-LITTLE
LECTURER