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Scientific Conf. on Atomic Energy

23 Feb.

1 letter from D.H. - to Prof. J.J. Rabi (New York)

23 February 1955

My dear Professor Rabi,

You will remember that at Dr. Bhabha's cocktailparty I mentioned to you the development of the discussion concerning the Deputy to the Conference Secretary-General. You agreed with me that it would be a good thing to have a Soviet scientist assigned to the post as this would provide some further guarantees for the right kind of Soviet cooperation.

From the Soviet Delegation I have now had information that Dr. V.S. Vavilov would be available for the post.

Dr. Vavilov is the son of S.I.Vavilov, who was President of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow until he died three years ago. He has published works on cosmic physics and belongs to Skobeltsyn's school. He has worked with Skobeltsyn in the cosmic laboratory in Pamir. After the war he studied at Columbia.

I have the impression that Dr. Vavilov is a candidate of the type we are looking for. He is probably not on the side of the atomic physics in the more "hot" sense, but seems on the other hand to be a scientifically qualified man.

Before taking any decision I would like to check with you, not in your official capacity as member of the Advisory Committee, but personally. I intend to get in touch in a similar way with Dunworth, Goldsmith and, of course, Bhabha.

As to the political aspect of the matter I feel that it would be a great mistake, indeed, not to have a Soviet scientist in this position, if we can get a qualified man. It may mean a great difference as to the significance of the conference in the political pattern of today.

With kind regards,

Professor I.I.Rabi
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New York City, N.Y.