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* New members

The statement opposite was forwarded by the President of EPS on 22 June 1982 to the representatives of the Governments of the USA and the USSR in Geneva.

Statement of European Physicists

The purpose of the European Physical Society is to contribute to, and promote the advancement of physics in Europe and in neighbouring countries. As a body we integrate all the European Physical Societies, North and South, East and West from a total of 30 countries.

In the past, scientific advances for which physicists have been largely responsible have contributed substantially to the well-being of mankind. Regrettably some of our discoveries have led to the creation of weapons of mass destruction.

As physicists we know better than any one else the power of these weapons which can, in minutes, ruin our civilization, kill most living beings and cripple the progeny of those left. By their very presence these weapons already destabilize peace, instil fear and insecurity.

Being scientists and engineers we are fully aware of the logic that leads to the development of weaponry and we are deeply convinced that it is hopeless through an arms race to resolve political problems or increase our security. With growing concern we notice the tremendous expense both material and moral, that is uselessly detracting from effort which should be directed to the major social and economic issues facing us all.

As people of Europe we can note that our continent could be a theatre of war and we, expendable hostages in a global conflict. We should like to

recall the resolution written by two great Europeans — Russel and Einstein in their Manifesto 27 years ago and signed by leading physicists of that time:

"In view of the fact that in any future world war nuclear weapons will certainly be employed, and that such weapons threaten the continued existence of mankind, we urge Governments of the world to realize and to acknowledge publicly that their purpose cannot be furthered by a world war, and we urge them consequently to find peaceful means for the settlement of all matters of dispute between them".

Today peace in the world is at stake. The talks shortly to take place in Geneva are to be concerned with the meaning of detente and the establishment of that understanding which can lead to means of maintaining world security. The peaceful life and work of hundreds of millions of people hang upon the outcome of those talks.

The Executive Committee of the European Physical Society meeting in Geneva on 18th June 1982 calls to those statesmen engaged in the Geneva talks to bring an end to the arms race and to bring about a reduction in the level of nuclear armaments as a first step for creating that atmosphere of political trust in which all means of nuclear warfare can be abolished, so that warfare itself can be finally eliminated.

Geneva, 18 June 1982

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Editor: E.N. Shaw

Meetings Compilation: W.S. Newman

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Printed by: Pflinter frères SA

CH-1213 Petit-Lancy/Switzerland