

Dear Pugwash colleagues!

With great sadness, we inform the Pugwash Community that Egon Bahr, close advisor to Chancellor Willy Brandt, chief-negotiator with Russia, Poland and the GDR and Minister for Economic Cooperation (1974-76), passed away during the night of August 20, 2015.

In Germany, he is also called "the architect of German Ost-Politik" He maintained close contacts with the German Pugwash Group and its representatives, such as C.F. von Weizsäcker. Some might remember his key speeches at the Annual Pugwash Conferences in Berlin in 1992 and 2011.

In the 1980s, he was very instrumental in preparing and implementing the findings of the Olof Palme Commission under the title of "Common Security" and worked as director of the Institute of Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH) from 1984-1994. Here, he elaborated, with his team, new security concepts for European Security and peaceful co-existence. In subsequent years, he was active as a trained-journalist, book author, columnist and key advisor to the Social Democratic Party on foreign and security policy. He received numerous awards and, together with Günter Grass, founded the "Willy-Brandt-Circle" to propagate co-existence and solidarity.

He was also the driving force behind the German "Gang of Four" statement from January 2009, in which Helmut Schmidt, Richard von Weizsäcker, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Egon Bahr nailed their colors to the mast of a nuclear weapons-free world and called for drastic reductions in nuclear arsenals. Until he was 93, he went to his office every day and held speeches on the necessity of including Russia in the European Security architecture. He had recently met Mikhail Gorbachev and called for a pragmatic rapprochement towards Russia and ending the sanctions as soon as possible.

Celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto:

One of his last appearances was a fascinating talk at the celebration marking the 60th anniversary of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, which was organized by the German Pugwash Group on July 9th, 2015 in Berlin. After the introduction of VDW-President U. Bartosch, Harold Kroto gave a video message. Thereafter, Klaus Gottstein and Jürgen Scheffran described the successful commitments of scientists and Pugwash to ending the arms race. After Bahr's speech, a panel with representatives from the Parliament, the government and civil society was moderated by Götz Neuneck.

Egon Bahr in the age of 93, standing for 30 Minutes, while reading his manuscript said:

"The Russell-Einstein Manifesto" marks the revolution that scientists must warn so that politics must answer to that. At that time, it was the hydrogen bomb and unlimited nuclear armament. At the peak of the Cold War, politics accepted that scientists under the term Pugwash, the name of its founding place, developed a network whose members analyzed the threats to our modern world on their own personal responsibility and exerted a moderating influence. The merits of Pugwash are undeniable, because this group has created confidence and has slowed negative developments."

Germany and Pugwash will miss such a brilliant thinker, sharp mastermind and driving force for common security and peaceful coexistence.

Götz Neuneck  
Chair German Pugwash,

20<sup>th</sup> of August 2015