

MAR05-2004-000080

Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the MAR05 Meeting of  
the American Physical Society

**Einstein, Ethics and the Atomic Bomb**

PATRICIA RIFE, University of Maryland

Einstein voiced his ethical views against war as well as fascism via venues and alliances with a variety of organizations still debated today. In 1939, he signed a letter to President Roosevelt (drafted by younger colleagues Szilard, Wigner and others) warning the U.S. government about the danger of Nazi Germany gaining control of uranium in the Belgian-controlled Congo in order to develop atomic weapons, based on the discovery of fission by Otto Hahn and Lise Meitner. In 1945, he became a member of the Princeton-based “Emergency Committee for Atomic Scientists” organized by Bethe, Condon, Bacher, Urey, Szilard and Weisskopf. Rare Einstein slides will illustrate Dr. Rife’s presentation on Albert Einstein’s philosophic and ethical convictions about peace, and public stance against war (1914-1950).