

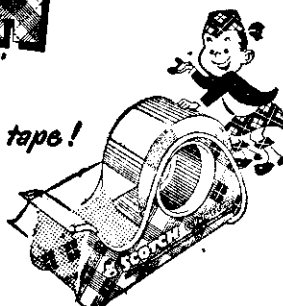
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## LOOKOUT

# Death of a World Citizen

THIS week has seen the death of a  
renowned world citizen, Albert  
Einstein, a man whose name is surely  
destined to last as long as our Western  
civilisation. Most of us knew the name  
of Einstein without understanding in  
the least what his Theory of Relativity  
meant. Very few people, of course, can  
know what it means. Yet the strange  
thing is that Einstein, as a name, was  
universally known. I'm not competent  
to discuss the significance of his work  
as a physicist. You can put me among  
those who don't grasp the Theory of  
Relativity. I'm just among the major-  
ity who may be able to recall one or  
two of the prevalent rhymes about him.  
You know the sort of thing:

There was a young lady named Bright,  
Who travelled much faster than light,  
She started one day,  
In a relative way,  
And returned on the preceding night.

The Theory of Relativity has added  
a dimension to human knowledge. It  
has, so I've read and been told, modi-  
fied Newton's Theory of Gravity. Mind  
you, I'm speaking without the book; I  
just don't know from experience. But I  
am aware—indeed, we must all be  
aware—of another achievement of  
Albert Einstein's. It was the creation of  
a simple enough looking formula:  $E$   
equals  $MC$  squared. Spelled out, that  
means: Energy equals mass multiplied  
by the square of the velocity of light.  
The velocity of light, in round figures,  
is 186,000 miles a second. When that  
figure is multiplied by itself you get a  
pretty big answer. This formula, in its  
ultimate results, may be the greatest  
ever devised by a human mind. By  
showing how atomic energy could be  
released, it made the atom bomb  
possible.

Einstein himself did not claim credit  
for what has happened following deeper  
and more general scientific consideration  
of his tremendous formula. He has said:  
"I do not consider myself the father  
of the release of atomic energy. My  
part in it was quite indirect. I did not,  
in fact, foresee that it would be re-  
leased in my time. I believed only that  
release was theoretically possible. It be-  
came practical through the accidental  
discovery of chain reactions, and this  
was not something I could have pre-  
dicted." After those atomic bombs had  
been dropped on Japan in August, 1945,  
Einstein noted, with horror, what his  
formula had made practicable. From  
that time on, the man who had made  
the release of atomic energy possible  
devoted his days to campaigning for a  
World Government—a government of  
all nations invested with authority to  
prevent war and especially control the  
use of atomic weapons. That formula  
has not been accepted as readily as the  
one that released atomic energy.

Let's make what we like of a declara-  
tion made by Einstein last year. He said  
then that if he had his time over again  
he would choose to be a plumber rather  
than a scientist. If we keep in mind the  
possible consequences of his intellectual  
achievements—and we can hardly avoid  
doing that—we must salute Albert Ein-  
stein as one of the historically great

Extracts from recent commentaries  
on the international news, broadcast  
from the main National Stations of  
the NZBS

figures of this century. It is not his  
fault that his formula has clouded the  
skies for mankind.

—IAN DONNELLY,  
April 23, 1955.

ONE of the most intriguing events of  
the week has been the visit of the  
Austrian Chancellor and his colleagues  
to Moscow. . . The Austrians have been  
waiting nearly 10 years for such a ges-  
ture, and during that time Austria has  
been an occupied country much on the  
German model and denied an honour-  
able peace settlement. Time after time

## THE AUSTRIAN TREATY

for nine years  
the Big Four  
have tried to get  
a peace treaty  
for Austria, and time after time Russia  
has placed some obstacle in the way,  
notwithstanding the Moscow Declara-  
tion of 1943, which said that one of the  
aims of the peace then still to be won  
was to be the re-establishment of a free  
and independent Austria. At one stage  
it was Soviet concern for Yugoslav  
claims to a part of Austrian territory  
that held things up. Then it was Aus-  
trian reparations to Russia. Later the  
Trieste problem was advanced as an ob-  
jection. Still later the Big Three . . .  
agreed to sign Russia's own revised text  
of the proposed treaty, but Russia pro-  
crastinated again with the excuse that  
the conclusion of a treaty with Germany  
must precede the one with Austria. . .

Why the sudden change of heart on  
the part of Russia? Why this mood of  
almost deferential conciliation? I can  
only make a guess. Isn't there a close  
relation between her change of front  
and the virtual completion of the Paris  
Agreements, which will give Western  
Germany full sovereignty, allow her to  
rearm under safeguards and bring her  
into the membership of Nato? For long  
enough Russia did her best to stop these  
things from happening. Now the Paris  
treaties are almost an accomplished  
fact, Russia accepts diplomatic defeat,  
though she doesn't admit it, and with  
Muscovite logic proceeds to cut her  
losses in one sphere and hopes to derive  
advantage by branching out in an-  
other. . .

But I feel she may have another and  
more positive reason. You see, there  
could have been an Austrian treaty long  
ago—of a kind—if Britain, the United  
States and France had withdrawn their  
troops and left Russian troops there, or  
not far away across the border. But  
the Western Powers weren't as gullible  
as that, for they knew what had hap-  
pened in Hungary and remembered  
Czechoslovakia. That would have been  
too easy a way of Russia either dominat-  
ing Austria or embracing her as a Com-  
munist satellite. Guarantees against this  
sort of thing happening have still to  
be found in the Four Power negotia-  
tions. For Russia, one incentive to  
settlement will be the prospect of seeing  
the occupation troops of the West de-  
part from close to the edge of the Iron  
Curtain.

—RUSSELL PALMER,  
April 16, 1955.

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 13, 1955,