

## **English-Subtitled World Premiere of the Film, FATHERS OF A THOUSAND SUNS**

**An 83-minute film at World Fellowship on Hiroshima Day, Sunday, August 6 at 1:30 pm – followed by discussion. Co-sponsor and source of the video is the DEFA Film Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.**

Writers on the development of the atomic bomb and the post-World War II confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, identify Klaus Fuchs (1911-1988) as “British scientist”. The fact is that Klaus Fuchs was the oldest son of a German Lutheran minister’s family. His father, Emil Fuchs (1874-1971), was a Protestant minister and a professor of theology, after World War II in East Germany. His four children, two boys and two girls, had joined the German Communist Party before Hitler came to power in 1933, and Klaus fled to England and became an outstanding atomic scientist, that some authors compared to Albert Einstein. When the Manhattan Project was started in Los Alamos, New Mexico, under the leadership of Robert Oppenheimer, the British loaned Klaus Fuchs to the United States. He transmitted the results of the research on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union, which was at the time a major ally of the United States. Klaus Fuchs believed that by doing this he could contribute to the defeat of Hitler fascism.

The interview with Klaus Fuchs in this movie was made in 1983 in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), where he was living after having served 9 years of a 14-year sentence in British jails. The Soviets refused to acknowledge that Klaus Fuchs had been a spy. But during the last years of the existence of the GDR, the authorities on the highest governmental level permitted this movie to be made, but The Berlin Wall came down before the film was released to the public, and premiered in German movie theaters on January 6, 1990. Until now the movie has only been available in the original German version, one of the collection of hundreds of East German movies that have been collected by the DEFA Film Library at the UMass Amherst. This Institute was founded by Professor Barton Byg, who has been a frequent participant in the GDR Symposia, which were held annually at World Fellowship from 1975 to 2000.

The founder of the GDR Symposium at World Fellowship, Christoph Schmauch, encouraged Professor Barton Byg to insert English subtitles so that this movie could be shown to American audiences. Much gratitude for this effort goes to Professor Byg, who diligently did this demanding work during the last few months. He will present the movie on August 6.

The movie will be shown at World Fellowship on Sunday, August 6, Hiroshima Day, at 1:30 pm. The Conway/Albany public is invited.

For Christoph Schmauch this project has a very personal meaning, since Emil Fuchs and his father, Werner Schmauch (1905-1964) were colleagues and friends, professors at East German universities, Leipzig and Greifswald respectively. They also were co-founders of the Christian Peace Conference in 1958, a religious ecumenical movement, motivated by the threat to humanity by nuclear weapons, and the effort to raise consciousness on the dangers of a nuclear war.

The youngest sister of Klaus Fuchs, Christel Holzer Fuchs, was a student in Pennsylvania when Hitler came to power in 1933 and stayed in the United States. In the 1970s she discovered World Fellowship, and became a frequent visitor and supporter while living in Vermont. She died recently, also having met Andrea Walsh and Andy Davis, World Fellowship co-directors, 2001-2021.

The Russian-Ukrainian War and the movie, “Oppenheimer”, released on July 21, make this a very timely presentation.

**Christoph Schmauch (1935-), executive Director emeritus of the World Fellowship Center**