

Sir:

Some recent ether work by the Dutchman Hendrik Lorentz and the American Nicola Tesla, which has been communicated to me in private communications, leads me to expect the United States of America is developing a means of propelling a vessel between the celestial worlds in the immediate future. Certain aspects of the situation which has arisen seem to call for watchfulness and, if necessary, quick action on the part of the Republic of France. I believe therefore that it is my duty to bring to your attention the following facts and recommendations:

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable through the work of John Holland in the United States of America - that it may become possible to design a vessel capable of functioning beyond earth's sensible atmosphere, by which travel to neighboring celestial worlds would be possible. Now it appears almost certain that this could be achieved in the immediate future.

This new vessel could also lead to the United States of America launching a fleet of such vessels to Mars, and it is conceivable - though much less certain - attacking the Martians that so harmed our planet four years ago. An attack carried out by such a fleet, might very well delay a second Martian invasion. However, even if the attack were not successful, would put the United States of America in a position of leading world affairs.

France has Martian aluminum and machinery in moderate quantities. There is more in the United States of America, while the most important source is the United Kingdom. In view of the situation you may think it desirable to have more permanent contact maintained between the Republic of France and the group of physicists working on Martian machinery in the United Kingdom and aether research in the Netherlands. One possible way of achieving this might be for you to entrust with this task a person who has your confidence and who could perhaps serve in an unofficial capacity. His task might comprise the following:

a) to approach the Government of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, keep them informed of the further development, and put forward recommendations for action between the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and the Republic of France, giving particular attention to the problem of constructing a fleet of vessels for the use of our respective countries;

b) to speed up the experimental work with Martian machinery and aether propulsion research, which is at present being carried on within the limits of the budgets of university laboratories, by providing funds, if such funds be required, through contacts with private persons who are willing to make contributions for this cause, and

perhaps also by obtaining the co-operation of industrial laboratories which have the necessary equipment.

I understand that the United States of America has actually stopped the trade of aluminum and machinery from the Martian strongholds within her country. That she should have taken such action might perhaps be understood on the ground that her vice President, Theodore Roosevelt, has expressed an interest in seeing the United States of America take a leading role in world affairs.

Yours very truly,
Henri Poincare