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Dr. William H. Pickering
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. Pickering:

Last month I presented a paper entitled "Gravity Thrust and Interplanetary Transportation Networks" in Boston at a Conference of the American Astronautical Society. After I gave my talk a very interesting fellow by the name of Dr. Constantine Generales, Jr. introduced himself to me. We talked a few minutes about the national space program. He said he was a personal friend of yours and other rocket scientists going all the way back to Hermann Oberth. He also seemed to be somewhat familiar with my early research in the field of interplanetary trajectories at JPL and at U.C.L.A. When I said that I did not know you personally he expressed some surprise and gave me the distinct impression that my contributions and ideas regarding space research is significant. He suggested that I should drop in your office or give you a call when I get back to the Lab to introduce myself and to pass along a hello.

I do not know if you remember me but I am the fellow who took first place in the Ph.D. class at a student competition conference of the Western Division of the AIAA during the spring of 1963. I introduced the technique of utilizing planetary gravitational fields in the design of interplanetary trajectories and mission profiles. As I recall, you were the president of the AIAA at that time and in fact, presented me with the first place award. I am happy to say that the two Technical Reports I wrote at JPL on this subject ~~several years~~ ~~ago~~ are beginning to be referenced quite frequently.

At the end of the AAS conference last month I went up to Montreal, Canada to visit Expo '67. I returned to Los Angeles only last week. I have thought about my meeting with Dr. Generales with the idea that he simply wanted to pass the time of day and was not at all serious. On the other hand, he may very well be a good friend of yours. At the present time I am not actually employed by JPL although my association with the Lab goes back to 1961, and my name is always associated with the Laboratory. I am enclosing the paper I wrote for the American Astronautical Society last month. If you are interested in my paper I would be very happy to talk about it with you.

Sincerely,

Michael Minovitch