

Although I did not travel in *Daily Telegraph* style, I could not complain. Two visits to the USA, one to the AAAS in Denver and one to San Francisco and Alaska, were good, exciting and most useful inviting contributions to ISR. In addition there was a short hop to Paris, to the biannual Air Show at Le Bourget, one to Ludwigshafen to BASF, and to Bristol to attend the annual meeting of the British Association. All were combined with paying visits to Members of the Editorial Board. Altogether, several tens of thousands of kilometers.

During my first USA visit I went south from Denver to Houston, Texas, San Diego and Los Angeles in California. During those three weeks I called on Harold Urey, and saw him for the last time as he was already weak and ailing. I was always happy to meet him, so gentle, so knowledgeable, and so kind in discussing my difficulties as an Editor. Whenever I had to leave him after a short lunch, I always wished he lived in England and would be more readily accessible for discussions. I also saw Marteen Schmidt, the great astronomer in Pasadena at Caltec, who had discovered the furthest stars in the Universe through his measurement of the red-shift of their light waves.

My second journey to the USA was at the invitation of ICUS [see below] and British Petroleum, BP, to come to Alaska and write about their part in the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. I invited several of their leading engineers to contribute, but regrettably nothing ever came of it. Nevertheless I saw another part of the exploitation of the Arctic oil resources, this time in the American part, in addition to what I had seen in the Canadian Arctic. I flew to Washington as usual and there I called on Hans Mark, a Member of my Board, before travelling west again.

Hans Mark, who at the age of 3 years had come from Mannheim, Germany, to the USA, with his famous father, the famous polymer chemist, had become a great physicist, a most skilful administrator and after having been the Director of NASA's Ames extensive Research Center, had by the time of my visit in 1977 been called to the illustrious appointment of Secretary of the United States Air Force. I visited him in the Pentagon, a very impressive journey along endless corridors guided by friendly escorts, until I reached the largest office I ever saw in my life. There between two large flags, one of the Air Force, the other of the United States, stood a gargantuan rectangular desk behind which Hans, a large man by any measure, looked small and was almost hidden. It was one of his last days in office, as he was a Democrat, and the new Republican Administration of President Reagan had naturally demanded his resignation. We were on first name terms by then, had a very friendly talk and I promised to visit him in his next appointment as Chancellor of the University of Texas System in Austin, which I did. [See Title 351]