The N ew York Times 229 West 43rd Street New York N. Y. 10036

To The Editors:

A lead editorial in The New York Times of December 24 proposed that a joint mission to Mars by the United States and the Soviet Union would draw the two countries together and divert competitive energies into positive Channels.

An article in the 12 June 1987 issue of Science by M. Mitchell Waldrop discussed the prospects for Soviet-American cooperation in space, a proposal regarded favorably by the Russians.

In the New York Times of October 13, 1987 John Noble Wilford discusses proposals for the cooperative exploration of Mars by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Thus, your recent editorial is only the latest proposal to reduce tension between us and the Soveets. In fact in April in a letter to you I propsed a similar solution for the esta blishment of a more trustful relationship with the Soviet Union which apparently you did not judge worth publishing. I enclose a copy of my letter for tour consideration.

Eliot Porter