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Through Mr. J. A. Fleming of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism I have just been informed by cable of the probability that the War Department may be able to help our International North Polar Expedition in the Zeppelin with the loan of the 8000 empty steel cylinders which we need for carrying the necessary hydrogen and blue gas to our projected landing station at Fairbanks in Alaska. This is of the very greatest importance for our expedition, and as President of the International Society Aeroarctic I therefore wish to give expression for our deep gratitude. The goodwill and interest which you and the American Government thus show our undertaking is for us of the very greatest value, and a great encouragement in our endeavour to prepare an expedition which may prove to be of much importance for future international research. This end cannot be obtained without the co-operation of the several governments, and especially that of the American Government. We also consider it to be of much importance in this respect that such a great number of leading American scientists have joined our Society; and we trust that the co-operation with American science and also with the highly developed American Science of Air navigation will give very important and fruitful results with farreaching effects in the future. I may also point out that the greater part of the direct expenses of the expedition will be covered by contributions from the United States.

If we can get the steel cylinders somewhere on the West coast of the States in the beginning of next year, I expect that there will be time enough to have them filled with hydrogen and blue gas (or similar gas) and to have them shipped to Seward in Alaska so as to be in Fairbanks in April when we expect to arrive there with the Zeppelin. The empty bottles can, of course, be sent back at once in May after our final departure, and I take it that they may then be delivered at any desired port of the West coast of the States.

Fridtjof Nansen.

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Mr. James Good  
Secretary of War  
War Department  
Washington, D.C.