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## Letter from Governor Langer to Chief of the Army Air Corps Regarding Stratospheric Research Flight, 1934

William Langer

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February 2, 1934

Chief of the Air Corps  
United States Army  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

It is my understanding that a project has been proposed by which the United States Army and the National Geographic Society intend to undertake a flight into the stratosphere for purposes of scientific advancement.

I believe that the consideration of the facilities and natural conditions at Bismarck, North Dakota, has convinced the Board of City Commissioners, the directors of the Bismarck Association of Commerce and the writer, among other persons, that this city offers a site for such a flight perhaps second to none in the United States.

For your consideration I am briefly stating the advantages occurring in the event that this city were to be chosen as the site for the attempt.

1. The location of Bismarck is in the great plains country where hazards incident to take-off and landing are at a minimum.
2. A very large percent of the days in the year are clear, offering unexcelled opportunity for high altitude observation. During 1933 only 114 cloudy days were observed by the United States Weather Bureau Station at Bismarck.
3. The barometric pressure at Bismarck reaches high points unusual in other localities at very frequent intervals. A pressure of 31.10 was officially recorded recently and pressure of 31.05 is of common occurrence.
4. During a large part of the year nights are cool, almost chilly, and days are bright and warm.
5. Prevailing winds are from the Northwest (70%).

Page two  
Chief of the Air Corps  
United States Army  
Washington, D. C.  
February 2, 1934

6. Fort Lincoln, the station of the third battalion, fourth infantry, is located three miles southeast of the city and maintains an average strength of approximately three hundred men and officers on duty at all times.

7. Ample terrain for the flight is available. Bismarck is the center of a splendid transportation system, including two main line railroads, an excellent highway and a trans-continental airline.

8. The United States Weather Bureau maintains a station in the city with facilities for observing high altitude wind currents.

9. Living costs are extremely low.

10. The city of Bismarck, Bismarck Association of Commerce, business interests and organizations are prepared to offer every possible assistance..

Under these considerations and circumstances, I would respectfully urge that the City of Bismarck be given serious consideration in connection with the proposed flight.

I shall appreciate your consideration of Bismarck for the proposed flight and would appreciate your advising me as to the matter.

Sincerely,

Governor.

L/p