

Beograd, 2. III. 1936.

To the American Institute of Electrical Engineers,

New York U.S.A.
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Dear and esteemed colleagues,

On July 10th this year, as know, it will be 80 years since the day on which the great and celebrated inventor, our dear compatriot and your famous and honored fellow citizen Nikola Tesla was born in a small serbian village, Smiljane, near Gospić. We, Yougoslav people are full of great pride because our nation has given to the humanity such a thinker of genius, inventor and creator, while the mighty United States of America and their noble and worthy people are happy to have offered to a man like Nikola Tesla a favorable medium in which he could realize his epoch making discoveries, such as: the rotating magnetic field and the polyphase system of alternating current, which discovery is fundamental in the electrical engineering as it made possible the transmission of electrical power to great distances, which is characteristic of the modern electrical engineering. Moreover Tesla has created the high frequency technique, and we now know also that his work in connection with the radio technique, at the end of last century, was of fundamental importance.

We know that on several occasions jubilees in honor of Tesla have been celebrated in United States, and - as we gather from the wellknown book by B.A. Behrend "The Induction Motor" (Mc-Graw-Hill Book Cy, New York, 1921) - the Edison Gold Medal was awarded to Tesla in 1917, on which occasion Tesla's merits for the development of Electrical Engineering were sufficiently accentuated. We also know that the great periodical "The Electrical World" pointed out on that occasion that Tesla has performed other works too, as set forth there in the following lines:

"The polyphase motor was not Tesla's only pioneer contribution to electrical progress. He was a tireless experimenter, and his experiments carried him very early into the field of highfrequency phenomena. He worked first with high-frequency alternators, or alternators which, in 1890, were considered to give high-frequency. Later he developed the well known Tesla induction coil high-frequency oscillator. With this new source he was able to demonstrate, during 1891 and 1892, in England, France and America, a number of entirely new electrical phenomens which at lower frequencies had been unobtainable. His lectures were given at the Royal Institution in London, the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, and in various other places. The experimental phenomena he produced were dazzling and classical. They deservedly brought him great renown.

"The high-frequency phenomem which Tesla first developed and displayed had scientific rather than practical interest; but Tesla called attention to the fact that by taking his electric oscillator, grounding one side of it and connecting the other to an insulated body of large surface, it should be possible to transmit electrical oscillations to a great distance, and to communicate intelligence in this way to other oscillators in sympatic resonance therewith. This was going far toward the invention of radiotelegraphy as we known it today."

These statements prove sufficiently that twenty years ago, the engineers of the United States were aware of the great work done by Tesla and expressed their high appreciation of it, as they have done before and after that, and this encourages us to hope that we can reckon on the present occasion upon the cordial cooperation of our colleagues in the United States of America.

Numerous special investigations have established the fact that Tesla's discoveries and inventions have given the basis not only to the modern method of production, transmission and application of electrical energy and the high frequency and high tension technique, but also to the radio technique and all its fundamental principles, for it is a historically established fact to-day that Tesla had realized by his patents and experiments in 1897-1899 the wireless telegraphy on the resonance principle, and that as early as 1899 he had been emitting from his broadcasting station in Colorado wireless signals to distances of over 1000 km; we therefore consider that on the occasion of Tesla's 80th birthday we all ought to give expression to the appreciation which the Humanity owes him.

We, the Yugoslav engineers have founded for this purpose the "Society for the erection of a Nikola Tesla Institute" at Belograd. Our first act is to be the celebration of Tesla's 80th anniversary in a most solemn manner in our own country, with the collaboration of men of science and scientific institutions all over Europe, and then we shall proceed to build an institute which shall have the name of the great man and which shall be a visible mark of appreciation of our nation for its illustrious son.

We should be very glad if we could obtain for this spiritual undertaking your noble cooperation, be it by celebrating Tesla's anniversary simultaneously on both sides of the Ocean, or separately but by mutual agreement. As we do not know your plans, we are writing to ask you: whether you are willing, and in what manner, to perform this celebration simultaneously and in concert with us, and perhaps also with other organisations? We take the liberty of enclosing herewith an outline of our plan of celebration as well as an extract of our by-laws.

We should thank you very much if you would be so kind as to inform us in time of your intentions and views, so as to enable us to settle all details of our cooperation in case it should be realised, as we most fervently desire.

Yours faithfully,

Society for the erection of a
Nikola Tesla Institute
v. Chairman,

Ing. Đušan Molnajtortel

Secretary,

Ing. I. Bokšan

Programme de la celebration de 80e anniversaire
de Nikola Tesla.

- 28 mai: 8 - 9h Conferences au Nikola Tesla dans toutes les ecoles
10 - 12 Academie sollenelle; Conference d'inauguration dans
la grande salle de l'Universite.
Conference au Tesla du part des delegues etrangers
et de professeurs yugoslaves.
13 - 15 Dejeuner intime au hotel Avala
15 - 19 Depart par Oplenac. Placement d'une couronne au
tombe du roi Alexandre I.
20 Diner sollenelle par le Ministere des affaires
etrangers
- 29 mai: 10 - 12 Conferences sur Tesla et son OEuvre par des dele-
gues etrangers et yougoslaves dans la grande salle
de l'ecole technique superieure.
17 - 19 Demonstration des experiments du champ tournant et
des courants de Tesla.
20 - 23 Theatre pare
- 30 mai: 10 - 12 Excursions dans la ville, visites du Muse du Prince
Paul, du Muse ethnographique, etc.
17 - 19 Conferences sur Tesla et son OEuvre dans la grande
salle au hotel dex la corporation des ingenieurs
yougoslaves.
20 Diner solenelle du part de la corporation des
Ingenieurs yougoslaves.
- 31 mai Excursions dans l'environ, a la Dalmatie et la Slovenie.

File in
folder of
Nikola Tesla

April 13, 1936

Institutu Nikole Tesle
Mirocka 4
Beograd, Yugoslavia

Gentlemen:

We have your recent letter regarding plans for the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla.

This Institute has no plans for such a celebration. We have a considerable number of members with notable records of achievement in technical developments, some of them being near Tesla's age. Many of our members receive high recognition through the award of medals, election to office, etc. For these reasons the Institute has not considered it appropriate to endeavor to provide for special distinctions among the members, such as the celebration of dates of birth.

We shall, of course, be glad to be kept informed regarding your plans.

Very truly yours,

National Secretary

HHH:LMW