

December 3016

On Ladla, marriage was not the elaborate legal and religious ceremony favored back on Tobus. Two people would simply declare themselves to be married, and that is all there was to it. It was not customary for women to change their names when they married. There was often a party or small celebration once the couple had made their declaration. That was the case for Sally and Joseph, who invited their closest friends to a dinner at Nadia and Joseph's farm. Of course most of the guests were Joseph's friends, many from Lisp where his fishing boat was docked, some from the farm, and a few that he knew from the Preservationists gatherings. Toby, now fully understanding that Sally would not be on the next ship home either, even made an appearance, and hoisted a stein filled with farmhouse beer, and toasted the couple.

January 3017 The Smither farm near Snill

Arnold Firth was prepared for a confrontation when he returned to the Smithers farm, and this time brought along a couple of the men from Toby's crew to back him up. His goal was to leave with the documents signing over a portion of the farm to ownership by Tobus, as right of way for the high speed rail line, and to build the new space port. Toby was prepared to provide a very reasonable payment for the land, and to offer any displaced farm workers jobs building and working on the new facilities. He knocked on the door to the farmhouse, and it was opened immediately by Jeb Smithers, who must have heard Firth's car approaching. He had a stern look on his face. "I was expecting to see you sooner or later, and I suspect that you're not going to like what I have to say. I studied the contracts you left, and yes, the terms are very reasonable. But farming is my life, and moving the farm to make room for your project is really not possible. If you take my land, you'll have to do it by force!" Firth was expecting resistance, but was still surprised by the conviction in Smither's voice. "Well, Toby is not going to be happy to hear about that. He expects me to return with the signed documents. Clearly I cannot make you sign now. The crews from the Explorer II have already landed, and one of the teams is assigned the task of making this area ready for construction of the space port and rail line. There will be many repercussions if the port is not well underway by the time the first tourists arrive, and we'll do whatever is necessary to make sure it happens." Jeb did not ask the men to come in and have a drink this time. Firth saw Sarah peeking out from the kitchen door as they turned and left the house.

Toby assigned Sally the task of lining up local expertise and labor to plan and build the technology school where people would be trained to work in the semiconductor factory, and other facilities being planned. Toby asked Cindy Hopper, the local science teacher, to assist. Sally, less and less convinced that these major changes would be good for the

island, nonetheless agreed, since she still did work for Toby. They had made an appointment to see Shad Hills on a Saturday afternoon, when school was out and Hopper would be available. The 3 of them settled before the fireplace in his home, and Sally told them about the school they would like to build. Cindy was not in on all the needs, but had agreed to cooperate because a better school would benefit everyone. Sally explained that the semiconductor factory would be delivered from Factory Ship I in August of 3018, about a year and a half from now. It would take some months to get it up and running, but it would be very helpful if some local labor, with some knowledge of what they were manufacturing, were available. Shad had worked on some large projects before, but was not sure that the school could be ready in time, even if design started right away. Perhaps it could be built in stages, so at least some learning could go on as the project was being completed. He agreed to work on ideas based on the specs that were provided, and present a proposal at another meeting next month.

February 3017

30 or so Preservationists made the living room at Shad Hills home outside of Laton almost full. Arnold Firth's return visit to Jeb Smithers' farm was a main top of conversation. The general consensus was that if there was to be resistance to Toby's plan, it would take strength in numbers to stand up to the construction crew. They needed to be ready for the arrival of the team from Explorer II next October. Some knowledge of the schedule would be very helpful in this regard. Sally was not sure that she should be involved, but she figured she would never be leaving Lad, so should cooperate with the people on her new home planet. She said she might be able to find out more. Baleena, who had not spoken much at the meetings, suggested that she might be able to get Toby to reveal some more of the details. Her relationship with Toby was general knowledge by now, and some of the people present were surprised that she was thinking of helping his opposition. The group was starting to reach an unwieldy size. It made sense to split into 2 subgroups. Most of the activities were planned for the east part of the island, so one group would plan activities related to that territory. That meeting in April was planned for the home of Allen Steele, a new member of the organization, owner of the fish processing plant in Logo. The meeting for the western portion would be held at the home of Anna Tilden, in the Great Forest. She had not been attending the meetings, but one of her sons had been, and was relating to her what was going on. In June, the combined group would meet at Nadia and Joseph's farm.

Toby has taken an interest in the new school that was being planned for Laton, so he accompanied Sally when she went to Shad Hills' home one evening to hear his ideas. Shad's plan was spread out on his dining room table, and the overhead view was divided into 3 sections. The middle part was labelled "phase 1" and contained the wide entry foyer, and a long hallway, with classrooms and labs on each side, and at the

end another hallway which contained offices. Phase 2 and 3 were rectangles connected to the left and right sides of the foyer. Phase 2 contained the cafeteria, and more classrooms, and the final phase contained an auditorium, and more classrooms and labs. Shad said that with enough people working on it, the first section should be ready in time to start training workers for the semiconductor factory. Toby was pleased that, based on the sketches, the school would blend nicely with the wood and stone construction that dominated in Laton.

March 3017

Most of the people who had been involved in the resistance were from that part of the island, so the Preservationist meeting at Allen Steele's home in Logo was almost as crowded as the last one had been. There was not very much new for them to talk about. Shad related that the plans for construction of the new school in Laton were well underway, but nobody saw that as a threat to their way of life. One idea that was discussed was whether it still made sense to keep the existence of the organization secret. Certainly Toby's people must have realized by now that there was some local resistance to the rapid development of Ladla. Maybe it was time to try to negotiate with Toby's people. They would bring this up at the combined meeting in June.

April 3017

The meeting at Anna Tilden's house in the Great Woods was much smaller. So far, no plans had been announced for new development on the west side of Ladla, but they should monitor in case there was new news. It would not surprise anyone if the satellite communications facility atop Listy mountain were expanded, but that should not have any real impact on the local population. Anna Tilden herself had observed increased traffic along the Great Forest Road, bringing materials for Toby's new home on the mountainside. Toby's men had been friendly, and waved back when she greeted them along the road.

May 3017 In orbit around Tobus

Factory Ship I was one month from launch. Captain Ogdan Jones was pleased that the construction had gone so smoothly, and that the inspections of the nearly completed vessel were going without a hitch. In a couple of weeks, supplies would be loaded on. He thought he had found the best possible crew members, both for piloting the vessel, and for getting the factory production going in Lad orbit, and in the portable factories on the surface. Sitting in the window of the spaceship manufacturing satellite, parked near the new ship, he watched as the first of the portable factory units was being slowly pushed into one of the six bays that took up the very back of the vessel. The first bay was already occupied by the heavy payload lander that would transport the units to the surface, and the second was consumed by the huge fuel tank to replenish the propellant before each unit was moved.

The 3 remaining factory units were completing their final checks. He worried as he reviewed the aggressive timeline on the screen in front of him. There was an enormous amount of work to be done to make Ladla ready for the first tourists in 3019, and he knew his reputation and career in the Space Guild was at risk if there were any hitches. Orbit of Lad was scheduled for June of 3018. He would be on the first personnel lander, to be launched immediately upon arrival, to ensure that the landing sites were ready for the payloads they were to receive.

The first module, an advanced metal production factory, was to be delivered to Lango in July. The other 3 factories, a semiconductor facility for Laton, a nuclear reactor to provide power, and a factory to build rockets and the guides and vehicles for the high speed rail, starting at its origin in Olean, were scheduled for subsequent months. He hoped the lander was up to the task, that his crew would perform efficiently, and that the local people would be cooperative. SpaceTour Corporation knew that everything would not be completed for the first tour, but it was important that the tourists and the corporation officials see that development of the facilities was proceeding smoothly. He had a feeling that Robert Pond would be keeping a close eye on things, and that there would be trouble if there were any delays.

Tob Star City, Tobland, Tobus

Alan Brauner was the chief designer of the space port on Tobus, near Tob Star City in Tobland. He was concerned about the delays in delivery of equipment for the new launch pads being constructed to handle the new launches for the tourism industry. The first of the new ships designed to make orbiting more comfortable for tourists was delivered, but he doubted the launch facilities would be ready in time for the first flight in September. According to Robert Pond, the factory that was producing the equipment had been slow in shipping the parts. Brauner did not understand why the factory had not been built near the space port, as originally planned, but was far away, in Tubro. Semper Fidless, when asked about this, told him that his boss, Israel DeGaulle, had determined that it would have been difficult to acquire the land in heavily populated area near Tob Star City, and that it made sense to have it on a different continent. Somehow the change in plan had never been communicated to Toby on Lad. The news sources had been told that the new factory on Tubro was a secret government project, and that its purpose could not be revealed. Israel had done a good job of concealing the details of his October 3015 conversation with Henry Holland. Brauner's only concern was getting the new part of the space port up and running. Kyle Hemper was assigned to Factory Ship I and was in charge of getting the space port on Lad ready to receive tourists. Alan had met with him, and gave him all the details about the delays, and Israel DeGaulle's activities.

On Tobus

Israel DeGaulle sat behind the enormous desk in his office on the top

floor of the palace. He was in the middle of a call with Robert Pond, CEO of SpaceTour Corporation. With just over 2 years left before the arrival of the first tourists to Lad, Pond was looking for assurance that everything was proceeding well there. Israel was a bit concerned by the news relayed to him by his aide, Semper Fidless, of Arnold Firth's encounter with the farmer where the space port was being built. Israel assured Pond "There have been some small glitches in the plan, but it is well in hand. We will do everything we can to make sure there is no trouble." He wasn't certain that Pond believed him. Israel was thinking it was too bad there were no armed troops on board Explorer II which was on its way to Lad. Too late for Factory Ship I as well, which was fully crewed and preparing to leave orbit.

June 3017 In orbit around Tobus

Captain Ogdan Jones was strapped to his seat, waiting for the 2 gravity acceleration that would mark the departure from orbit and beginning of the flight to Lad. The engines were set to light up automatically in 3 minutes, as part of the programmed routine. The final message from Robert Pond, and the unexpected one from Israel DeGaulle were still rattling around in his brain. "Hello Captain. This is Israel DeGaulle. We are confident that you will perform your mission brilliantly, but in these final moments, I need to remind you of the importance of this project, and the consequences if there are any problems. A great deal of funding has been made by our government on this tourism project, and if it is not successful, the SpaceTour Corporation will lack the income to pay us back. The economy of Tobland is at risk if this venture fails. Good luck". After hearing that, Jones was even more terrified that indeed something would go wrong. He was brought back to the present as he heard the roar of the engine igniting, and was pushed back hard into his seat. The 2 planets would be in full opposition by the time of arrival, so the journey would take a full year. He would have plenty of time to worry.

June 3017

Roberto Puck was back on Tobus, so Sally Freud had taken over the task of communicating between Toby and Israel DeGaulle, back home. She had relayed word that there may be some delays in getting the space port construction going, but Israel's aide Semper Fidless had been vague about what Israel planned to do about this, and about what he had told the people at SpaceTour. Sally wasn't too sure what to think about Semper's short cryptic message "Pond is not concerned. Will keep you up to date on troop contingent for future ship to Lad." Sally told Toby. Toby told Baleena.

July 3017

The living room at Nadia and Joseph's farm house was warm, filled with the ever growing membership of the Preservationists. The main subject

of debate was whether it was better to continue operating in secret, or if it was time to publicly declare the existence of the group. Some thought it was best to continue to be discrete, lest Toby's people find out and try to forcefully disband them. The majority came to the conclusion that it was time to come out and confront the new developments, and make it clear that the natives were going to have a role, whether the tourist business likes it or not. A small committee was created to work on a mission statement for the group. Nadia, Frank Frowlee, and Allen Steele would work on the document, and the group would convene again, at the same place, to review it next month.

August 3017

The Preservationists met again at Nadia and Joseph's farm. Frank read their short statement aloud: "We, the people of Ladla, have the right to determine the future of our home. As the Preservationists, we vow to use all means at our disposal to ensure that any changes to our island are in our best interests. As of today, foreign interests doing business in Ladla are required to submit their plans to this committee, for review. Only after the plans are agreed upon by both parties will they be allowed to proceed." Everyone agreed to the statement, though there was much discussion about what they could do, if anything, to enforce their demands. Someone would need to present the statement to Toby and the SpaceTour Corporation. Once someone said they needed a leader, a lot of the attendees looked at Heorge Iduke. He was the best public speaker in the group, and was thought of as a leader by both the islanders and by Toby. He accepted the nomination, and the vote for him was unanimous.

September 3017

Joseph and Sally pronounced their marriage in December, but Sally still lived at the Grand Hotel in Laton, and Joseph, when he was not out fishing, still lived at Nadia's farm. Time was overdue for them to have a place of their own. They sat in front of the fire at the farm one night to discuss a plan. If Joseph was to continue fishing, it was important that they live not too far from Lisp. And if Sally was to continue working for Toby, she needed to be near to Laton. The farm was about half way between, but it seemed crowded when Sally was visiting. It would be best to have a new house, especially if the couple were going to have children. The village around the farm had a number of houses where the families of farm workers lived, but there was no reason to believe that any of the families were going to be moving out anytime soon. They were too poor to build their own house. There was a chance some of the workers may take new jobs doing construction for the tourism business. They'd wait and see what happens.

Heorge Iduke had been vague when Baleena, now Toby's assistant, asked for a reason for his request for a meeting. He just told her that it was very important, so she put it on the calendar. Toby was having a

busy day, and was a little annoyed that he would have to take an hour, not knowing what was to be discussed. Iduke was right on time, and again leaned down to shake Toby's hand before he took a seat before the desk. Iduke started by asking Toby if he was aware of the secret meetings, and Toby did acknowledge that he had word that something peculiar may have been happening. Iduke acknowledged "Some of the islanders are concerned about the pace of changes here, and we have been having informal meetings since last January. We have lived in harmony with the ocean and the land for many generations. We have created tools to make our lives easier, but the changes so far have been slow, and we have made sure that the things we do to make our lives easier do not disrupt this fragile harmony." He slid a paper with the mission statement over to Toby, who read it, and after thinking for a moment, responded. "Before I came to Lad, I was thinking mainly of the money that could be made from a new, extra-planetary tourism business. Having been here for some time, I've become friends with many of the people living here. I realized I'm happy here, and maybe it's something in the air, but I'm starting to think that it the people and the way of life. I understand your desire to have some control of the process, and to me it seems very reasonable. Unfortunately, I am beholden to the shareholders of SpaceTour Corporation to do whatever I can ensure that their venture is a success. Personally, I will do what I can, but even as king, my powers to shape this progress are limited." Iduke and Toby seemed to understand each others motivations very well. Iduke left feeling better about this than he expected, but made certain that Toby knew that what was happening with the space port project could become a problem.

October 3017

Cindy Hopper, the school science teacher, and Laton town engineer Henry Higgins sat outdoors in the small observatory that he had helped build next to the school building. It was an unusually cloudless night, and they hoped to see the arrival of Explorer II into orbit around Lad. A couple of interested students were chatting near the small telescope Higgins was adjusting to point to the expected location where the ship would fire its engines to achieve orbit. The visitors from Tobus had brought electronic screens and imaging devices that Higgins had adapted to fit to the telescope, so all present would be able to see. They monitored the time and counted down the seconds. About 30 seconds after the expected time, they all saw the bright flare as the ship's rocket fired long enough to slow the craft and bring it into orbit. Cindy was looking forward to meeting Joseph Columbo, who would lead the team responsible for establishing a technical school to help people of Lad learn about the new technology that was being introduced.

The first lander contained 5 crew members, and the first 5 members of each of the 5 teams. Joseph Columbo's team, responsible for recruitment as well as the technical school, would remain in Laton, as would Hilda Gernstatter and her team who would prepare for delivery of the

semiconductor factory. Aptly named Robert Stone would head up the mineral assay and processing unit near Lango. Roberto Puck, Toby's crew chief from the previous voyage of Explorer II, had decided to return to manage installation of the nuclear power plant in Olean. The plant would power the rocket and rail line manufacturing facility in Olean. Hilda's sister Ingrid, as knowledgeable in heavy manufacturing as her sibling was about semiconductors, would lead that team. The craft came down right on schedule, and settled gently on the landing pad near Laton.

November 3017 Ladla

By the end of November all the teams from Explorer II, as well as a couple of Landers worth of equipment, were on the ground at the landing site near Lango. The second one to land contained Roberto Puck's team, and the third brought the heavy machinery to excavate the site for the nuclear power source that would be built, as well as the first landing pad on the property that would become the space port. The team led by Ingrid Gernstatter came next. These teams would spend several months in Laton, drawing up detailed plans, and then journey to Olean to begin the work. Robert Stone's group immediately took up residence in Lango, to begin planning for the expansion of the mining and refining operation.

Robert Stone had many years working in the well developed mining and metal production industry on Tobus, and had agreed to participate in the project on Lad, because it would be challenge to see how quickly he could bring the relatively primitive methods being used into the modern age. Gary Gowin, owner of the foundry, was experienced in getting iron, copper, tin, and other common ores from the ground, and extracting the metal. With semiconductor manufacturing as part of the plans, he would need assistance in finding and extracting rare earth metals and other materials that were needed. Gary was interested in learning about the new equipment that would arrive on the Factory Ship. Not only would this help in finding the new types of ore, but it would make the production of the traditional metals more efficient. A major concern of this was where would the additional energy needed for the operation would come from. The hydroelectric and wind generators he was currently using were near capacity, so more sources would need to be developed.

There was only one hotel in Olean, and it was now full of the members of Roberto Puck and Ingrid Gernstatter's teams. It was crowded, with many of the crew having to share rooms. They posted posters in town, and signs on the roads leading to the town, about opportunities to work on the space port. Roberto and Ingrid and a couple of their people were seated at tables in the lobby of the hotel, waiting for the influx of townspeople who would want to join the teams. The influx turned out to be no more than a dribble. One man, dressed in very well worn fishing coveralls, approached the table Roberto was sitting at. "Hello, and welcome to our job fair. We're looking for some good men to staff the power plant we'll be building. What's your name?" "Hi, I'm Seamus

Smith, and I saw your poster at the tavern. I'm working at the bait and tackle shop here in town, but business is slow, and it's hard to make enough to keep my family fed. I don't know anything about power plants, but I'm motivated to learn." Puck looked him over, and launched into his spiel. "It will take a lot of energy to power the factory we will be building, to manufacturer spacecraft, and components for the high speed railway that will begin in Olean. We expected to have to train workers, since nobody here has seen a nuclear power plant. Factory Ship I will not arrive until June of next year, but installation of the plant will need to proceed rapidly once it arrives. We need people right away for site preparation, and we're willing to train them during that period so they will be ready." Smith told him he would think about it, and talk with his wife, and left clutching an employment form. The scenario was similar for the few other potential workers who showed up. Roberto and Ingrid were concerned. Would the people from Tobus who arrived on the Factory Ship be able to fulfill the labor needs? They reported back to Laton, and their concerns were sent back home to Semper Fidless, who would report back to Israel DeGaulle.

Shad Hills was standing outside his car, parked along East Street, on the outskirts of Laton, with the Lin River visible in the distance. The site was a relatively flat plane in the hills surrounding the city. Some of the taller buildings were just visible in the distance. Another car approached, and Joseph Columbo and a couple of his people got out and approached. Shad unrolled the school plan on the hood of his car, but had to hold on to keep the considerable breeze from blowing it away. Columbo was impressed with what the school would look like when it was completed. He knew that the site for the semiconductor factory had not been finalized yet, but that it would be near the school. A sign had been put up marking the site for the new school, which Hilda would see when she visited the site this afternoon. Columbo stated that he would like to see construction begin as soon as possible, and Shad told him he would start to assemble a crew right away.

Hilda Gernstatter met Henry Higgins in front of the Grand Hotel, and he drove them out East Street to scout out a site for the semiconductor factory. He had many questions for her. The electronic devices that had been brought from Tobus were so far ahead of the technology here that they seemed to work on magic. She explained that an understanding of quantum physics was needed to comprehend what was happening in these devices. She had already been designated as the leader of the team of teachers who would instruct students on higher mathematics and principles of physics. She assured him that he would be welcome to attend as much of the training as he could fit into his busy schedule. They drove down the road until they saw the sign for the future school. Much of the flat land in the area was used up, but there would be just enough to build the multi-story factory next to the educational facility. By placing the buildings close by each other, students could get hands on experience in chip manufacturing by just walking next door.

December 3017 Laton

Robert Balmer's meeting with Toby was informal, a late lunch an the Old Laton Hotel. Balmer had asked Toby to do him a favor when he visited the island of Lavia to pick out stone for his new house, promising there would be a possibility of profit to be made. Toby had explored the state of the mineral mining industry while he was there. Both of them had been busy during the months that had passed since that journey, so this was their first chance to discuss the visit. Toby's impression was that the stone mining industry was well developed, but that mining for other minerals was just getting started. Lavia was much less heavily developed than Ladla, and it would take some time for the infrastructure to be developed. Robert Balmer did not say so to Toby, but he thought this was good news. The people in Lavia would probably be very receptive to the new technology that could be delivered from Tobus, and that would be a good place to base the planned deep sea mining operation, to recover the rare earth elements that the SeaStone engineers had discovered in nodules at the bottom of the ocean. Balmer told Toby that SeaStone was expanding on Tobus, and that a share of the stocks would be allocated to Toby in return for his help.

Lake Hills

Robert Stone's primary goal was to increase the production of materials needed to build the structures that would be part of the space port and transportation systems. Steel for building, and coal for power were major considerations. Discovery of rare earth elements for semiconductor manufacturing would be a bonus, since shipping from Tobus was enormously expensive. He was in a rugged tracked vehicle with Gary Gowin, owner of the foundry, and Frances Frowley, president of the Lake Hills mining cooperative. He was telling the two of them about the equipment that would be delivered by Factory Ship I. "The largest piece is the high capacity electric fired smelter. This will process ore at a significantly faster rate than the one in the current foundry. An advanced stone drill will also be on the payload. Boring through rock to get at the ore will become significantly faster. We also have equipment that will assist in finding rarer ores, such as those for rare earth elements." Frowley was interested in Stone's idea of how many extra personnel it would take to ramp up the mining output to the level needed. Stone expressed some doubt that new people could be hired and trained in time to get all that was needed out of the ground in time for the increased building that was supposed to be happening. The engineers from Tobus on the last spacecraft to arrive, as well as the new ones on Factory Ship I would assist with the new technology, but more laborers would be needed as well. Frowley said she would start right away to recruit and train some new workers.

January 3018 Laton

The site on East Street where the school was to be built had been a

meadow, so no tree removal was necessary. Shad Hill's car arrived on a windy Thursday, just as the lumbering coal-electric hybrid truck was pulling over by the side of the road. The electric front end loader rolled from the vehicle, and its winch unloaded a pallet of replacement batteries. They could work for a couple of days before a new set of batteries would need to be delivered. Shad unrolled the plan on the passenger seat of his car, and got out to greet the workers who arrived with the truck. The loader started into the digging to make the site totally level. Hill was glad that 10 men from Joseph Columbo's crew from Explorer II were assisting. He was looking forward to the arrival of the sophisticated earth moving machine they had brought along. It was slowly rolling down the road from the landing site near Laton, and was expected by this afternoon. That would make the work progress much more quickly.

February 3018 Laton

Robert Balmer tapped the send key for his email to Phil Weir, president of SeaStone Corporation. "Hi Robert, it looks like everything is going smoothly at my end. Toby was very helpful in checking out the environment on Lavia. They are poorer than the population of Ladla, and I suspect they will be very receptive to the idea of jobs and wealth that will be created when our business is established there. I will be heading over there on the boat that is leaving in April, to pave the way. So far, the locals have no idea about our plan for deep ocean mining to get the nodules. They think it is all about land based mining, so let's try to keep it out of the public eye, before anyone else tries to get into the business ahead of us."

Tobusi

Godfrey Lipito strode confidently into the office of Robert Pond, at the top of his skyscraper on Tobusi. The SpaceTour I vessel was built, with only finishing touches and space worthiness tests to be completed. The marketing brochures he had produced painted Lad as a primitive, peaceful destination. Beautiful, but with all the luxuries of home. Tourists had already started signing up, and he was confident that all cabins would be booked in the next month or so, before the departure date in September. Having been focused only on the marketing and promotion part of the project, he was surprised by what Pond had to say. "The construction of SpaceTour I and the marketing have gone very well. But I have been talking with Semper Fidless, Israel DeGaulle's aide, and it seems that things are not going as well as we would like on Lad. I am starting to have serious doubts if the amenities we are promising the tourists will be ready in time for the first tour." He filled Lipito in on the difficulties in getting labor to work on the space port, and had serious thoughts about the high speed rail line as well. Would they need provide busses instead, for the tours to destinations on the island? They would have to monitor the progress, and decide soon whether the first voyage would need to be delayed.

Real time communication was inconvenient, to say the least, this far from home, so Toby had been using email. He hoped that Israel DeGaulle was not monitoring his communications, and that his message to his aide Thomas Krost would not be intercepted. "Hello Thomas, I hope all is going well on Tobus, but I fear that it is not. The news I am receiving from Israel DeGaulle is incomplete, and I feel that he is hiding a lot from me. If you could look into this confidentially, and get back to me, that would be extremely helpful. I am concerned about the semiconductor factory to be built near Tob Star City. DeGaulle is extremely evasive. Are the plans proceeding? If DeGaulle has any other deals going, I should know about them. Please do what you can. Thanks, Toby."

In orbit around Tobus

SpaceTour I floated majestically next to the spacecraft construction satellite. The craft essentially was 2 spaceships like Explorer I and II, attached together, side by side. The control and navigation module was a complete redesign, attached to the very front of the vehicle, spanning both infrastructures. With most every part duplicated, passengers were assured of safe passage.