

EARTH ATTACKED!

By Lois Lane

Government officials revealed that Earth has twice been the target of alien attacks in the past year. Presidential Science Advisor Lex Luthor said, "We deeply regret not being able to immediately inform the public of this threat, but it was vital that we be able to undertake critical negotiations with our fellow nations to jointly coordinate a response without the glare of the public spotlight."

The attacks came from a race called the Reptar. Little is known about them, according to Dr Luthor, other than the fact that they are a reptilian species whose society seems to be based on an apparently expansionistic and militaristic racial philosophy. The first attack was a probe involving the capture of Major Dirk Drake during the Hermes 5 mission, and an intelligence gathering mission by a general of the Reptar. The second part of the mission failed, and General Zandar was captured, and is still being held and interrogated by the American government as a prisoner of war.

The second attack was a more serious matter, with an invasion fleet actually making it into Earth's upper atmosphere before Major Drake was able to escape and warn the US government of the impending invasion. This attacking fleet was destroyed by a missile armed with an atomic warhead.

Political, military and scientific leaders of the US, USSR, NATO nations, and other major countries have met and are developing a unified plan of defense against future attacks, according to Dr Luthor. "Now that we are aware of the Reptar threat, we are fully prepared to defend against it," he said in an exclusive interview. "President Farfield has made the defense of Earth his top priority."

Dr Luthor admitted that the two attacks had both been kept secret from the American public. "The first event occurred during the previous administration," he pointed out. "However, President Farfield was head of the Senate Science Committee at the time, and he was consulted by the

president on the matter, as was General Drywater. A decision was made to pass the attack on Major Drake's capsule and the USS Enterprise off as a communications failure. Once that decision was made, it became more difficult to reveal the situation as events progressed, and the use of an atomic warhead for defense in the second attack was announced as nothing more than a test. However, the United States is based upon openness and trust between the people and their leaders, and the time has come for a full accounting to be made to the public."

The Reptar menace and the capture of General Zandar came to light when an escape attempt was thwarted by a group of superheroes who were present at a meeting of scientists from around the world. At the government's request the identity of these superheroes is not being made public, due to their previous involvement with the Reptar threat.

President Farfield is expected to hold a press conference on the Reptar menace in the near future.