

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Very Large Array

April 6, 1983

To: Members of VLBI Operations Group

From: R. C. Bignell

Subject: Objectives of the Operations Group.

Our first two meetings were used to discuss both the objectives of this group and to set some goals with deadlines. It was decided that the principal aim of the committee was to study and produce reports in three major areas:

- a) Define, as best as is possible, the operational requirements of the VLBA, independent of site locations. This report shall become part of the general VLBA proposal update report whose deadline is June.
- b) Compare the advantages and disadvantages (costs, scientific output etc) of placing the operations at different locations.
- c) How can one integrate the operations of the VLBA with the operation of the VLA and what are the advantages and disadvantages?

We have now begun work on the first report. I have divided the operation into general areas (see VLBA proposal):

- [RCB/PH] 1. Scheduling of observing programs and correlators.
- [RCB/PH] 2. Operation of each telescope in the array.
- [JB] 3. Logistics of magnetic tapes (storing, shipping, archiving, etc.).
- [PN/JC] 4. Routine maintenance of all equipment and repair of malfunctioning equipment.
- [CW] 5. The correlation of magnetic tapes in the multi station processor
- [RCB] 6. Image formation and Analysis
- [FO/RH] 7. Scientific oversight of array performance, future development, etc.

The immediate goal is to produce a draft of the first report (a) by our next meeting at the end of April. Those responsible for writing up each of the above areas are indicated in square brackets. Each of the 7 general areas should include a description of the function or tasks, the software and hardware requirements, the manpower requirements and the operational costs (includes materials and supplies).

Distribution:

RCB	C. Bignell	JC	J. Campbell
PH	P. Hicks	WC	B. Cotton
CW	C. Walker	FO	F. Owen
JB	J. Benson	RH	R. Hjellming
PN	P. Napier		