

Interoffice

**National Radio Astronomy Observatory**  
Socorro, New Mexico

October 17, 1983

To: VLBA Members

**VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 280**

From: C. Bignell

Subject: Minutes of the VLBA Operations Group Meeting - 10/14/83

Attendees: A. Moffet, T. Pearson, M. Gordon, M. Price, M. Schneps, A. Bridle, R. Havlen, C. Walker, P. Napier, J. Campbell, R. Hjellming, F. Owen.

The meeting centered on what recommendations, if any, this committee should make regarding the AOC and its location. It was decided that three general recommendations should be made. These are in order of importance (most important first):

- a) The VLBA operations should not be split. In particular, the array scheduling, tape dispatch, tape correlation, map and other data processing and the principal scientific and technical staff should be co-located. It is very important that the scheduling and technical personnel be kept continuously aware of the quality of the output data, the changing scientific goals of the instrument and any problems which may show up. This would be difficult if the operations were split.
- b) The AOC should be located near at least one of the VLBA antennas. It will greatly facilitate troubleshooting and development of hardware and control software if a person can travel to an antenna, complete a test and return within one working day.
- c) The possibility of combining VLA and VLBA operations is an attractive one, for scientific and technical, as well as logistical reasons. Combined operations would permit more efficient use of key personnel and afford a significant reduction in total costs.

It was also decided that no recommendation would be made on a specific location because such decisions would need to consider details outside the scope of the present study.

It was further decided that revisions to the summary report and its recommendation be completed next week. The summary report should include the recommendations at the beginning along with an expanded discussion supporting these recommendations.

The next meeting will be held on October 27 and final changes to the document will be made at that time.

CB/bmg