

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
Charlottesville, Virginia

October 30, 1984

TO: VLBA MEMBERS

FROM: BUCK PEERY

SUBJECT: CONF./SITE MEETING 841024

PRESENT: BRUNDAGE, BENSON, CAMPBELL, CRANE, HOGG, KELLERMANN,
NAPIER, OTY, WADE, WALKER AND PEERY.

HOGG AND WADE REPORTED ON THEIR TRIP TO HAWAII. THEY ARRANGED FOR WATER VAPOR TESTS AT 3 OR 4 DIFFERENT SITES AND ALTITUDES. A SITE ON MAUNA KEA, OTHER THAN THE MILLIMETER VALLEY SITE (13,000 FOOT ELEVATION), DOES NOT LOOK VERY PROMISING. DISCUSSIONS WITH VOLCANO EXPERTS INDICATE THERE ARE SITES ON MAUNA LOA, AROUND THE 11,000 FOOT ELEVATION, THAT COULD BE USED WITH MINIMUM RISKS OF DAMAGE FROM VOLCANO ERUPTIONS. THESE SITES WILL BE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION IF THE WATER VAPOR TESTS INDICATE THE SITE MUST BE LOCATED AT A HIGH ELEVATION.

RFI TESTS AT LOS ALAMOS ARE FINISHED AND A REPORT IS IN THE MAIL. THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THIS REPORT BE APPROVED BY THE SITE GROUP AT OUR NEXT MEETING AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SITE BE INITIATED.

A FORMAL PROCEDURE FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF THE RFI REPORT AND THE SITE IT COVERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED.

RFI TESTS AT PIE TOWN ARE FINISHED AND THE REPORT IS BEING PREPARED. THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS INDICATED. IN THE DISCUSSIONS IT WAS THOUGHT THE SITE MIGHT BE LOCATED UNDER THE MAIN BEAM OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY'S TRANSMISSION PATH IN THEIR MICROWAVE LINK. THIS WILL BE CHECKED AND ANY CONSIDERATIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN RELATIVE TO THE LOCATION WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE REPORT.

PRELIMINARY CHECKS HAVE BEEN MADE AT QUABBIN RESERVOIR (FCRAO). THE DATA IS IN THE MAIL FOR OUR REVIEW. TV SIGNALS FROM CHANNELS 38 & 40 ARE PRESENT. HOW STRONG IS THE QUESTION.

WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE VOICE OF AMERICA IS PLANNING TWO POWERFUL TRANSMITTING STATIONS IN PUERTO RICO, ONE IN THE AM BAND AND ONE IN THE SHORT WAVE BAND. WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH VOA, NSF AND ARECIBO TO ENCOURAGE THE LOCATION OF THE TRANSMITTERS AS FAR AWAY FROM THE WILD LIFE REFUGE, OUR PROPOSED SITE, AS POSSIBLE. THESE CONTACTS WILL CONTINUE.

THE LOCATION WHERE THE RFI TESTS ARE TO BE MADE IN THE VALLEY NEAR KITT PEAK SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. WE WILL CHECK THE THREE ABANDONED MISSILE SITES BETWEEN TUCSON AND KITT PEAK AND RECOMMEND ONE OF THESE. BOB RROWN WILL BE CONTACTED TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF WATER VAPOR TESTS BOBBY ULICH PROPOSED BE MADE OR HAD ALREADY MADE.