

DRAFT: 08/17/83

SETTING THE VLBA ANTENNAS

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August 17, 1983

1. Introduction

We have now got far enough in setting the 12-meter surface to allow me to look towards the VLBA surface setting task. The following points seem fairly clear.

2. Method of Setting and Measuring

(a) Holography. This technique is already well tested, although in detail there are variations in method. However, within a month or two we expect to have used the 12-meter system and to have a direct comparison with our template measures. It seems clear that holography should be the basic system to be used on the VLBA antennas; secondly, it seems also clear that a "single-dish" method such as that used on the 12-meter is the correct one.

The following questions should perhaps be considered:

- (i) Is the LES-8 satellite suitable and will it be there when needed?
- (ii) Could we use a radio source instead?
- (iii) Is it now timely for us to start considering getting a suitable transmitter on some future satellite?

The following actions seem to be called for:

- (i) Ensure that the present 12-meter work is fully documented.
(Those involved are J. Payne, C. Moore, A. Lazenby and B. Stobie.)
- (ii) Perhaps run the system on the 140-foot as a test for the VLBA.

