

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

RADIO ASTRONOMY LABORATORY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

September 22, 1983

Dr. Kenneth I. Kellermann
NRAO
P.O. Box 2
Green Bank, WV 24944

Dear Ken:

A former Berkeley graduate student, Nuria Calvet, is visiting the Department from Venezuela. We were discussing her home observatory in Merida, and my thoughts from 1980 concerning a South American VLBI station were refreshed. A site in Puerto Rico more or less satisfies the desireability of a South American station. However, a site in Puerto Rico with good high frequency performance may not exist. While I appreciate fully the overwhelming attraction of stations on U.S. turf, I thought a summary of the Merida site is worth this letter in your files and a neuron or two in the back of your head. Here is what I learned from discussions with Nuria:

- TOWN: Population - 100,000
- Transportation - 3 flights/day from Caracas

- SITE: Name - Llana del Hato
- Access - 1.5 hour drive from airport on paved road.
- Location - 71° 15' W longitude; 8° 30' N latitude,
3600 m altitude.
- Water Vapor - 20-40" rain; inversion layer is just above
(200 m) altitude of site.
- Staff - 6
- Other - No phones(!)

With best wishes,

D. C. Backer

DCB:ks