



NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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September 29, 1983

VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 279

(See Memo Nos. 267 and 275)

Prof. B. F. Burke
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Dear Bernie:

I read your memorandum regarding Mauna Kea with great interest. Your points seem very accurate to me.

There may be an additional consideration, however. Owing to local politics and to statutory restrictions regarding the use of a Conservation District, it may be extremely difficult to get permission to erect additional telescopes on Mauna Kea. Hawaii has rigid environmental laws, and their officials have been militant about enforcing them.

I believe that, for one reason or another, the telescopes now slated for Mauna Kea or under construction there have been considered to have been subject to "grandfather" considerations. These include the UK mm-wave telescope, the Caltech mm-wave telescope, and the National New Technology Telescope. They would even include, in my opinion, the 25-m telescope should it ever reappear. These telescopes are familiar to Hawaiian officials. The VLBA antenna would be seen as a newcomer, however.

My guess would be that Haleakala might be more viable for a VLBA antenna, certainly in terms of getting permission to erect an antenna.

Regards,

Mark A. Gordon

MAG:mt

c: K. I. Kellermann