



NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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October 4, 1983

VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 282

Dr. W. J. Welch
Dr. D. C. Backer
Radio Astronomy Lab
University of California
617 Campbell Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720

(Response to VLBA Memo No. 274)

Dear Jack and Don:

Thank you for your letter regarding the location for a future VLBA Operations Center. As you can imagine, there has been extensive discussion within all of NRAO regarding this topic. An external committee has also been formed, made up of such varied people as AUI trustees, past and present members of the NRAO Visiting Committee, optical observatory directors, etc. This committee, as well as the Board of Trustees, will review the site selection.

I should clarify one point made in your letter. You speak of "the planned NRAO building [in Tucson] ..." NRAO has never had a building in Tucson and is not building one at the moment. I believe you are thinking of space we will be renting in a building being built by the University of Arizona for the Steward Observatory. We will rent the top floor, which comprises about one-fourth of the space needed for a VLBA Operations Center. I might say we had a devil of a time getting the University of Arizona to give us an option to renew the rental of this space past an initial five-year period.

With regards,

Sincerely,

Morton S. Roberts

MSR/pj