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Dear Joe,

I'm sorry to be so slow in answering your recent letter. I was first awaiting the visit of Drs. Rabi and Tape in order to get more complete information. Shortly after their trip was postponed, I went on vacation. You probably know the situation here in Europe. Everyone seems to drop everything to make good use of the few weeks of nice summer weather.

Joan and I were very sorry to hear of your illness. We are tremendously pleased to hear of your excellent recovery and we wish to congratulate you and give you our sincere best wishes.

The high resolution project which you discuss is very interesting. If such a project becomes a reality, you can count on my desire to become deeply involved in it. I am committed to go to the University of Maryland next spring, so I am uncertain concerning just when and how it would be appropriate for me to become involved. However, in the long run, I don't believe that this will present an insuperable obstacle.

My present plan is to return to long wavelength work when I go back to the U.S. I would like to build a very large (4-5 mile) cross at about 30 mc/sec. The preliminary plans for this project are going well. In particular, I have located an excellent site for such an instrument near Tucson, Arizona, and the prospects are good that I'll be able to obtain it. This project would be carried out through the University of Maryland, and would keep me off-campus most of the time in any case.

From a personal point of view, I would much rather work on the long wavelength project than on the one which you propose. I get great satisfaction out of working on a project of small enough scope that I can personally take part in a good fraction of the work. I enjoy a bit of post hole digging, soldering, camping and hiking in the desert etc. etc. With a larger project one inevitably gets more involved with discussions with contractors and the like. Nevertheless, the scheme which you propose is so stimulating scientifically that I could not resist the temptation to work on it.

Therefore, I am in somewhat of a quandary as to just what I should plan on doing. I would be very reluctant to abandon the long-wavelength project at this time largely because I'm quite excited concerning its prospects, and I expect to enjoy the work very much. Also, I would not want to get into a large high-resolution project without the assurance of your leadership and backing over long length of time. I hope that you will not be disturbed with me for stating frankly that this must depend upon your recovery and health over the next few years. I'm open to your suggestions, but to me it appears best to

pursue the long wavelength project actively for the time being. If at some later date we should decide to abandon it, little will be lost. Much of the thinking, and circuitry, is independent of wavelength, and I believe that the Tucson site may be an almost ideal one for the instrument which you envision. On the other hand, it may turn out to be very appropriate to carry through the low frequency project alongside the high resolution one both because of its intrinsic merits and as a vehicle by which students could be trained in interferometry and array technology.

Things are moving along fairly slowly, but smoothly, on the Benelux Cross. Shortly, you will be sent the proposal which we are submitting to the Benelux governments. It summarizes our position far more comprehensively than I could here. I've also had some ideas concerning instruments of much higher resolution. I'd like to exchange them with you when we have the opportunity.

Once again, best wishes for a rapid and complete recovery.

Sincerely yours

W.C. Erickson