

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

June 22, 1956

Dr. Marie A. Tave
Department of Terrestrial Magnetism
Carnegie Institution
5241 Broad Branch Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Marie:

Since I wrote to you last, I have received copies of your letters to Dr. Beams and Dr. Stewart. While I hope that A.U.I. will be considered very seriously as the basic contractor for the National Radio Observatory, I agree with you that it is quite appropriate to explore ultimate approaches to the problem of what organization is to be responsible for the operation of the Radio Observatory at Greenbank. I shall be very interested to see what specific proposals may be forthcoming from the Universities of Virginia and West Virginia. I shall withhold detailed comment until such time as when the actual proposals are before us, but I feel that I should now already comment briefly on some points in your letters of June 19th.

To set the stage properly, I should probably repeat briefly what in essence is my attitude toward operation under A.U.I. auspices, which is the course that I favor. I reject on the basis of my own intimate personal acquaintance with several of the Trustees the notion that A.U.I. is so fully occupied with atomic energy matters that it is unlikely that the Trustees will give adequate attention to the Radio Astronomical problems of the Greenbank Observatory. I do feel however quite strongly that the basic organizational structure under A.U.I. auspices must provide for participation on an equal basis in all major decisions by all of the major universities which are participating actively in the Greenbank operation, be they from the northeast, the middle west or the southeast. You say in your letter to Dr. Stewart "Our Advisory Panel for Radio Astronomy for the N.S.F. has taken the position that the Trustees of A.U.I. are too fully occupied with the large-scale operations at Brookhaven for us to feel confident that the radio astronomy activities will have full and unbiased attention." I must say frankly that I do not remember our Panel actually taking this stand and I for one feel that this is not a fair statement.

In a postscript to your letter addressed to Dr. Stewart, you indicate that the Oak Ridge Institute for Nuclear Studies is interested in being considered as a sponsor for the National Radio Observatory. I had not heard about this development, but in this case I would feel really worried about the lack of background in radio astronomy of the Oak Ridge Institute and most of the universities that participate in it. I should say, however, that I am at present quite ignorant about the organization of the Oak Ridge Institute and perhaps it is quite in order for them to enter into the picture.

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June 22, 1956

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To speed up matters, I am sending again carbon copies of this letter to all of the members of the N.S.F. Panel in Radio Astronomy.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

BJB:MO

Bart J. Bok

Signed in Dr. Bok's absence by M.O.