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NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

520 EDGEMONT ROAD CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903-2475

TELEPHONE 804-296-0211 FAX 804-296-0278

TELEPHONE: 804-296-0240

E-MAIL: KKELLERM@NRAO.EDU

March 6, 1995

Dr. Grote Reber
Michael Street
Bothwell Tasmania 7030
Australia

Dear Grote:

Thank you for your recent letter with the good news that you will arrive here on May 24. We will need to obtain all of your plane tickets here in advance. If necessary you can change the dates of the return tickets, but it is important to buy a round trip ticket in advance as the cost of a one way ticket is equal to or more than the cost of a round trip ticket purchased in advance.

It appears that the Norman, Oklahoma, is very close to Oklahoma City which has a large airport.

We suggest the following itinerary:

May 21	Hobart-Sydney 9 ⁰⁵ - 10 ⁵⁰ am Sydney - LA 1 ⁰⁰ - 9 ²⁵ am (arriving on May 21) LA - Chicago 11 ¹⁰ - 5 ⁰⁶ pm
May 22	Chicago-Ok. C.
May 24	Ok. City - Charlottesville

It is possible to continue on to Oklahoma City from Chicago on your day of arrival on a flight that leaves Chicago at 6⁵⁵ pm and arrives in Oklahoma City at 8³⁶ pm. But that is probably too much to travel without a break. You can also arrive earlier in Chicago and rest there for several days before leaving for Oklahoma. Let me know your preference.

As you will recall there are no airplane flights to Green Bank. I suggest that you fly first to Charlottesville and spend a few days here. Then we can travel by car to Green Bank.

Please give me a tentative date that you want to return from Green Bank to Chicago, as well as a tentative date to return from Chicago to Tasmania? It is important that we make these arrangements soon, as it is often difficult to get seats on flights across the Pacific. We can make changes later if necessary, although there is a charge for making changes. The airlines will only hold a reservation for 7 days without a ticket being issued, and they will not issue the ticket unless return dates are specified.

Please let me know as soon as possible your desired travel dates.

I have spoken with several knowledgeable colleagues about your proposed Minuteman experiment. As you point out, it is difficult to get information. I cannot seek the aid of a Senator or Congressman in obtaining access to 10 Minuteman missiles, or I would be considered at best a crank, or worse a terrorist, and would have the FBI after me. Each missile costs millions of dollars and is not available for free, even to NASA. Then there would be the cost of transportation of the missiles and associated support materials to Tasmania, and the provision of adequate security during transportation and employment. Also, I understand that a team of professionals would be needed for the launch. As you will appreciate the cost of all this would be enormous, even if permission were granted.

Finally, it is my understanding that peacetime missile launches are always directed over the ocean, so as not to endanger the population. That is why launches from the U.S. are from Florida or Virginia when the launch is to the east, and from California when the flight is to the west or north. Thus it would not be possible to launch a missile from the west coast of Tasmania to the east.

We look forward to hearing from you about the details of your trip.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. I. Kellermann".

K. I. Kellermann