

ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.  
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August 30, 1962

Dr. W. C. Erickson  
Sterrewacht  
Leiden  
Holland

Dear Dr. Erickson:

My long delay in answering your letter of July 16 is due principally to the fact that I was away from work for three weeks, most of which time was spent in the hospital. My European trip was canceled at the last minute in favor of some surgery. Furthermore, I have been waiting for some communication from Joe Pawsey concerning his future activities. I have not yet heard from him directly.

Joe was discharged from the hospital about the middle of July and departed for Australia, accompanied by his wife and Paul Wild, on the 27th of July. I have heard that he arrived home safely, and that he has been pursuing a rather intensive program of physical therapy to improve the muscular control in his left leg and left arm. Also, according to my second-hand reports, he visits the laboratory in Sydney occasionally. I am sure that his present physical status, which the doctors tell me is relatively very good in view of the seriousness of his medical history, is due to Joe's own determination to overcome his problems.

Prior to his departure from the United States, he and I discussed his future with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank and concluded that, in view of the recent severe medical problems and some of the uncertainties of the future, he should not accept the responsibilities which go with the directorship. Both of us are most anxious that Joe's ideas for the Observatory be pursued and, indeed, would like to see him take a role in its program. We also recognized that, for his own and his family's security, his long term of service with CSIRO should not be interrupted at this time. His financial protection against the possibility of further medical complications would be small as a new employee of NRAO but would be relatively large as an employee of long service with CSIRO. In view of this, we agreed that for the immediate future his participation in the Green Bank program should be "played by ear." I expect that Dave Heeschen and/or I will visit the Australian group later in the fall or early winter, and at that time, we will be able to discuss his possible further participation in our work.

The ideas expressed in Joe's letter resulted from his own thinking and from discussions with the NRAO staff. They certainly represent the general objectives we all wish to pursue. The Observatory staff under Dave Heeschen is now pursuing a program of obtaining rather basic information which will be useful in the ultimate design of a very large antenna array.

Although Joe talked to Dave about his letter to you, I do not believe that Dave actually has seen a copy. I will send him one and suggest that he communicate further with you.

As you can appreciate, these new projects require a substantial participation on the part of the interested scientific community. We are most anxious that there be the necessary strength at Green Bank to carry out such undertakings, and furthermore, that we have active participation from those in the universities who can work with us on a cooperative basis. Joe hoped that you would be interested and able to participate in the program. We also believe that you would find the NRAO work stimulating and hope that whatever your future commitments you will be able to participate in its program in some way.

If Joe has not written you since June 27 and you have not yet answered, I suggest that you answer to the effect that you were waiting for my visit to Leiden. Joe knew that I had hoped to see you. Joe is still actively considering ways and means of pursuing the program he proposed and any comments you can make would be appreciated by him and by me.

I still hope to visit European Observatories; however, I doubt if I can do it this fall or winter.

Yours truly,

Gerald F. Tape  
Vice President

GFT:res

bc: D. S. Heeschen