

THE OBSERVATORY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

May 15, 1958

Dr. Richard M. Emberson
Associated Universities, Inc.
Suite 1750, Coliseum Tower
10 Columbus Circle
New York 19, New York

Dear Dick:

Thank you for sending me a draft of a letter from me to Dr. Menzel concerning our Ad Hoc Committee on the Very Large Antenna meeting held at HCO, April 21. I appreciate your help in arranging the meeting and in writing a draft. I think I understand your urgency, and I am in sympathy with such feelings to get our committee recommendations into final form, thank us, and get on with the project. However I do not want to have my name associated with recommendations and scientific justifications for a multi-million dollar project based on one evening of informal discussion.

I think that our April 21 meeting was fruitful and I am following it up by asking some of those present to document their off-the-cuff comments and discussions. Dr. Weaver has agreed to do so and I have written others. I hope to finish my detailed follow-up shortly. I then would like to distribute the combined notes for further comment and discussion.

From experience with the 140-ft telescope I can also understand your vetoing our suggestion that our committee meet with individuals or groups that would conduct the engineering studies on a Very Large Antenna. It is certainly within the prerogative of A.U.I. to conduct their business as they wish but they can hardly base a problem statement on a letter report of the April 21 meeting of our committee since that meeting was exploratory and not based on any critical evaluation of pros and cons of various possibilities and suggestions.

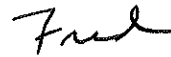
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Page Two

I agree that I would never suggest turning a contracting job over to any committee.

I hope that A.U.I. will see itself able to support a few additional ad hoc committee meetings to further consolidate ideas and produce specifications for a V. L. A.

Sincerely yours,



Fred T. Haddock, Chairman
Ad Hoc Committee on the
Very Large Antenna.

FTH:pn

cc: Dr. D.H. Menzel, Chairman,
A.U.I. Advisory Committee
Dr. L. Goldberg, Trustee,
A.U.I.