

Astronomy Group,  
Department of Physics,  
Stirling Hall,  
Queen's University,  
Kingston, Ontario.

16th January 1968

Dr Derek Wills,  
Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory,  
Cavendish Laboratory,  
Free School Lane,  
Cambridge, U.K.

Dear Derek,

Many thanks for your letter. I am sorry I didn't get to see you on my trip back at Christmas, but the schedule got very crowded and complicated, what with foot-and-mouth and restricted travel, etc., and in the end I was only in Cambridge for one day and in Bristol not at all.

I spent a very profitable time in Penticton on the way back here (!), plotted further 10 MHz with Jim Caswell, and had a brief talk to Jim Gower, who was by then knee-deep in exam papers at U.B.C. The Penticton people and I are currently plotting 5 MHz 1974, and other low-frequency delights. A pilot experiment to observe Cas and Cyg A with a simple interferometer on 30  $\lambda$  baseline (30  $\lambda$  = 1 valley) is under way and will probably be up this summer. Observing frequency, somewhere between 4 and 6 MHz. This author is still trying to fall off the radio spectrum at both ends. I also have the DA catalog, and will be doing observations of these sources at 4.6 cm at the ARO using the 150 ft dish, at the end of this month.

The main purpose of this instant reply to your letter is - are you seriously likely to be interested in a position here next year? I ask this as we are currently involved in preliminary negotiations with prospective new staff. There will most likely be one position for a radio astronomer, although this is not certain. If you would have a serious interest, you should write to Prof V.A. Hughes at the address above, to get your name into the department's official list of possible prospective staff members. I have already mentioned to him that you might possibly have an interest in a job, and told him what a great asset to the group you would be, etc.

Current activities here are mainly centred on the 150 ft dish, the practical situation is that we get all the observing time we ask for. All positions in the department are teaching positions, of course, but the work load is not particularly heavy. You might be interested to know that there is a plan afoot for the Carnegie Institute and the various Ontario universities to collaborate on putting a really large (200 inch?) optical telescope in Chile, although the time-scale of this is of course extended.

Anyway, if your query was at all serious, it would be a good idea to write to Prof Hughes, as north American universities begin negotiations with people much earlier in the year than is usual in the U.K.

Late late Happy New Year to you too. Am enjoying the Canadian winter, believe it or not. Has been 26 below zero, and several feet of snow, but this can be fun.

Best wishes,