

National Radio Astronomy Observatory
Green Bank, West Virginia

January 13, 1965

Dear Colleague:

As you probably know, a recent meeting at Green Bank of a number of radio astronomers asked that the National Radio Astronomy Observatory start work on a program of studies which might lead to a design for a large steerable filled aperture antenna. Such a program is also proposed in the recently published report of the Whitford Committee.

I have made a preliminary plan for such a study, and I attach a copy for your information. I propose to circulate to you further papers and ideas on this study, unless you tell me you do not wish to receive them.

We should be very glad to have any comments, ideas, or criticism you wish to make. If you would like these to go to the whole group of addressees, please let me know and I will circulate your views to them.

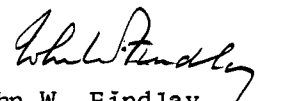
My papers on this subject will, to give the whole study an air of formality, carry the reference LFSP/JWF/#, so my plan is LFSP/JWF/1. I enclose also a copy of LFSP/JWF/2 on the suggestion of a floating spherical antenna. We plan to do a fuller study of this idea.

The LFSP stands for "largest feasible steerable paraboloid", but of course this does not yet commit us to considering only parabolic surfaces.

If we seem to make reasonable progress in the study, we would also plan to have meetings of a small group to review and advise on the progress we have made.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



John W. Findlay,
Deputy Director

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