

Astronomy Group
Department of Physics

15th January 1969

Dear Malcolm,

I returned from a long trip to the West to find a slightly antique air-mail from you - it appears much of the delay occurred on the Longair side of the I.C., but some of it here as my secretary did not quite fathom the mixture of Cyrillic and Longair script.

Greetings anyway from the frozen south (T much as you remember it, $\lambda 44^{\circ} 13' N$). I was delighted to discover that you actually got to Moscow in the end. How long have you been there? How long are you there for? Your account of life in Moscow was most entertaining, and it sounds a fascinating place to be.

I am greatly enjoying life here at present, becoming somewhat over-rich, such is the life of the academic in this country. As over half the population is under 25 in Canada, it is something of a booming nation educationally, and academic salaries are very high. Kingston is a pleasant town to live in, Queen's is a congenial university, and marriage is suiting me well, so life is pleasant in all such respects.

Work now takes me to both ends of radio spectra and to both ends of Canada. I am still doing a lot of work at Penticton, in particular on low-frequency background radiation, source spectrum statistics, hi- α sources in rich clusters of galaxies, interstellar HII absorption (or HI absorption as it now appears to be - my results agree very fully with the Pikel'ner - Pottasch - Spitzer picture of the not-quite-so-neutral hydrogen distribution), and detailed analysis of individual sources. Mary and I are going out West for 3 to 4 months this summer; I will be working at DRAO on low-frequency papers and Mary is going to throw pots and pick fruit. We have an enormous truck-station-wagon-jeep sort of vehicle in which we propose to drive West and explore northern B.C. on occasions when we're not working, and tent the rest of the time. Being in a country with an appreciable outdoors/wilderness we feel we should live in it from time to time. At least it counteracts the effects of massive affluence - our combined salary is now around \$20,000 p.a. and with the pill to keep the kiddies away we are almost indecently over-provided for. Hence the two vehicles, massive hi-fi, stocks and shares, and all that capitalistic crap.

Marriage is fun - when are you going to try it?

Future plans will depend on radio astronomy rather. I am working on centimetre spectra at Algonquin Radio Observatory with the 150' dish, and Jim Gower, Chris Parson and I are now part of a low-noise receiver group. If we can get the funds for a super-duper cooled paramp which will get us closer to confusion limit at 6.6 GHz I shall stay in the East for a while yet. But long term we are planning a big array for 12-13 MHz in the West (aiming at 20-25' arc resolution) and I will almost certainly move out there. This might be sooner or later depending on how

P.S. From your letter it appears that an earlier missile did not get here at all.

All the best,

Whether going to do when you're finished in Moscow?

I have been back to England once since moving out here, and thoroughly detested it - it will be interesting to know your reaction when you return. Cambridge seemed quaint, and Ireland pretty, but the whole country seems to me now to be too full of people and chaos - mostly apathetic people and archaic chaos too. So we will almost certainly stay in Canada for the foreseeable future.

I have not too badly off. The radio observatory at ARO is also impressively wild - genuine impenetrable forest containing genuine wolves and genuine bears, 65 miles from the nearest town, etc., so we have our share of away-from-it-all there too.

city Eastern civilization of New York, Toronto, Montreal, which has its long time there at some stage. At present we are rather close to the dig- rather. The West is great for such things and I am sure we will spend a and we are both bitten by the mountains-forests-glaciers-deserts bug the financial cookies crumble. Mary has lived for a while in Vancouver

the British sense, ('thick' in the Canadian), and the St. Lawrence valley, Hidden Lakes, and mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire are close by, so advantages but is not for keeps. Kingston itself is small, 'provincial' in