



**Smithsonian Institution**

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## **Proceedings of the Board of Regents Meeting held on September 20, 1982**

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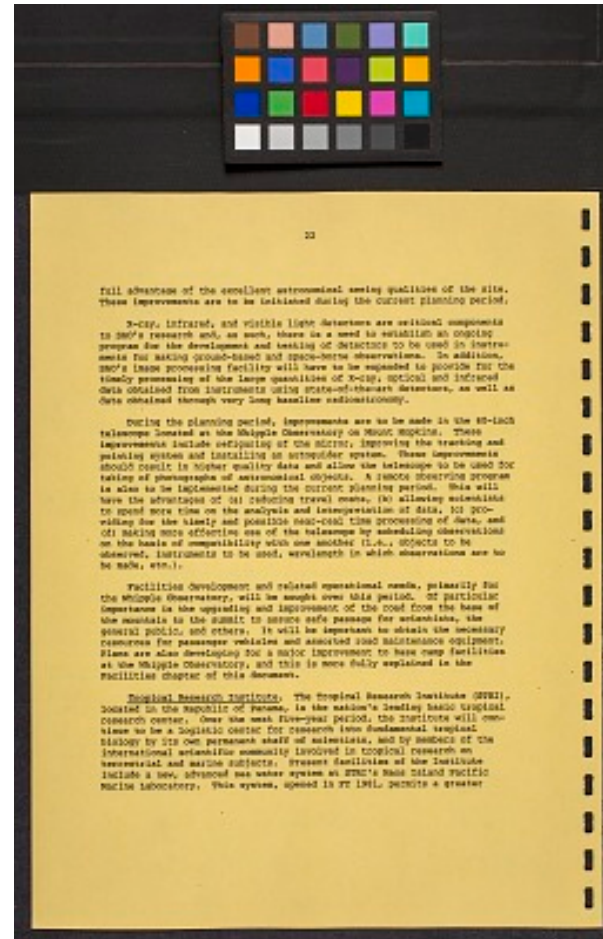
full advantage of the excellent astronomical seeing qualities of the site. These improvements are to be initiated during the current planning period.

X-ray, infrared, and visible light detectors are critical components to SAO's research and, as such, there is a need to establish an ongoing program for the development and testing of detectors to be used in instruments for making ground-based and space-borne observations. In addition, SAO's image processing facility will have to be expanded to provide for the timely processing of the large quantities of X-ray, optical and infrared data obtained from instruments using state-of-the-art detectors, as well as data obtained through very long baseline radioastronomy.

During the planning period, improvements are to be made in the 60-inch telescope located at the Whipple Observatory on Mount Hopkins. These improvements include refiguring of the mirror, improving the tracking and pointing system and installing an autoguider system. These improvements should result in higher quality data and allow the telescope to be used for taking of photographs of astronomical objects. A remote observing program is also to be implemented during the current planning period. This will have the advantages of (a) reducing travel costs, (b) allowing scientists to spend more time on the analysis and interpretation of data, (c) providing for the timely and possible near-real time processing of data, and (d) making more effective use of the telescope by scheduling observations on the basis of compatibility with one another (i.e., objects to be observed, instruments to be used, wavelength in which observations are to be made, etc.).

Facilities development and related operational needs, primarily for the Whipple Observatory, will be sought over this period. Of particular importance is the upgrading and improvement of the road from the base of the mountain to the summit to assure safe passage for scientists, the general public, and others. It will be important to obtain the necessary resources for passenger vehicles and assorted road maintenance equipment. Plans are also developing for a major improvement to base camp facilities at the Whipple Observatory, and this is more fully explained in the Facilities chapter of this document.

Tropical Research Institute. The Tropical Research Institute (STRI), located in the Republic of Panama, is the nation's leading basic tropical research center. Over the next five-year period, the Institute will continue to be a logistic center for research into fundamental tropical biology by its own permanent staff of scientists, and by members of the international scientific community involved in tropical research on terrestrial and marine subjects. Present facilities of the Institute include a new, advanced sea water system at STRI's Naos Island Pacific Marine Laboratory. This system, opened in FY 1981, permits a greater



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