

**Reply from the German Federal Ministry — the Sonneberg Observatory
(Translated from German)**

**Dr. Richard M. West
Chairman of the IAU Working Group on Wide-field Imaging
European Southern Observatory
Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
85748 Garching bei München**

2.11.1993

Ref: Sonneberg Observatory

Dear Dr. West,

The Minister for Research and Technology has asked me to thank you for your letter of 22nd October 1993.

Based on the results of a survey carried out by the Scientific Council in 1994, Sonneberg Observatory was not connected to the (meanwhile newly established) Astrophysical Institute Potsdam. The Observatory became a division of the restructured State Observatory of Thuringia in Tautenburg. Consequently, all requests and suggestions regarding the Sonneberg Observatory must be addressed to the Government of Thuringia. The Federal Ministry for Research and Technology is not in a position to discuss possible ways for continuation of the research work at Sonneberg after the planned closing of this institute at the end of 1994.

Any decision in favour of scientific activities after 1994, can only be made by the country of Thuringia. I therefore propose that the IAU Resolution regarding the astronomical plate collection in Sonneberg be presented to the authorities in Thuringia.

With kind regards,

**Dr. BLASK
Bundesministerium für Forschung und Technologie
53170 Bonn**