



Corporate Offices

David B. Benham
Chairman of the Board
Chief Executive Officer

December 21, 1988

CAPT Victor Delano
7111 Pyle Road
Bethesda, MD 20817

Re: USNA Class of '41
Memorial Observatory

Dear Victor:

Thank you for the latest sketch on the observatory. My concern is that our gift to the Academy be fully compatible with the French Renaissance architecture that has defined the image there for so long. Although the facility to house the telescope is very small in comparison to the historic buildings surrounding it, extra care must be taken to make sure that it appears to "belong" there.

Victor, the quality that our class has a right to expect for this project dictates that a highly competent architect be retained to prepare plans for construction of the project. A contract can then be let to a contractor either by competitive bidding or negotiating with a prequalified contractor. In selecting an architect, the Chesapeake Division of Naval Facilities Engineering Command could probably recommend competent local architectural firms possessing a high degree of historical sensitivity, a top criteria for selection. The architectural detailing of the building is most important. I am sure that the project committee will take the necessary steps to ensure the success of this project.

Best wishes for this holiday season.

Cordially

David B. Benham

DBB:dc

cc: Ed Miller
Bob Hayler