

financial support by the interested countries and international organizations, etc.

In conclusion, the ORT network, a network of robotic telescopes, will complement the automated stations located in other longitude and latitude intervals, allowing large international collaborative variable-star programmes to be run in a non-stop way for several nights or weeks.

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*Discussion:* Ansari pointed out that a very good site had been found in the Indian Himalaya. D.L. Crawford (Kitt Peak) gave a brief account of his project for a worldwide network of small telescopes, which would be, in effect, an extension of Querci's proposal.

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A. Boksenberg (Royal Greenwich Observatory) spoke about the facilities available on the Canary Islands, especially those wholly or partly owned by the U.K. He explained how these might be made available to African astronomers, emphasizing that, in principle, all major international installations were now open to any qualified astronomer with a programme judged to be of suitable merit. Because of great demand, however, many worthy applications were denied time. A lone astronomer from any country was unlikely to be successful, and those without experience of working on large, or even on medium-sized, instruments would be well advised to join an international group and thus share in the data obtained during an observing run. Writing an observing application that convinces the time-allocation committee to award time is difficult so, again, isolated astronomers with limited experience should join a group of more experienced observers. Travel funds for astronomers from outside the U.K. were available, in special circumstances, on application through the proper channels.

*Discussion:* In reply to Percy, Boksenberg said that service observing is available and will soon be preferred. Kurtz emphasized that applications for observing time and travel funds could be *very daunting* for isolated astronomers, who need a liaison person to show them what to do. Onuora mentioned the possibility of sending a Nigerian astronomer to the Canaries to learn about solar observations. She was advised to contact Prof. F. Sanchez, Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias. In answer to Querci, Boksenberg said that sand-wind from the Sahara had not proved to be a major problem.