



National Research Council  
Canada

Conseil national de recherches  
Canada

President

Président

September 4, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO: DIRECTORS, ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, AND BRANCH HEADS

This copy for:

Institute of Astrophysics

During the opening ceremonies of the Conference "Perspectives in Spectroscopy" in honour of the 70th birthday of Dr. Gerhard Herzberg, I had the pleasure of announcing Council's intent to set up an Institute of Astrophysics within the National Research Council. In recognition of Dr. Herzberg's outstanding scientific contributions, his interest in and contributions to astrophysics, and his distinguished role as a scientist and scientific leader at NRC, the new Institute is to be named "The Herzberg Astrophysics Institute".

Details regarding the structure and program of research activities of the Institute have yet to be developed. The general concept of the institute has been under consideration for some time. Basically this involves bringing together in a mutually reinforcing manner NRC research in optical and radio astronomy, cosmic-ray research, and laboratory astrophysics. By consolidating existing strengths and resources it is hoped not only to achieve a more effective capability to exploit emerging new scientific opportunities, but also to develop in Canada a center of scientific excellence in this field. The eventual availability of an important new telescope and related facilities and techniques, as well as the need for a stronger focal point in Canada for research in astrophysics, were also important factors in the decision.

Observational astronomy is making increasing use of new spectroscopic methods and requires a strong back-up of laboratory astrophysics. The Spectroscopy Section is to form the initial nucleus for work in laboratory astrophysics. The Spectroscopy Section was founded by Dr. Herzberg in 1948 and has developed into a world-renowned center in this field. Dr. Herzberg's long standing interest and scientific contributions to stellar spectra, as well as to spectroscopy generally, make the association of his name with the new institute a natural link and a well-merited recognition. It is Council's fervent wish that Dr. Herzberg will continue as an active research scientist in the Institute.

W.G. Schneider