May 24, 1995

Dr. H. S. Caplan, Head
Department of Physics and Engineering Physics
University of Saskatchewan
116 Science Place
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5E2

Dear Dr. Caplan:

I wish to apply for the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. My proposed contributions to teaching in the Engineering Physics program, research plan, and *curriculum vitae* follow this letter, but I would like here to set out some of my qualifications for this position.

During my initial postdoctoral work at the University of Calgary, I managed the development of a major new airglow imager, from specification and design to calibration and installation. I led the mechanical and optical design efforts and coordinated a diverse team of technical and scientific personnel. The imager has performed exceptionally well under extremely harsh conditions and has acquired data of unprecedented quality on the polar atmosphere and ionosphere. While managing the ongoing operation of the imager, I have carried forward the analysis of the data, with one manuscript published, another submitted, and several other studies in progress.

On the strength of the above work the Canadian Space Agency awarded me a contract to study polar ionospheric and atmospheric processes as they relate to the space and terrestrial environments. The contract was renewed in March after a rigorous review of my progress. NSERC have also awarded me a two-year research grant at $10K/year for the study of diffuse auroras at high latitudes.

I have now taught two University courses, at both the introductory and upper-year undergraduate levels, with very positive evaluations. I have a strong commitment to excellence in teaching, and to contributing to undergraduate and graduate education in physics. Please note that I have applied to the Association of Professional Engineers of Saskatchewan for assessment of my academic credentials, preparatory to seeking registration as a Professional Engineer, as required by the terms of the announcement of the position.

With my skills and experience, I am confident that I can make a significant contribution to the teaching and research in the Department. I look forward to hearing from you and the selection committee in the next few weeks.

Yours truly,

David P. Steele, Ph.D.

P.S. Please regard as current the letters of reference you received about me for the previous faculty appointment, except where a new one is provided.

Encls.