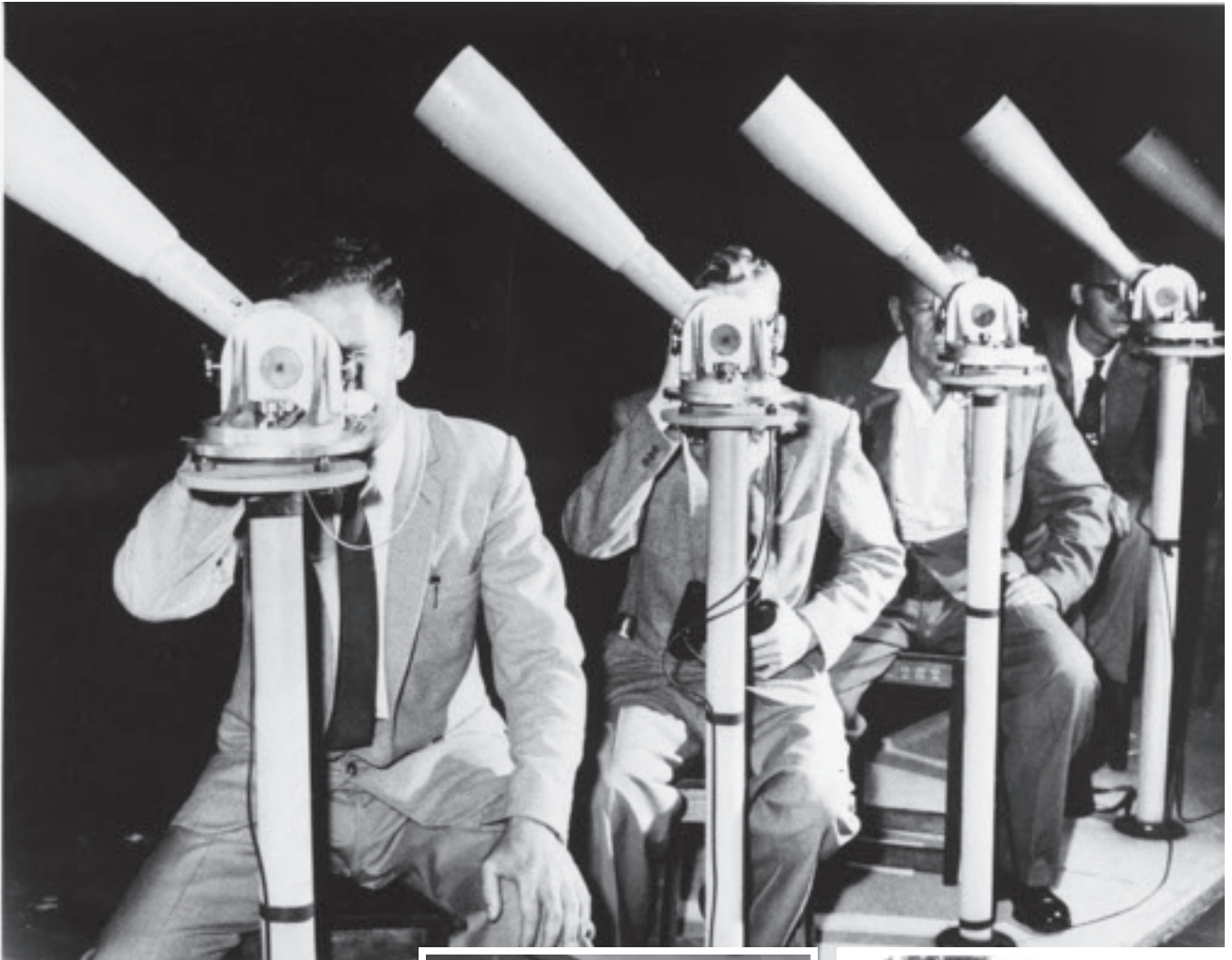
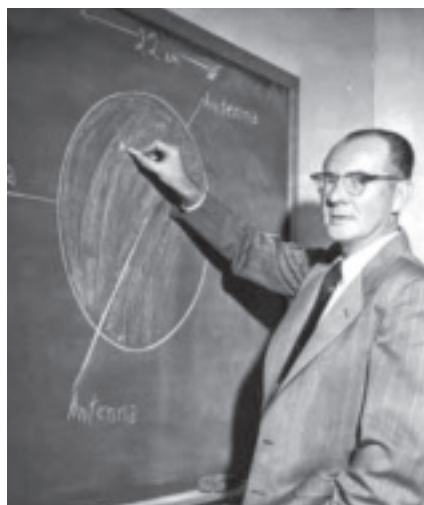


## Operation Bloodshot Eyes

Smithsonian Institution Archives photo via Wikipedia



In the 1950s, Americans worried about satellites even before Russia launched Sputnik on Oct. 4, 1957. Operation Moonwatch was begun in 1956; it was an amateur science program sponsored by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO). Its primary goal: Spot "artificial moons." This photo shows a band of volunteer trackers in 1965 in South Africa, one of more than 100 such teams worldwide. Each observer stared through a special telescope at a small portion of the nighttime sky, watching for a satellite. The godfather of the program was Fred L. Whipple (right), SAO director. Moonwatch teams backed up an optical network of 12 Baker-Nunn tracking cameras (far right). Moonwatch continued until 1975.



Argenta Images via the Web



Via the Web