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Dorval, P.Q.

December 4, 1965

Hillcrest Astronomy Club
Comet Coordination
c/o Mr. D. M. Brock
Hillcrest High School
Dauphin and Smyth Rds.
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Brock,

Thank-you for the Ikeya-Seki reports by Messrs. Ryback and Paston. This comet was elusive, although it was brighter than Halley's comet of 1910. It was as bright as a quarter moon for a few hours as it passed the sun, and most observations were made in the daytime from the south-western United States, the Hawaiian Islands, and the far east. Although the west coast of Canada was well situated for daytime observations on October 20 - 21, the sky was overcast on those days.

The comet is still in the morning sky, but becoming fainter, and moving away from the sun. The nucleus split into at least two parts on November 4, and by November 22, were travelling together, separated by about 20 seconds of arc.

Comet Ikeya-Seki is in an orbit similar to that of the "Great Comet of 1882" and several other comets. It would seem that there was once one large comet that broke up, forming several separate comets. It is possible, then, that another similar comet could appear at any time.

Best regards, and good observing,

Jim Low, National Coordinator
Comet and Nova Section
Standing Committee on Observational Activities
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada