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Rowstock 377 Ext: 7

IN CONFIDENCE

1st December, 1960.

Mr. G. J. Spence,
Office of the Minister for Science,
2 Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Spence,

1. C.U.R.E.(60)9

My main comment concerns the fact that, as I said at the meetings of the Working Party, the Board of N.I.R.N.S. have not yet been brought into the discussion of the Atlas proposal. I should like something added to Recommendation (ii) which makes this clear, and suggest the following:

"(ii) that the intention should be that this machine should be installed at Harwell under the control and management of the N.I.R.N.S. on the basis outlined above, and that, therefore, the Governing Body of the N.I.R.N.S. should be informed and asked whether they would accept this commitment; "

My remaining comments are very minor:

Para. 1 line 4 "Nuclear Science", not "Sciences"

Para 5, line 4 I suggest "...not one of them can yet make a case ...", since we say later that cases may arise.

Para 5, page 4, line 18 An intrusive comma after "However" makes nonsense of this sentence on first reading!

There are a few typing errors which I am sure you will have noticed.

2. Minutes of the second meeting

Similarly, I should like it to be recorded that the Board of N.I.R.N.S. have not yet been involved. This could be done by substituting the following for (3) on page 3:

"Invited the N.I.R.N.S. to consider this proposal and, if willing to accept it, to formulate a scheme in collaboration with the A.E.A. and other users for acceptance and operation of an Atlas computer."

Para. 3 seems to have gone astray. In the second paragraph the following should be added after "specialists in nuclear studies": "... using their own accelerators". I do not know what is meant by "...to concentrate resources in this field under the director of research", in relation to what passed at the meeting, and can only suggest deleting the whole of that sentence after the words "special research equipment". In the next sentence, "accurate measurement of nuclear energy is incorrect, and should read "accurate experiments on nuclear structure". The rest of the sentence would have to be modified if the suggested deletion were

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made in the previous one, and might read: "....demands for similar equipment in other centres were unlikely to arise but, if they did, they and all other demands for large research equipment should be examined as they came up to determine how any which were found acceptable should be handled."

Yours sincerely,

T. G. Pickavance