To: Distribution   15 June 1973

From: P.M. Attree

Subject: Tape exchange

           Several points were passed on to me as a result of discussions
at the recent 4-Centre Meeting in Moscow.

1. "The last dictionary tape was not good." For this I applogise, but this
   tape was sent out on 2 May and according to my records, the normal
   processing was followed. I would be grateful if other centres could
   tell me what was wrong with the tapes (even perhaps send a part of a
   listing if appropriate) in order that, if a mistake has been made, we
   do not repeat it; although after such a long time it may be difficult
   to trace a particular sequence of events here. The next dictionary
   distribution is due on 2 August 1973. If the other centres would like
   this date brought forward to about 10 July, would they please let me
   know as soon as possible.

2. "NNCSC can accept any tape format now." We would be delighted to
   establish that, as a standard, all future tapes sent from NDS to
   NNCSC are: 9-track, EBCDIC code, 800 bpi, odd parity.
               No label, no leading tapemark.
   Would NNCSC please confirm that this is acceptable. Similarly, I
   would be very happy if NNCSC were in a position to send EXFOR tapes
   in the standard format, i.e. logical record length =80, block length
   =800 instead of the present 81, 810; and preferably, of course, 9-
   track, EBCDIC, 800 bpi, odd parity. Would they please let me know
   their position?

3. "What is the extra information on the beginning of all NDS tapes?
   CJD has difficulty in skipping this." I am afraid I do not under-
   stand this. Following the load point (i.e. the reflective strip) the
   only information that can occur is a tape-mark, a label and the
   data-file itself, followed by a tape-mark. My EXFOR programs specify
   NOLABEL and NOTAPEMARK for all out-going tapes. There is also an

erase-head on the tape unit which erases all previous information, following the load-point, as it writes the new information. Therefore, the only information on an EXFOR tape is the data-file itself. I attach, for the information of CJD, a photo-copy of the element pages from our magnetic tape manual. Is it possible that CJD is attempting to read before the load-point? Could CJD please let me know which tapes, explicitly, gave them problems?

4. "CJD would like a nine-track test tape." I will shortly be sending out TRANS-3010, and will be pleased to send both a 7-track and a 9-track version to CJD.

Distribution: Dr. S. Pearlstein, NNCSC (5)
               Dr. F. Fröhner, CCDN (5)
               Dr. V. Manokhin, CJD (5) + 1 attachment
         NDS C. Dunford
               F. Hirschbichler
               H.D. Lemmel
               file   Clearance: J.J. Schmidt