

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS (ACCU)Minutes of the third meeting, held on October 2, 1978

Present : M. Baldo-Ceolin, F. Binon, W. Blair, K. Böckmann, P. Borgeaud, M. Buhler-Broglin, M. Crozon, I. Duerdoth, T. Ekelöf, W. Geist, D. Imrie, H. Jensen, E. Lillestøl (Chairman), M. Regler, D. Schotanus, L. Tauscher, W. Tejessy, G. Ullmann, L. Van Hove, A. Vitale

Invited : M. Metcalf (Item 4), R. N. Milligan (Items 5,6,7,8)

Apologies for absence : U. Meyer-Berkhout, W. Scott

Van Hove introduced Ullmann, Personnel Division Leader and now CERN Directorate member for personnel policy and planning, who, in view of the fact that the first ACCU meetings had been devoted largely to matters relating to personnel, would attend ACCU from now on.

1. Adoption of agenda

With the addition of "lounge facilities at CERN", the draft agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (CERN/ACCU/2)

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on May 8, 1978, were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Medical and Accident Insurance for Users at CERN

- i) Milligan said that, following the conclusion of the previous meeting that the Austria premium was rather high for a single person, this point had been discussed with Austria, and a new arrangement had been agreed for one person only, with a reduced rate and reduced benefits, at a monthly cost for 1978 of 124.- Swiss francs (see Annex I). The members welcomed this information.
- ii) Schotanus raised the question of official journeys outside Europe (e.g. to the U.S.A.), pointing out that for someone paid by CERN Austria considered this as duty travel and insurance cover continued at no extra charge, whereas for someone not paid by CERN Austria charged an extra premium to continue the cover for such a journey. After a brief discussion the Chairman asked that this point be clarified for the next meeting. \*

b) Financial conditions of users - ECFA report

The Chairman said that copies of this report had been obtained and circulated to members.

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#### 4. Coordination of software support for counter experiments

Metcalf reported on this topic, following discussions with Regler and Lohrmann since the previous meeting. He had attempted to assess to what extent there were problems in large groups/collaborations, via an article in the August Computer Newsletter (see Annex II). There had been no response, which could be interpreted as meaning i) there was no problem, ii) groups were not aware of the problem, or iii) groups were not aware of what to do if they had problems. He had then selected three large collaborations (with no CERN participation) for further study. All three had software which seemed well-organized, and they know how to optimize and find suitable algorithms. It was notable that in two of the three collaborations, one person was in complete control of software. The only negative feature was the degree to which machine-dependent code was used. In general the three groups would welcome a consultancy service.

Regler remarked that the main point seemed to be that one person (either from CERN or outside) should coordinate all software for a collaboration, and added that since there did not seem to be a general problem he would support the idea of a CERN consultancy service, and suggested a further report in about one year's time.

After a general discussion, the following conclusions were reached :-

- i) in each collaboration, one person should be in charge of software coordination
- ii) DD Division should consider providing a consultancy service via COCOTIME members
- iii) minimum standards for software should be formulated in writing
- iv) a lecture course on program optimisation should be proposed for the Academic Training series.

#### 5. Short-term accommodation of Users at CERN - hostels

Milligan made the following report :-

"The level of occupation of the CERN hostel, barracks and St. Genis hostel during the summer months has fluctuated between 75% and 95% on average per month. These figures include week-ends, however, when the level drops considerably, so we can say that the accommodation is practically full during the working week.

This is always the peak period, however, because of the large number of summer students (~ 140) and other summer visitors. As from the beginning of October we should get back to a more normal situation, for which it would appear that the existing CERN facilities, backed up by the St. Genis hostel, are adequate in terms of quantity.

The improvements to the St. Genis hostel have been completed and I have not heard any complaints about the facilities there, so I suppose that clients are satisfied."

He added that the answer to the question raised at the previous meeting, namely whether the out-of-hours transport system could also operate between the CERN Hostel and the Preveessin site, was that it could.

Imrie referred to the barracks and delivered a long list of complaints on what he agreed were individually minor points but collectively were inconvenient and should be easily resolved. He was supported by the two other users who spoke. Milligan promised to look into the situation, and said that individual complaints and questions on details should be addressed directly to him at the time they occur.

Borgeaud referred to shift work on experiments, and asked if telephones could be installed in the rooms in the CERN Hostel. Milligan said that jacks were already installed in some rooms, and suitable arrangements could be made with the receptionist, and promised to report back at the next meeting.

#### 6. On-site transport for short-term visitors

Bühler-Broglin said that the transport arrangements remained as outlined at the previous meeting, except that an inexpensive solution to hiring cars for visiting teams was under discussion. He summarized the facilities currently available, which are :-

- i) the navette service
- ii) the radio-navette during working hours (4425)
- iii) the out-of-hours service Meyrin site - St.Genis Hostel - Preveessin site (4444)
- iv) the allocation of 10 CERN cars to the experiments in the North Area
- v) the availability of approximately 10 CERN cars to groups for up to 3 days.

Several members expressed interest in the proposed arrangements for hiring cars for groups, and asked that ACCU members be informed immediately of the details once these are finalized.

Imrie pointed out that while the navette service fulfilled a need, the frequency and timekeeping could be improved. In particular the navette should wait at the Main Building for some minutes at a definite regular time, instead of making a brief stop at a variable time, as at present - this could replace part of the present dead time spent waiting at the North area. Several members supported this proposal. The present timetable is attached (Annex III).

Duerdoth raised the question of problems with the tunnel under RN 84. Bühler-Broglin said that a table was in preparation showing the documents needed to use the tunnel, according to the contract situation at CERN of the user; there were many possibilities since 2 out of a possible 6 documents were needed, and the number of categories of user was in double figures. The table would be sent to all members in due course. Van Hove pointed out the exceptional nature of the tunnel, in that two countries had agreed to give up to CERN the control of consignments of equipment, and remarked that the tunnel was not a general transit facility between the two sites. Blair added that while provision could be made for quick access in cases of urgency, it takes time to issue the official documents, which in some cases come from Berne or Paris.

## 7. On-site meal facilities on public holidays

Milligan reported that following the previous meeting, as an experiment on Jeûne Genevois (Thursday, September 7) Restaurant No. 1 had been opened to provide limited service, with two staff. 200 coffees had been served, and also 180 mid-day meals (when there had been long queues), and the experiment was clearly successful. It was thus proposed to repeat this on future holidays when a demand could be expected for such a service.

Imrie welcomed this information as a step in the right direction. He said that the discussion should be widened to cover meal facilities at CERN in general, and made the following proposals :-

- i) operate a limited service in Restaurant No. 1 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every weekend
- ii) close Restaurant No. 2 at weekends and in the evenings
- iii) extend the opening hours of Restaurant No. 3 (Preveessin site).

He added that the food and service in Restaurant No. 2 at weekends (especially Sundays) were now very poor, and pointed out that the opening hours of the restaurants should be displayed prominently outside each restaurant. He asked that the CERN public holidays should be publicized for users, and added, with respect to holiday opening, that the need depended primarily on the accelerator schedules.

These proposals received general support. Tejessy observed that the Staff Association participated in the Restaurant Committee, which had had so few official complaints that nothing had been done. Duerdoth and Imrie agreed to pass on the letters they had received, which concern mainly Restaurant No. 2.

Milligan said that increased opening hours for Restaurant No. 3 were foreseen, and would be announced in the Weekly Bulletin. Opening hours and services on the Meyrin site (Restaurants Nos. 1 and 2) were at present under discussion, and the proposals made would be borne in mind. An additional possibility was the provision of vending machines. This possibility was generally welcomed.

## 8. Employment in the Geneva area for spouses

Regler said that he had raised this point since many users spent several years at CERN, and a common problem was that spouses could not get a job in the area.

Milligan gave the facts as follows :-

- i) In theory it is possible for the spouses (and children) of all members of personnel to obtain employment in the Geneva area, whether they live in France or Switzerland.
- ii) In practice, however, this can be very difficult and may take a long time to arrange.
- iii) The international organizations in Geneva, including CERN, have a special status which enables them to recruit their personnel without obtaining the prior approval of the Genevese authorities. Interested spouses would therefore be well advised to submit employment applications to them in the first instance.

- iv) All other employers have quotas of "foreign" employees which they cannot exceed. Normally, therefore, they can only recruit one foreigner to replace another foreigner who has left. Spouses and children of members of the personnel who have Swiss "cartes de légitimation" are not subject to the quota limitations.
- v) Much more stringent restrictions are currently enforced by the Swiss authorities in view of the current situation of the labour market. Each employer has to apply to the Swiss authorities for a work permit in respect of each candidate selected for employment. The authorities then check whether there is an unemployed Swiss person capable of doing the job before issuing the permit to a foreigner. At present it seems to be fairly easy for language schools, hospitals, etc. to engage qualified "foreigners", but in other sectors of the business and services community it is far more difficult.

Ullmann added that this point came within the terms of reference of the Finance Committee Working Group on the CERN Staff Regulations and enquiry into social conditions (RESCO), and that the problem of work permits also affected children, even to the extent that children over 20 have to leave the area if they have no permit. This was a wide problem which had to be negotiated with the Swiss authorities, which would take time, however the position of users' families would be included in this discussion. Van Hove commented that users could usefully raise this point with their respective delegations.

The conclusions were that in individual cases, the individual should persist in the attempt to obtain a permit, and that the general position for users' families should be taken up in the further discussions involving all members of personnel.

## 9. Other business

### a) CERN budget for visitors

Böckmann asked whether it was true that the CERN budget for visitors had been reduced by 25%. Van Hove said that this was not the case, and gave the following summary of the situation. In 1978 the official CERN budget for Fellows and Associates amounted to 19.1 MSF (8.1 MSF Fellows, 1 MSF Students, 10 MSF Associates), and would remain at this figure in 1979. The 10 MSF covered visitors of all types, namely Member State and Non-Member State appointments usually of 6-12 months duration, made through the central Selection Committee, and also short-term appointments (up to 6 months) made on divisional funds. In 1977 and 1978, unused staff money had been re-allocated internally to the central Member State Associates budget (the figure for which was 3.1 MSF). This had amounted to 1MSF in 1978. However, for 1979 the staff accounting showed no such reserve, and the overall CERN budget was 16 MSF less than anticipated, so there was no possibility of consolidating the addition of 1MSF to the budget of 19.1 MSF. In these circumstances the internal breakdown of this figure was under discussion. The number of Fellows would remain constant, and it was hoped to increase the central Member State Associates budget from 3.1 MSF.

### b) Call service when accelerators are down

Geist asked if when the ISR is down there could be a call service, as at Fermilab, so that physicists could leave the site and be called when normal running could resume. Van Hove said that this could be looked into for the ISR, although it might be more difficult to arrange for SPS.

c) CERN Users' Guide

Blair said that the 1979 edition was now being prepared, and pointed out that comments, criticisms and corrections were welcome, and should be sent as soon as possible to the editor, using the tear-off slip at the back of the Guide.

d) Lounge facilities at CERN

Duerdoth said that he wished to raise this subject for discussion, since there was a lack of amenities at CERN at weekends and in the evenings, as compared for example to Fermilab or Rutherford. He proposed that the Restaurant No. 1 lounge should be open always, and asked for the provision of newspapers, T.V., chess board, etc. Milligan observed that this lounge was in principle open all the time (access from the entrance under the Council Chamber), and Van Hove added that the library was also always open.

There was a general but inconclusive discussion during which members expressed views ranging from the provision of social club facilities to the need for a large library in the North Area.

10. Items for the agenda of future meetings

Members were given the opportunity to mention points for future discussion, in addition to those noted earlier in the meeting.

- a) Regler raised the question of schooling problems, including cost. (PE Division to report)
- b) Binon described a technical problem involving schooling and Belgian law, and after a brief discussion agreed to look into it and report back.
- c) Böckmann asked for a report on the workshops and the financing of work done (EP/FI/SB Divisions to be asked to report)
- d) Tauscher requested a report on how to get small computers at CERN, and Regler asked for this also to deal with long-term policy, to give groups guidance in planning, for compatibility (DD/EP Divisions to be asked to report).

11. Next meeting

It was agreed that this should be held in January, on the Monday afternoon just before the SPSC Committee (date to be fixed). A draft agenda will be circulated in December.

W. Blair

For publication in "Weekly Bulletin" - Official News

"Austria" health insurance -  
Limited benefit scheme for  
unpaid Associates

Until now, unpaid Associates wishing to join the "Austria" health insurance scheme had to pay premiums based on the weighted average salary of staff members.

The resultant premium for 1978 is 248.- Swiss francs per month, which was considered to be too expensive by many unpaid Associates.

An alternative scheme has therefore been negotiated with "Austria" whereby those aged under 40 years also have the option to insure themselves at half the above premium (i.e. 124.- Swiss francs per month in 1978) for the benefits listed in Appendix II of the health insurance agreement, but subject to the exceptions specified in Appendix III. The insurance coverage is limited to the premium-payer.

Associates wishing for further information should contact the "Austria" office at CERN (Tel. 2730) which will also handle applications for membership.

The latest date for applications from Associates at CERN is 31st December, 1978.

Personnel Division

Extract from CERN Computer Newsletter, August 1978 (No. 136) :-

### 1.3 ADVICE ON EFFICIENT COMPUTING

The load on the CERN central computers is steadily increasing, and even after the installation of the IBM 3032 at the end of this year it is clear that saturation of the central computers will occur from time to time. In view of this, it is important that we are sure that the most efficient use possible is being made of the available CP power.

The problem of program execution speed can be tackled in a number of ways:

- using SPY (CDC 7600) or FETE (IBM 168) to identify the most used parts of the code, and then to optimise them
- writing critical sections of code in machine language
- finding and using less time-consuming algorithms.

What would be interesting to determine is to what extent users of substantial amounts of computing power are experiencing difficulties in making use of these techniques, and I invite such users to contact me (tel. 8-942) or Judy Richards (4957) to discuss any difficulties of this nature that they may be having.

In a similar vein, those groups who would appreciate advice on working simultaneously on several different machines, whether at CERN or outside, are also asked to contact one of us.

Mike Metcalf (Computer Coordinator)



HORAIRE D'HIVER DU CIRCUIT DES NAVETTES

A compter du lundi 2 octobre 1978

les horaires des navettes seront les suivants :

CERN ORGANISATION EUROPÉENNE  
POUR LA RECHERCHE NUCLÉAIRE

**CIRCUIT DES NAVETTES**  
entre les Sites de MEYRIN  
et PREVESSIN

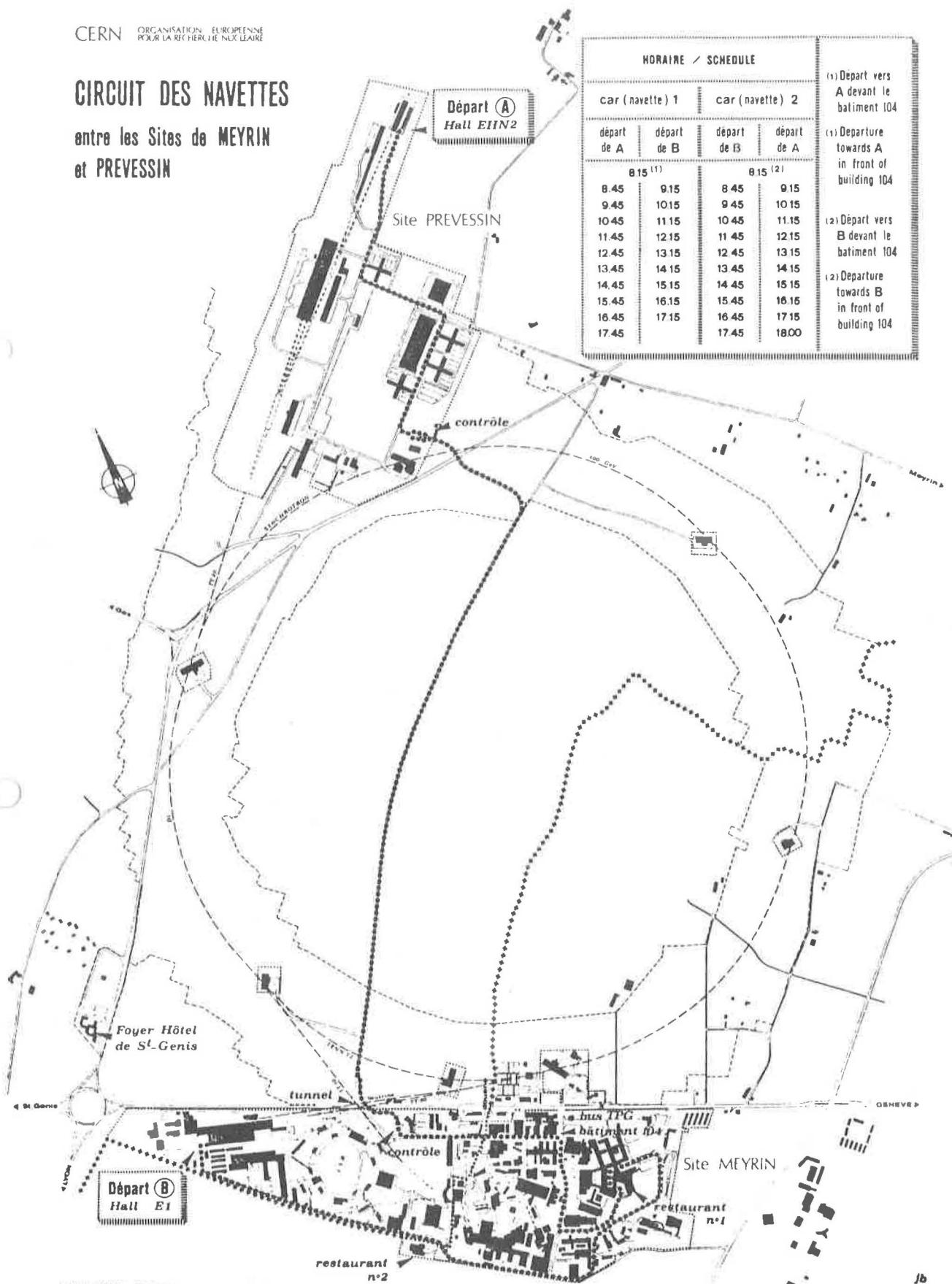
| HORAIRE / SCHEDULE  |             |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| car (navette) 1     |             | car (navette) 2     |             |
| départ de A         | départ de B | départ de B         | départ de A |
| 8 15 <sup>(1)</sup> |             | 8 15 <sup>(2)</sup> |             |
| 8.45                | 9.15        | 8.45                | 9.15        |
| 9.45                | 10.15       | 9.45                | 10.15       |
| 10.45               | 11.15       | 10.45               | 11.15       |
| 11.45               | 12.15       | 11.45               | 12.15       |
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| 13.45               | 14.15       | 13.45               | 14.15       |
| 14.45               | 15.15       | 14.45               | 15.15       |
| 15.45               | 16.15       | 15.45               | 16.15       |
| 16.45               | 17.15       | 16.45               | 17.15       |
| 17.45               |             | 17.45               | 18.00       |

(1) Départ vers A devant le bâtiment 104

(1) Departure towards A in front of building 104

(2) Départ vers B devant le bâtiment 104

(2) Departure towards B in front of building 104



CERN SURVEY 30 90 77 16

jb



Ref.: PE/AS/RNM/269/jm

Date: 17th October, 1978.

M E M O R A N D U M

Copy to/Copie à:

To/A : Members of A C C U

From/De : R. N. Milligan

Subject/: Health insurance of Associates  
Objet for official journeys outside Europe

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The "Austria" insurance company have now agreed that Associates opting for membership of the scheme will be covered whilst on missions that are considered by CERN to be official.

To qualify as an official CERN mission, the travel expenses should be paid by CERN, or the person responsible for the administration in the Division (e.g. Mr. Buhler-Broglin for EP Division) should certify that the journey is in CERN's interest.

N.B. The insurance cover outside Europe is limited to illnesses and accidents which occur there.



