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To/A: Members of the SPSC

From/De: NA3 Collaboration

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Since the NA3 direct photon status report to the June SPSC, the analysis of the data collected during 82 has progressed and one has now a better understanding of the π^0 events which represents the main background to the direct photon signal.

During the first period P3 of SPS fixed target operation in 1983, we have collected 10^6 triggers in 6 days of effective data taking. In spite of the low statistics, essentially due to the poor operation efficiency of the SPS during this restart period, a first analysis of the data indicates improvements in background rejection due to a number of technical upgradings (time measurement of the shower chamber signals, lower ADC threshold of the e.m. calorimeter...). The essential part of the data in 83 is scheduled to be collected during periods P5A and P5B from October the 20th to the end of November. The requested presentation at the December SPSC meeting, although possible, presents some inconveniences : it can only refer to the data collected in 1982 and it requires diverting effort from the running of the experiment during the next couple of months.

On the other hand the NA3 collaboration is convinced that, in order to evaluate the need of extending data taking in 84, a first analysis of the totality of the data collected by the end of 83 is really necessary. This can be achieved by February 84, at least for what concerns the converted photon trigger. It seems therefore logical to propose a presentation of the physics results by that time, with a review of beam time requests for 84.