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To : Members of Track Chamber Committee  
From : G.R. Macleod, Data Handling Division, CERN  
Subject: : CERN FORTRAN

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In an attempt to solve some of the problems which have arisen in the past in the exchange of computer programmes between CERN and laboratories in Member States, a programming language called CERN FORTRAN will be used on the CDC 6600 computer at CERN. This is a version of FORTRAN which allows programmes to be run with only minor modifications on IBM 7090/94, IBM 360 series and Univac 1107 computers using FORTRAN IV, as well as on CDC 1604, 3600 and 6600 computers using FORTRAN 63 or 66.

The CERN FORTRAN has arisen from discussions between interested parties within CERN and the meeting held last May at the Weizmann Institute of representatives from various bubble chamber groups. Considerable work has been done in CERN on converting large programmes into this language and testing them on IBM and CDC computers. The experience gained shows that, correctly used, CERN FORTRAN goes a long way to making programmes easily interchangeable between these computers.

A CERN FORTRAN Manual is now available to anyone interested from the Computer Documentation Service, Data Handling Division, CERN, 1211 Geneva 23. On the present schedule for installation of the 6600 next January or February, the CERN FORTRAN will come into general use in CERN in the course of Spring 1965.