

Memorandum 6L-217

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Division Six
Lincoln Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Lexington 73, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: DIVISION VI GROUP LEADERS' MEETING - 22 AUGUST 1955

To: Jay W. Forrester

From: B. E. Morriss

Approved: S.H.D.
S. H. Dodd

Present: S. H. Dodd, R. R. Everett, J. W. Forrester, D. R. Israel,
J. F. Jacobs, B. E. Morriss, J. A. O'Brien, W. N. Papian,
and J. C. Proctor

Agenda: 1. Display
2. Attendance at ACM Meeting
3. Work on Test Specifications
4. SAGE Operational Plans
5. Recruiting

1. Display

R. R. Everett presented results of the discussions with Dr. Holloway on the present difficulties of getting changes made to XD-1, getting definite commitments as to what would be done for XD-1, and the possibility of major setbacks in the XD-1 and, consequently, the SAGE schedules if things continue in the present atmosphere. The discussion with Dr. Holloway focused on the display situation, and he indicated that one more attempt should be made to resolve this item with IBM before further consideration was given since asking Western Electric-ADES to participate in resolving items of this type in the Experimental Subsector. Dr. Holloway has set up a meeting Friday, 26 August 1955, with IBM to discuss the items needed in the Experimental Subsector and to try to establish when they will be available prior to any statements on Experimental Subsector schedules at the ADES Progress Meeting on 15 September 1955. Mr. Zollinger of IBM called Mr. Everett and said that he has asked High Street to reinvestigate delivery schedules to the display consoles. A summary schedule had been prepared by Mr. Everett to indicate when certain major critical items must be available if the present schedule of 1 April 1955 for beginning of operational tests is to be met. It was pointed out that there would be a need for some compromises on the display and, indeed, one of the intents of our efforts at the moment is to create an atmosphere which will allow compromises to be worked out in Building F to defer the installation of some equipment in order to expedite those portions most critical and most apt to hold up program checkout. An example is the substitution of ten key units for fifteen key units in some initial units. At this time the question was

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raised whether any of the coding of fifteen key units was other than the binary and would preclude the substitution of the ten key units.

It was further pointed out that a time allocation is an integral part of any schedule, and at least the IBM part of the time allocation should be available by Friday, 26 August 1955.

2. Attendance at ACM Meeting

A large number of people, especially in Group 61, have expressed an interest in attending the ACM Conference this year. The question was raised as to whom and how many people should go. It was pointed out by Mr. Everett that the generally accepted if not published laboratory policy was to allow staff members to attend one meeting per year of this sort assuming that the meeting was held east of the Mississippi. To date the selection of people to attend meetings has been done primarily on the basis of those who requested to attend. Mr. O'Brien pointed out the danger that lies in some people never attending meetings and other attending quite frequently. The matter was left that for Group 61 the section leaders would work out a list of people that a justification or rather a willingness to support this number of people attending will be submitted with the list of people.

3. Work on Test Specifications

S. H. Dodd reported the results of the discussions with C. R. Wieser on test specifications to fall under Group 21. At present Group 21 is to be organized in four sections.

1. Maintenance of Site Equipment (L. C. Wilbur)
2. Test Planning and Execution (H. A. Fortier)
3. Equipment Engineering (P. Rosen, acting)
4. General Liaison (R. C. Whelan)

Joint responsibility for the test plans have been given to H. A. Fortier of Group 21 and K. E. McVicar of Group 61. B. E. Morriss asked whether the present work producing test plans should be to get the Experimental Subsector going on a minimum length of time or to produce a set of test specifications applicable to the production system. Mr. Forrester said where there is a conflict between these two objectives we should work to getting the Experimental Subsector working in a minimum length of time.

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4. Deviation from Operational Plan

D. R. Israel indicated that several places have been found where the operational plan does not give a satisfactory solution. Each item is being written up and discussed with members of the 4620th Wing. Mr. Forrester indicated that deviations from the operational plan should not be taken lightly and that there should be a definite procedure to point out the differences and see that they received adequate attention. He indicated that he would talk with Col. Halley about this and that the deviations should each be written up. These deviations will be prepared for TIR release pending Mr. Forrester's discussions with ADC.

5. Recruiting

J. F. Jacobs indicated that the hiring rate of about 5 per month for Group 61 must be continued if Group 61 is to meet its obligations. A letter to this effect has been written to the personnel office. Mr. Forrester asked how many of the present new people resulted from Group 61 recruiting activities last spring and how many came to the laboratory from other leads. D. R. Israel said he would find out and report why the thirty-five new Group 61 personnel came to Lincoln.

BEM:FJE


B. E. Morriss