

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
GRADUATE COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

November 18, 1966

DEANS, DIRECTORS, AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS  
Urbana Campus

The now famous Report No. 80 of the Digital Computer Laboratory, "On the Design of a Very High-Speed Computer," is almost ten years old and the ideas contained therein, as well as many generated since that time, have been implemented and tested in Illiac II. Technology changes rapidly in the computer field and a decade is a very long time to expect a computer to remain in service as a computational tool or even as a test bed for new concepts. It has been stated by a particularly sympathetic reviewer that Illiac II is perhaps the best documented computer ever constructed. The reports were studied all over the world and the ideas generated by the pioneering efforts on Illiac II permeate the current logic design philosophies of many computing systems and the lessons learned have been of inestimable value to the whole science.

Although, in many respects, Illiac II still displays a distinct superiority over current machines, a great university must not lag in making available to its faculty the very finest and latest in computing systems. The Computer Advisory Committee of the Graduate College under advisement from the Department of Computer Science, has surveyed the economic, technical and operational aspects of the implications of continuing the operation of Illiac II in the light of plans for procuring a next generation computer in 1967-68. The committee has recommended that operation of Illiac II be discontinued on delivery of the next generation computer and that programming efforts on both Illiac II and the IBM 7094 be reduced to the minimum required for operation so that attention may be directed to the new system.

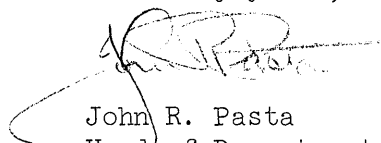
Because of the large number of programs available for the IBM 7094, its use, on a minimal basis, will be continued as long as economically and operationally feasible in order to facilitate a smooth conversion to the new system.

It is expected that the first phase of a new system will be implemented before June 30, 1967 so that a tentative date for termination of Illiac II operations, on a formal basis at least, may be taken to follow shortly after that date.

Every effort will be made to make the change over for Illiac II users as smooth as possible.

It is with a certain amount of sadness that we find it necessary to retire this computer, the design and fabrication of which has contributed so much toward establishing Illinois as the leader in education and research in the design of computing systems.

Sincerely yours,



John R. Pasta  
Head of Department

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