

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

DIRECTORS' MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November, 1963 at Liverpool

Present: Dr. T. G. Pickavance  
Mr. D. J. Kinnersley  
Professor A. W. Morrison  
Dr. J. M. Valentine  
✓ Dr. J. A. V. Willis

ACTION

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting on 14th October, 1963 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, AND FROM THE NOTES APPENDED TO THEM

(a) The Financing of University experimental work at NIRNS Laboratories

(b) Payment of Board Members

(c) Unification of technician grades

On the above three matters, it was agreed that there was no prospect of major changes being approved at the present time, while the Trend reorganisation was being considered. Nevertheless, we should continue to develop our ideas of what was desirable. On (a) it is at present possible to do all that we need to within existing authority.

(d) Comparison with craftsmen's work in NIRNS, AEA and Universities

The first stage, i.e. examination of the work at the Rutherford Laboratory is starting. (See also minute 3).

(e) Benevolent Fund

Dr. Willis said that he had a verbal opinion from Mr. Lindsell that the inclusion of industrial staff in a NIRNS Benevolent Fund would not affect the question of any transfer of money from the AEA Benevolent Fund.

It was agreed that a Benevolent Fund including all Institute employees was preferable on general grounds to one including only non-industrial staff, and that the Official Side should take this view in the Whitley Council. But the difficulties were recognised, and it would not be appropriate for the Official Side's attitude to be a rigid one.

(f) Promotion Review

With regard to the current promotion reviews it was left to Mr. Kinnersley and Dr. Valentine to make a detailed arrangements for having both Rutherford and Daresbury representatives on all the Panels. With regard to the letter from the I.P.C.S. to Mr. Jenkins asking for a discussion of promotion procedure, it would be appropriate that pending such discussions a reply should be sent mentioning the general nature of the ad hoc arrangements at present in operation.

DJK, JMV



## ACTION

### JOINT CONSULTATION OVER THE TREND REPORT

JAVW

Arising out of the discussion of 2.(d) above it was suggested and agreed that letters should be sent to the Staff Side of the Whitley Council and the Trade Union side of the Joint Industrial Council informing them that the Institute had set up a Committee of the Board to consider the implications to NIRNS of the Trend Committee recommendations and inviting any observations which they wished to send to the Committee of the Board. It was observed that:

- (a) suggestions from the staff, if made promptly, really could be seriously considered on such an occasion as this;
- (b) the Staff Side and Trade Union Side would see that during consideration of the major questions of organisation, many of the detailed points on the same subjects would probably have to be deferred.

### 4. FINANCE

Dr. Pickavance briefly described what had happened at the visit of the two Directors to the Treasury on 1st November. It had been found possible to make the position very satisfactorily clear to the Treasury in preparation for the coming negotiations with a higher level of the Treasury. The next move as planned was for the Institute's forward requirements to be put in a letter from Lord Hailsham to the Chief Secretary though there seemed now to be some slight doubt whether action at Ministerial level would be necessary.

At this meeting the inconsistency between the confirmation of approval for the Electron Laboratory and the reservation of the Treasury's position on future expenditure had not been tackled. However, on one point the Treasury representative (Mr. Lester) had expressed the opinion that the Treasury would not oppose the building of the Electron Laboratory in four years if this did not increase its total cost.

### 5. THE TREND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The implications of the Trend Committee Report were discussed and the following points were made in addition to those made at the Committee of the Board on 5th November:

- (a) The Institute must clearly either expand as suggested by the Board's Committee or contract, probably to two separate Steering Committees for the two Laboratories.
- (b) Assuming the expansion, the Institute's administration would need to be greatly strengthened. Lord Bridges had said that we had better set about this now.
- (c) Nowhere in the Trend Report was it recommended that the organisation for dealing with CERN, NIRNS and Nuclear Physics Grants should be unified. This was particularly significant because it was just the sort of point which Trend was dealing with. We should make it a very strong point in argument that this should have been proposed.
- (d) It seemed certain that the Government would decide in the end to unify the handling of CERN, NIRNS and the nuclear physics grants in some way. The organisational and administrative responsibilities involved were many and varied and we should consider which of them we most needed to control.



## ACTION

- (e) Under the Trend reorganisation it seemed likely that research reactor work would go out of the Institute. This would be acceptable but we should put forward strongly our current views on the work and the finance required for it, and see so far as we were able that it did not lose by the transfer.

### 6. REDUNDANCY

There was a general discussion on the question of redundancy. A draft reply to the Staff Side's letter of 18th September, 1963 although nearly complete, was not put to the Directors at this meeting. It was agreed if the Staff Side wished there would be a general review of the Redundancy Agreement but the question whether the Official Side desired such a review was not decided.

### 7. SEVERANCE PAY SCHEME

It was agreed that the Official Side should not take the initiative of proposing now the introduction of a Severance Pay Scheme but it would of course be one of the matters likely to be discussed in any general review of the redundancy scheme.

### 8. AGENDA FOR NIRNS MEETINGS

Any points for the G.P.C. meeting on 5th December needed to be considered quickly. Papers should go out on 21st November. It was hoped to hold a Board meeting in December with the Trend Report as the only major item on the Agenda.

### 9. PATENTS

The A.E.A. Patents Branch had asked for confirmation that the A.E.A. and the Government could have free user of NIRNS patents. It was agreed that this could be given.

JAVW

### 10. THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

The Minister's Office had asked whether the Institute wished to send any delegates. It was agreed that we did not.

JAVW

J. A. V. Willis  
8th November, 1963.

Copies to: Dr. T. G. Pickavance  
Professor A. W. Merrison  
Mr. D. J. Kinnersley  
Dr. J. M. Valentine