

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

DIRECTORS' MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January, 1964 at Chilton.

Present: Dr. T. G. Pickavance (Chairman)
Professor A. W. Morrison
Dr. J. M. Valentine
Dr. J. A. V. Willis (Secretary)

In attendance for
finance items: Mr. H. J. Millen

An apology was received from Mr. Kinnersley for his absence owing to illness.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November, 1963 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2.(f) Promotion review: The December, 1963 promotion review had been completed in a somewhat ad hoc manner. Professor Morrison said that he would be making some suggestions about the arrangements for the next review and it was agreed that the procedure needed to be decided soon because arrangements were already being started for the preliminary Group Leaders' meeting at the Rutherford Laboratory in April.

3. N.I.R.N.S. FINANCE OFFICER

The Chairman welcomed Mr. H. J. Millen whose secondment to the Institute had started on the day of the meeting and who was invited to attend for discussion of the finance items.

4. FINANCE 1963/64

The amount of the supplementary estimate which was being made and the amounts available at the Rutherford and Dar esbury Laboratories for capital and non-capital respectively, as shown in correspondence between Mr. Hudspeth and Dr. Willis were noted. After some discussion of the relationship of the latest forecast to the requested supplementary estimate, it was agreed not to seek any change in the latter.

5. FINANCE 1964/65

There was no definite information on the grant for 1964/65 but it seemed highly probable that the gross grant excluding Atlas would be £8.0M instead of the minimum figure of £8.2M requested. With the help of the Authority and the Minister's Office strenuous efforts had been made to induce the Treasury at least to make some special acknowledgement that a supplementary grant of £0.2M could be expected if it proved necessary. These efforts were continuing but the outcome was dubious.

Mr. Millen was asked to look into the required division between capital and non-capital, the first thought of the meeting being that the cut of £0.2M if made, together with the whole of the shadow cut, should be taken from the capital part of the estimate.

6. FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

A first draft forecast for the Rutherford Laboratory RDH/F4/1 was before the meeting and a first draft for the Atlas Computer Laboratory was produced at the meeting. Drafts for the Daresbury Laboratory and for future projects on other sites were not yet available. It was agreed to hold another meeting at the Rutherford Laboratory on 20th January for which a draft of the complete forecast should be available. The final paper should be distributed to the G.P.C. on 24th January.

Basis of the Forecast

Up to 1967/68 the forecast has to be brought into relationship with the "rational" and "rock bottom" figures given to the Minister's Office in July, 1963. After a good deal of discussion however it was agreed that the forecasts at this stage ought to be on a realistic basis of proper use of the Institute's facilities and that the relationship with the statement made to the Minister's Office last July could be dealt with by a separate reconciliation. In this connection the need to provide additional facilities for universities because of the Robbins expansion was a new factor to be brought into account.

For the Daresbury Laboratory no serious estimate of expenditure when Nina was running had yet been made and it was essential to show very clearly what was the status of the figures included in the Five-year Forecast.

Summing up the discussion Dr. Pickavance said that the forecast presented to the G.P.C. should give rational figures based on the number of university physicists which it was at present planned to cater for and a separate sum for additional university physicists because of the Robbins expansion. The lower figures up to 1967/68 would have to be reconciled with those given to Mr. Turnbull last summer but an allowance for price increases since then should be considered. The years 1968/69 and 1969/70 should be dealt with by extrapolation with additional provision for any changes such as a big computer for the Institute to cover high energy physics needs in the country.

Form of the Forecast (Rutherford Laboratory)

It was agreed that some of the detail in the Rutherford Laboratory draft should be removed, for example the artificial analysis on page 3 of the 'Plant schemes under £100,000 - not yet started'. But a one page analysis on the Cassels/Adams lines would be added at least for the first year and by the time of the Board meeting this should be done for each year.

7. G.P.C. AGENDA

The following items were named for the G.P.C. on 3rd February:

- a paper on Chilton house modifications;
- a paper on additional permanent heavy laboratory accommodation at Daresbury; and possibly
- a paper on the improvement of P.L.A. tank I.

8. BENEVOLENT FUND

Dr. Willis and Mr. Halstead were asked to proceed with drafting a constitution after confirming the position of the Trade Unions.

9. TREASURY

Professor Morrison and Dr. Pickavance will consult Mr. Turnbull at an appropriate moment about what preparations were at present going on.

10. ACTION FROM THE PHYSICS COMMITTEE

- (a) Priority list: a definite recommendation from the Physics Committee to the Board is required. Professor Morrison and Dr. Pickavance will make a draft for discussion with Sir John Cockcroft. The development plans at the two Laboratories would be incorporated in this paper.
- (b) Professor Morrison and Dr. Pickavance will also deal with the Institute's reply on the relative cost of nuclear physics research, per scientist.
- (c) Dr. Willis to make the arrangements for Sir John Cockcroft, Sir Harrie Massey and Professor Powell to consider the siting of the electrostatic generator project and to see that statements were obtained from the interested parties including Professor Flowers, Professor Cassels, Professor Wilkinson, Professor Allen and Dr. Adams.
- (d) Review of nuclear structure project. Dr. Willis to remind Dr. Adams to undertake the keeping up-to-date of this proposal with the help of Professor Allen.
- (e) Nuclear physics computer requirements. Action with Mr. Walkinshaw. The Physics Committee minutes should have said that Professor Morrison and Dr. Wynne Evans would take part.

J. A. V. Willis