

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

Organisation of the Electron Laboratory

Notes on the second informal meeting
at the Royal Fine Art Commission, 6th
November, 1961

Present:

Lord Bridges
Sir John Cockcroft
Professor Mansfield Cooper
Dr. T. G. Pickavance

Sir Harrie Massey and Sir James Mountford, who attended the first meeting, were unable to be present and sent their apologies.

1. It was agreed that the main points of principle had been settled at the first meeting and need not be further discussed, except that Sir Keith Murray had expressed his concern at the proposal to link the post of Director with a Chair at a University. Correspondence between Sir Keith and Dr. Pickavance might perhaps have allayed these fears, but in any case the whole matter would have to be referred to the Board when there would be a further opportunity for Sir Keith to state his views.

2. Dr. Pickavance presented a list of 13 names of possible candidates for the post of Director, which had been prepared by Sir Harrie Massey and himself. They included 10 university professors and 3 senior staff members of research establishments.

In discussion, it was agreed by those present that the Director should be full time, should be responsible to N.I.R.N.S., and should be appointed for five years to see the job through to the operational stage. Subject to this, he could retain the status of a professor, but could not carry a departmental load in the university. It was proposed that the basis of the appointment should be secondment to the Institute; this might be acceptable to the university in the case of a man who did not carry departmental responsibility. Secondment for as long as five years would, however, be unworkable for the head of a department.

It was agreed that Professor A. W. Merrison, of the University of Liverpool, would be an excellent choice.

3. Sir Harrie Massey was known to agree with these conclusions. Dr. Pickavance undertook to inform Sir James Mountford and to seek his views, and the Chairman would report to the Governing Board at their next meeting on 6th December, 1961.

T. G. Pickavance

Rutherford High Energy Laboratory,
13th November, 1961

Distribution

Lord Bridges	Professor Mansfield Cooper
Sir John Cockcroft	Sir Keith Murray
Sir Harrie Massey	Dr. T. G. Pickavance
Sir James Mountford	