

30 May 1969
IN CONFIDENCE

cc. Dr. Hobbis

OXFORD UNIVERSITY
NUCLEAR PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

From the Head of the Department
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29 May 1969

Dr. T. G. Pickavance, CBE,
Rutherford Laboratory,
Chilton,
Didcot,
Berkshire.

Dear Gerry,

Thank you for your letter of May 28th about the possibility of turning Nimrod into a 30 GeV machine.

I was stimulated to write to you about this, not by any knowledge of the proposals for Nimrod, but by the information I had picked up while serving on the PPA Visiting Committee a few days before. I was indeed surprised when the Council went round the Rutherford Laboratory to learn how much had in fact been done on the superconducting synchrotron idea at the Rutherford Laboratory. I think I am right in saying that the rest of the Board is also in essential ignorance of this. I have talked to one or two members of it, and they are most strongly of the opinion that a 30 GeV Nimrod, even at a somewhat lower intensity than the upgraded CERN PS, would be very much preferable to a boosted NINA.

Since the timescale on getting the technology of a superconducting Nimrod straight is commensurate with the timescale on which we might embark upon a booster for NINA (assuming entry into the 300 GeV), I feel that we should very seriously ventilate the alternative at the Board.

I fully realize that this would mean a complete redrawing of our programme, with perhaps even more painful consequences than the present one, although differently situated geographically, but I feel that we are bound to do it.

My own attitude to the comparison between a 30 GeV Nimrod and the CERN PS is that, if we had our own 30 GeV machine, it would make it much easier for us to withdraw from CERN/Meyrin in 10 years' time. I have rather little doubt as

to the answer of our own high energy community to the question "Which would you sooner have, full membership of the CERN/Meyrin, or your own 30 GeV Nimrod of perhaps one or two tenths of the intensity?"

A preliminary discussion at the Laboratories Committee will obviously be a good idea, but before embarking on this, I should like to have rather extensive private talks with you, and in any case it should not go ^{to} the Laboratories Committee before the other re-arrangements now under discussion are finalized.

D .

Copy to Dr. Stafford

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