



Our reference:
Your reference:

SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

State House, High Holborn, LONDON W.C.1R 4TA

Telex: 25962 Telegrams: SciRes London Telex

Telephone: CHAncery 1262 Ext 360

24 June 1971
(typed 29 June)

Dr T G Pickavance
Respiration Unit
Churchill Hospital
Headington
OXFORD

Dear Gerry

I am at CERN waiting for the Council meeting this afternoon where Paul Matthews and I are advisers to Brian. I am very sorry my letter took so long to get to you. This I understand was because we addressed the letter to Dr Pickavance and the Churchill Hospital not having a doctor by that name on the staff returned it! What happens if a medical doctor falls ill and goes to hospital? The mind boggles at the fate of the poor man with all his correspondence returned "not known" and telephoned enquiries met with "never heard of him"! A man falling a victim into the hands of his own profession must happen quite a lot. Do dentists pull their own teeth out, barbers cut their own hair? Of course not; but do they go incognito to other dentists and other barbers so as to get properly processed by the system or is there a limbo full of dentists with decaying teeth and barbers with long hair unable to get attention?



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Let me start this letter proper with office news. We now have a CO Mrs Doreen Mercer to replace Catherine. She has been with us a fortnight and is settling in happily. She was previously with Stan Watson for five years. Yvonne went before a Board for transfer from EO to SO. She felt that she did not do very well. They did not ask her much about management and nothing about her own Science biology but asked about space, radio and superconductors I believe. Well, we now await the outcome. I reminded her of the remark made by a Marks brother "I would not want to join the sort of club that would have me as a member". My best Marks quote is from the end of a letter to an American friend in the film business "Greetings to your charming wife whoever she may be".

Brian's father died a fortnight ago. He was 76 and it was not unexpected. As a result Brian was away for a week and missed the Council meeting at RSRS Slough. William was in the chair of course. The only item from the nuclear physics division was Board membership. Leslie Green was accepted to replace Bill Burcham and Ken Riley as an additional high energy experimentalist. Unfortunately



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Ziman said no once again to Brian's persuasive letter. Ziman sent a two page reply setting out his reasons for feeling he could not serve on the NP Board. These were the very reasons why we wanted him! We canvassed opinion at Council. It was decided that Forty was too heavily committed but that in any case Professor Chambers of Bristol was the better suited for our purpose. He has just come off the Physics Committee where he did a good job. Brian has written to him but there has not been time for a reply.

There has been a letter from the principals of institutes of technology to Brian commenting that very few of their staff serve on SRC Boards and Committees. They sent in a list of possible men. There was one man on the edge of the NP field - Stevenson from the Polytechnic of the South Bank. I have asked John Gunn and John Willmott to consider seriously having him on the nuclear structure committee. By the way on a different line Brian asked if we had thought of having on the Board a foreigner who knew one or both of our laboratories and of course CERN as somebody who could provide detached advice and guidance whilst knowing the subject quite well. I wonder if you had thought of this? There might be constitutional difficulties about having such a man as an ordinary member

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of the Board but one could get round this by a tittle like "assessor" or "honorary member" or "special member". I cannot think of anyone suitable off hand except Gregory who is no doubt too busy.

By the way the SRC Council at Slough came down very heavily against continuing to support ESRO on scientific grounds. They declared that better space science could be obtained for the money by other means. They recognised however that the Government might have non-scientific reasons for wishing to continue support.

Two items whilst I think of them. A man called Archibald rang up to thank you about assistance you had given in helping him to make a film about Rutherford and CERN. He had now received permission (from the Ministry of Trade and Industry?) to go to CERN. Archibald was very sorry to hear of your illness and particularly asked me to pass on his good wishes. Denys Wilkinson also has been enquiring after you from USA. He will be back in Oxford shortly and I expect will arrange to see you.

Have you heard that Alec Merrison has half closed about 40 bridges in the country? You will remember I expect that he was appointed Chairman of a technical body to investigate the design of box girder bridges. It turns

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out that the design is liable to buckling. One bridge that fell down last year when under construction was stated at an inquest to have been so designed that it would have failed under the traffic load anyhow. Strangely enough the report of the inquest which took place a year ago was not taken up by the press!

Jack Beattie and Peter Casey went to the CERN Finance Committee yesterday. There were two adjudications raising matters of principle. The first involved some electronic equipment where the lowest bid was from USA followed (5% difference?) by a bid from Marconi UK. We urged that the job should go to the member state under the rules, alternatively that the contract be offered to Marconi at the USA price. In the second case Lintott and Brown Boveri (BBC) were concerned (as last year). Here BBC offered the lowest price but with an escalation formula whilst Lintott offered a fixed price 1% higher. CERN had again stated that preference would be given to fixed price tenders. We lost both these arguments but CERN has promised to look at the rules to see if some amendments cannot be made to come some way towards meeting UK objections.

Discussions are still going on about the man to fill the finance post under John Adams. I do not believe they have been able to find a willing candidate in Europe as good as

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Coulbeck. The objections to him are that he is British - or rather is of the same nationality as Adams - also that he is in too high a scale or too high up that scale. The financial argument is a poor one considering that they have been unable to find good competitors at the alleged high rate! I suspect that attempts to lower the salary offered are aimed at getting Coulbeck then to withdraw. Or am I too cynical?

It is now 6 pm. The CERN Council is having a cocktail party from which I have slipped away to the library for half an hour. There have been no surprises at Council. Johnsen reported that the ISR had been completed before time and within the budget. The physicists said it was working well. Sir Brian in complimenting CERN said that this was an example that a complex project properly managed need not escalate in cost as alas had been the case so often with aircraft, reactors, power stations and bridges. Salvini spoke for ECFA in your absence and added his congratulations. John Adams outlined a scheme, already accepted by the Finance Committee, for ensuring good collaboration between the two laboratories without duplication of services. I am sorry - we must talk about two programmes not two laboratories!

Since I have been here today I have been wondering whether

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Brian's idea of having a foreigner on the NP Board would not be better met by having someone from CERN. It is most important that we should be in step with CERN now that we are committed to the 300 GeV. It is clear that increasingly the NP Board will have to deal with problems involving the use of CERN. If CERN could take part in Board discussions it would I think help greatly in defining the nature and ramification of problems.

Everybody here has been asking about you and sending their good wishes. I could not possibly enumerate them all. They range from the Director Generals down to the secretaries

Amaldi has reserved enough business to justify another session (and lunch!) tomorrow but the items are routine ones. After the bitterly cold weather in the UK it is very warm and sticky here. I am longing to get under a shower but fear that I will have to wait sometime for transport.

It is now Friday 25th June and we at CERN have just been shocked to hear that you have had a relapse. All were most concerned. I am just going on holiday after I have returned this to the office. I hope that all will be well when I get back in three weeks.

Yours ever

John Clemow
John Clemow
11 BMB.