

SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

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WHEN REPLYING

please quote:

12 July 1971

Dr T G Pickavance
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Dear Gerry

I hope this does not read too much like a minute since I shall be writing largely about what has been happening recently in the office. I know, however, that you will be interested in at least some of the developments and none of our activities as you know, are entirely devoid of human interest. May I begin by wishing you a speedy recovery and coupling with my own wish the thoughts of the others in the Division. We look forward to hearing your familiar step in the corridor in the not too distant future.

Things are fairly quiet on the CERN front. The administration has the air of a satisfied cat that is quietly digesting the 300 GeV decision. The repercussions of CERN II are already being felt, however, in CERN I and further afield. We had a visit from Lintotts recently and they were saying that their problem was going to be how to tide themselves over the gap created by the virtual cessation of new requirements for CERN I and the start up of demands for the 300 GeV project. While on the question of CERN contracts you will be pleased to know that Brentfords were given a Queen's Award for Technical Innovation this year on the strength of their power supplies for the ISR.

A hard fight on behalf of a UK firm whose bid was some 15% higher than an American competitor failed to bring the contract our way at a recent F.C. meeting but did gain a lot

of currency for the idea of introducing a rule in CERN which would make it possible in future to take the European offer if the price penalty is not too great.

CERN Annual Report for 1970 contains a picture of Mrs Thatcher having the mysteries of a scanning table explained to her by M Peyrou. There is quite a galaxy of personalities in the picture including Amaldi, Gregory, Adams, Jentschke, Sir Brian and yourself - clearly one for the album.

The Laboratories Committee continues to meet - under the chairmanship of Paul Matthews. We have had one meeting of the Committee itself and a meeting of an ad hoc working group on computers for DNPL, Glasgow and Birmingham without mishap. Arthur Clegg does not change. He told us recently that on a particular issue he had been "side stepping in all directions" (which perhaps casts some light on the gyrations of his mind).

John Clemow and Eddie Nicholls are on leave, Yvonne is on her course so the Division is looking somewhat depleted at present. The weather is at last holiday like. My own leave begins in mid-August when we make a first visit to Ireland.

Kind regards from all of us and Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Jack Beattie