

21st June, 1963

A/04
NI/63/10

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GOVERNING BOARD

Submission and Acknowledgment of the Five-Year
Expenditure Forecast

Note by the Secretary

The Chairman has received an acknowledgment from Lord Hailsham of the Institute's five-year forecast (which was circulated in its final form as paper NI/GP/63/10).

A copy of the acknowledgment, together with a copy of the Chairman's letter forwarding the forecast, is appended for the information of Members.

COPY

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE

2 Richmond Terrace,

LONDON, S.W.1.

11th June, 1963.

My dear Bridges,

Your letter of 22nd May about the NIRNS programme raised very considerable issues in itself and is of course closely connected with others. You will be aware of the proposals for a major new accelerator at CERN and of the desire of nuclear physicists here that we should participate in it.

Discussion about this in the A.C.S.P. has revealed a considerable and growing feeling that if money on the scale that would be needed to finance nuclear physics on this scale is in fact available, other needs such as the improvement of university facilities and possibly also technological development should take precedence.

It is plain that I shall have to consult my colleagues on all this, but before doing so I must ascertain what prospects, if any, there are of the United States collaborating with Europe in large accelerators.

It may, therefore, be some time before I can give you an answer on the NIRNS position.

Yours,

H.

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Bridges, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., M.C.

COPY

GOODMANS FURZE

HEADLEY

EPSOM

22nd May, 1963.

The N.I.R.N.S. forecast of expenditure for the coming five years is now being sent through the Atomic Energy Authority to your Office. I should like you to see the forecast at once, because it does not conform to the pattern of increase at 2% per annum which the Treasury laid down last summer, and about which you wrote to me on 13th July, 1962.

The Institute have tried to fit their plans into the 2% pattern, but have come to the conclusion that it is right for them to ask for substantially more. The reasons are set out at some length in the forecast, which I enclose. For one thing, we think now that we can build the Electron Laboratory in four years instead of five, and after all the early delays we feel sure that we should be wrong to slow it down deliberately. In essence there are two reasons for the increase. First that we are proving to be very successful in providing facilities for first-class research by the universities. Secondly that the cost of work in this field has increased faster than had been expected. The Institute's accelerators, and their support of research in nuclear reactors need more money, and it can now be clearly seen that increased support will be repaid in just the sort of vigorous university use of the facilities which we hoped for when the Institute was set up.

All the same, I realise that the increases in the forecast are substantial. Even on the present programme, they amount to £2.8m over the four years 1964-65 to 1967-68 as compared with the Treasury proposals, and over the same four years we have forecast an additional expenditure of £4.9m on schemes not yet in any way committed.

I realise that all this raises considerable difficulties and I should be happy to discuss this with you at any time if you think this would help. You will know that we are not asking for more money for the fun of the thing. But we are convinced that the work we are doing is bound to grow, and must grow.

Discussion about this in the A.C.S.P. has revealed a considerable and growing feeling that if money on the scale that would be needed to finance nuclear physics on this scale is in fact available, other needs such as the improvement of university facilities and possibly also technological development should take precedence.

It is plain that I shall have to consult my colleagues on all this, but before doing so I must ascertain how far it is possible to improve the United States collaborating with Europe in large accelerators. It may, therefore, be some time before I can give you an answer to the question.

The Right Honourable Viscount Hailsham, Q.C.,
Minister for Science,
2 Richmond Terrace,
London, S.W.1.

Yours,

H.

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Bridges, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., M.C.