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Address reply to: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22 Secretariat
J.L. Côté, 140 O'Connor St., 10th Floor
Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1A 0R5
Telephone: (613)957-2496 Telex: 053-3336
Fax: (613) 996-2690

Dr J. L. Schonfelder
University of Liverpool
Computer Laboratory
Clarendon Tower
Liverpool L69 3BX
Tel: 051 794 3716

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24th September, 1990

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22 Secretariat
J. L. Côté
140 O'Connor Street, 10th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0R5

Dear Mr Côté,

The UK supports the "Proposal for a Language Compatible Arithmetic Standard" as included in ISO/IEC JTC/SC22 N796. However, it believes that the standard would be improved if the operations shown as "optional" on pages 10 and 13 were made mandatory. If a standard contains an option the user wishing to make use of the standard to maximise portability must assume the worst case; that the option is not supported. Therefore, unless there is overwhelming technical justification for the presence of the optionality it should not occur in the standard.

Yours sincerely,

Dr J. L. Schonfelder
Chairman BSU/IST5 Committee

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