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Subj: Response to liason statement SC 24/N 1577
from SC 24/WG 6.
Ref: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 24/N 1577
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WG21 acknowledges the liason statement from SC 24/WG 6 (SC 24/N 1577== SC 22/WG 21/N 0960) and thanks the authors for their contribution. The statement was distributed and discussed at WG21's Stockholm meeting on 7-Jul-96. Mr. Karl Soop also attended the meeting on behalf of SC 24/WG 6, and explained the background of the liason statement.

The provision of support for concurrency in C++ has been discussed within WG21. Various implementations of C++ have provided concurrency in several forms. A recently published book from MIT Press(*) lists 18 different implementations of concurrency in C++, some involving language extensions and others using library facilities. The implementations have different capabilities and purposes. Although it would clearly be a benefit to the programming community, an attempt to agree on one concurrency facility for all C++ programmers would be difficult at this time.

The C++ standard is now at the CD stage, and no national body has requested the addition of concurrency support in their CD ballot comments. Therefore, WG21 feels it would be inappropriate to take on the task of adding such support as part of its current standard, even as an informative annex. Of course, such a facility could be proposed later as an adendum or a technical report. If the facility were implemented as an optional library, it could also be advanced by another working group, e.g., SC 24/WG 6.

Mr. Dag Bruck (dag@dynamis.se), a representative of Sweden to WG21, has volunteered to be the point of contact should WG6 wish to continue to discuss the technical details of their proposal.

(*) Mr. Bruck will be able to supply the exact reference to this book.