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ISO/JTC1/SC22/WG14/N177
22 June 1991

J.L. Côté
140 O'Connor St., 10th Floor
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CANADA

Dear Joe:

Here is my Convenor's Report on the status of WG14 (C) for the Fourth Plenary Meeting of SC22 to be held next September. Tom Plum will be representing WG14 at that meeting.

The WG14 meeting schedule, recent past and future, is:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 26-27 Nov 90 | Copenhagen |
| 13-15 May 91 | Tokyo |
| 13-15 Dec 91 | Milan |
| 13-15 May 92 | Salt Lake City |

Both future meetings will be held in conjunction with X3J11.

The ISO C Standard has been approved (ISO/IEC 9899:1990). We have just begun to receive requests for interpretation addressed to WG14. So far, we have depended on X3J11 to provide interpretations. WG14 requests guidance from SC22 on how to process interpretations and how best to coordinate our activities with X3J11, should they remain active in this arena.

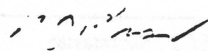
At the Berlin Plenary, WG14 was given a new work item -- to produce a Normative Addendum. The UK requested that we add clarifying wording to the C Standard developed by X3J11. Denmark requested that we address various "character set issues." The latter has evolved into two components. One is a modification proposed by Denmark to require alternate spellings for certain operators, so that C programs represented in the ISO 646 character set can be made more readable. The other is an extension proposed by Japan to flesh out the basic machinery added to the current C standard to support writing programs that manipulate large character sets.

We spent much of the Tokyo meeting addressing technical issues in all three portions of the Normative Addendum. We expect to use the Milan meeting to get additional technical input from X3J11. Our goal is to come out of the Salt Lake City meeting with a Committee Draft suitable for balloting within SC22. If that ballot raises no serious objections, we believe that we can get approval of the Normative Addendum by early 1993.

WG14 also requests guidance on the handling of the three components of the Normative Addendum. Can we choose to split the Normative Addendum into two or more components? We may find it expedient to put the components on separate time lines and request separate balloting. If we are obliged to produce a single document, we would like to know that by the Milan meeting.

Any informed guidance we can get will be appreciated.

Sincerely,


P.J. Plauger