DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

WEST GORTON

Date 27th April, 1962.

From Dr. P.M. Brenan.

Manchester University.

To Mr. B.C. Chapman,
Building 8.9,
A.E.R.E., Harwell,
Didcot,
Berkshire.

I have been revising the input/output extracodes in an attempt
to include the improvements you suggested when I came to Harwell at the
beginning of the month.

It is perfectly possible to limit the number of characters
that will be read when reading a record, but it is very inconvenient
allowing the programmer to specify the maximum number in the "Select
input" extracode. The only practicable place to specify the limit is in
the Read instruction itself. In the new version I am therefore proposing
two extracodes:

1056 if you wish to set a limit
1057 if you require to go to the end, regardless.

In the old proposals, the binary/internal code information
was given with every record, whether requested or not. This makes it
difficult to find anywhere suitable for indicating whether the whole,
or only part of the record is being read or written. In this new version
there is a new extracode "Test binary/internal code" and the m.s. bit of the
character count is now used for specifying whole or part records.

Your comments on this version would be very welcome.

Date ....

From ....   To ....

Enclosed is a revised description ....

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