



15 March 1988

Ms. Catherine Kachurik
X3 Secretariat
CBEMA
311 First Street N.W.
Washington DC 20001-2178

Dear Ms. Kachurik:

I am writing in my capacity as International Representative for X3J11 (Programming language C) to clarify the U.S. position on ISO Ballot ISO/TC97/SC22 N413. As you are no doubt aware, I mistakenly submitted a "Yes, with comments" vote to SC22, on behalf of the U.S. delegation to ISO WG14.

It is common knowledge among the membership of WG14 that X3J11 is still making final changes to the draft ANSI standard for C. Some of these changes, in fact, have been made to satisfy the needs of various members of the international community, to which X3J11 has been most responsive. It is the earnest desire of both committees that the ISO Standard for C be identical to the final draft adopted by ANSI. The problem is not one of differences of opinion between ANSI and ISO (so far), but of synchronization. WG14 has been moving to complete as many of the formal requirements for making an ISO standard as possible while working through X3J11 to develop a mutually satisfactory draft.

With all of that in mind, I must recommend that the U.S. vote "No" on approving N413 as the ISO Standard for C. X3J11 has already made a number of substantive changes to its draft standard since the version that was submitted to ISO as N413. The only appropriate action that I can see at this time is for the U.S. to wait until X3J11 has completed the public review process and submitted a final draft for approval as an ANSI standard. No other document will meet the needs of either ANSI or ISO in this matter.

I apologize for any confusion that I may have caused in my ignorance. I can only plead good intentions and a lack of attention to schooling in the formalities of developing international standards. If you need anything else from me, either as IR for X3J11 or as Convenor of WG14, please let me know.

Sincerely,

P.J. Plauser