

31 Mar 88

MAILING OF N037 THROUGH N045
ISO/TC97/SC22/WG14

To all members of WG14:

Accompanying this letter (N045) are:

- o An up to date document registry for WG14.
- o News Release from X3 announcing second public review of X3J11 Draft Standard for C (N037).
- o Information from Cornelia Boldyreff on the 13-14 Jun 88 meeting of WG14 in London (N038).
- o Agenda and minutes of the 9 Feb 88 Meeting of the UK C Panel (N039).
- o The UK Comment accompanying their vote of disapproval of N413 (N040).
- o A paper by Boldyreff on macro expansion (N041).
- o A letter from Boldyreff on unprocessed comments from Alan Mycroft (N042).
- o A history of the U.S. vote on N413 (N043).
- o An agenda for the 13-14 Jun 88 meeting of WG14 (N044).

I sent copies of the second public review draft from X3J11, as promised, to all who were not on the X3J11 mailing list. (To avoid the confusion over multiple versions that cropped up last year, I elected not to assign a WG14 number to this document.) By the time you receive this mailing, I expect the second public review period will be ending. Nevertheless, I will be happy to convey any international commentary to the 18-22 Apr 88 meeting of X3J11 in Nashua NH. That meeting is devoted exclusively to reviewing commentary from the second public review period.

Half a dozen member nations saw fit to vote disapproval of N413, including the U.S. (after a false start). It seems that my understanding was flawed, that voting "yes, but" was not the thing to do if WG14 wanted the final X3J11 version to become the ISO standard. To the best of my knowledge, all of the votes to disapprove were to ensure proper synchronization between ANSI and ISO. I know of no fundamental differences within WG14 over the technical content at this point. If you know of any, please let me know as quickly as possible.

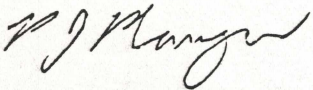
I just returned from Tokyo, where I was able to meet briefly both with representatives of the Japan C Language Committee and with Mr. Inose and Mr. Noda of ITSCJ (who represent Japan to WG14). All parties expressed satisfaction with the current level of Kanji support in the draft standard. They are also grateful for the consideration they have received from WG14 and X3J11 in adding Kanji support to C. I think we have that part right enough.

There is a medium sized flap brewing over the addition of "noalias," however. Dennis Ritchie himself plans to attend the Apr 88 meeting of X3J11 to speak against this last minute addition. I cannot say with certainty, of course, that X3J11 will make substantive changes to the draft as a result of this controversy. Nor can I predict yet how much of a delay this will introduce into the process of freezing an ANSI standard for C. But I do expect that fixing "noalias" will require some level of change to the current draft.

It is still my hope and expectation that, at the Jun 88 meeting, we will be able to embrace the latest X3J11 draft as an acceptable ISO standard for C, at least from a technical standpoint. Whether we will have to wait for yet another draft from X3J11, before we have something to submit as a draft international standard, depends upon the outcome of the next meeting of X3J11.

I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,



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Enclosures:

Document Registry for WG14
N037 - N044