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À l'ATTENTION DE M. BILL PLAUGER
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 22/WG 14 Convenor

Texte (en capitale

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED AN AFNOR CONTRIBUTION TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT WG 14 MEETING OF LONDON.

FEEL FREE TO PASS IT TO X3J11 IF YOU THINK IT COULD BE USEFUL.

I AM STAYING AT YOUR DISPOSAL FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

YOURS SINCERELY

Bourstin

Expéditeur (Nom en clair) CLAUDE BOURSTIN AFNOR

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Ligne directe

FRENCH CONTRIBUTION RELATING TO DP 9899 - PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE "C" TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 22/WG 14 "C" MEETING - LONDON JUNE 13th, 14th 1988

AFNOR IS CONCERNED BY THE GREAT NUMBER OF EXTENSIONS CURRENTLY APPENDED TO THE INITIAL PROJECT.

WE THINK THAT X3J11 DRAFT OF JANUARY 88 IS A GOOD BASIS FOR THE FUTURE "C" STANDARD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS DRAFT COULD BE MODIFIED IN ORDER TO CORRECT SOME EXISTING ERRORS OR TO CLARIFY SOME POINTS.

FURTHERMORE THIS WAY OF APPENDING EXTENSIONS SEEMS TO BE IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE APPROACH CONSISTING OF CODIFY EXISTING PRACTICES. THIS APPROACH IS VERY WELL DESCRIBED IN THE RATIONAL X3J11/88-004 AS FOLLOWING :

"

1.1 Purpose

The Committee's overall goal was to develop a clear, consistent, and unambiguous Standard for the C programming language which codifies the common, existing definition of C and which promotes the portability of user programs across C language environments.

The X3J11 charter clearly mandates the Committee to *codify common existing practice*. The Committee has held fast to precedent wherever this was clear and unambiguous. "

EVEN WHEN TAKING FOR BASIS THE ANSI "C" DRAFT OF JANUARY 88, WE THINK THAT SOME OF THE EXTENSIONS (IN PARTICULARY "NOALIAS") DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE ALREADY MENTIONNED "CURRENT PRACTICES" WE ALSO THINK THAT THE CONSTANT APPENDING OF NEW EXTENSIONS IS A MAJOR REASON OF THE SLOWNESS OF "C" STANDARDIZATION PROCESS. TO SUMMARIZE OUR VIEW, WHILE ACCEPTING DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR ANSI "C" OF JANUARY 88 AS A GOOD BASIS FOR THE NEXT ISO DP "C" WE WILL CAST A NO VOTE IF ANY OTHER NEW EXTENSION IS PROPOSED (THESE EXTENSIONS COULD BE INCORPORATED IN ANOTHER STANDARD).