

POUGHKEEPSIE
Department 539
South Road Laboratory
November 12, 1958

MEMO TO: Mr. E. Bloch

SUBJECT: Changes in Instruction Set

Reference: Meeting of November 7 between E. Bloch,
W. Buchholz, and E. I. Jordan.

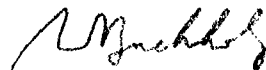
We are all agreed that the instruction set must be considered frozen from a planning point of view. In fact, we have been operating on that assumption for some time. Freezing is just as important for the programming effort now under way as it is for the design and construction schedule.

We do expect, however, that the detail design of controls by your group will reveal unexpected difficulties which require some adjustment of the instruction set. Some of these we should have anticipated. The recently agreed on Convert package to replace built-in decimal multiply-divide is an example. The changes may even be a considerable improvement, as was true here, but we will not make such changes for the sake of improving the instruction set at this time.

Since we cannot assume the instruction set to be perfect, we must also be aware of what will probably be a continuing stream of suggestions. A few of these will no doubt be excellent. We will continue to review such suggestions and make a check list of the significant ones. Such improvements can clearly not be guaranteed to find their way into the machine; we will consider them when and only if they can be incorporated, in your judgment, without delaying the schedule and without requiring changes in the existing instructions.

Two proposals for this check list are:

Store Indicator Bits
Connect for Test Continued.



W. Buchholz
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Project 7000 Planning



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cc: Mr. S. W. Dunwell
Mr. E. I. Jordan
Mr. R. E. Merwin

7000 Product Planning
7000 Planning

