

# MEETING OR CONTACT REPORT

Date of Report: June 30, 1958

Organization & Location: IBM - Washington Federal Office Washington, D. C.	Date: June 17, 1958
	Reported By: H. G. Kolsky
Project: STRETCH Marketing	Department: 749
	Follow-up Date:

## PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING:

(Place asterisk next to those on distribution list. Other distribution show at end of report)

P. B. Neiman - Treasury Program  
A. R. Mowlem - Vanguard  
A. Gayle - Defense  
H. D. Leeds - Special Defense  
G. E. Neu - Treasury Program  
J. D. Valentine - Washington Commercial  
M. Young - Navy Program  
T. A. Gorman - Air Force Program  
J. H. Turnock - Mgr. of Program Services\*  
T. Hoffman - Washington Commercial  
M. Henriksen - Education Department  
S. Steele - Education Department  
D. W. VanGieson - Air Force Program  
W. J. Rowland - Air Force Program  
S. Gass - Army Program  
J. F. Mann - Navy Program  
H. Bennett - Navy Program  
A. Johnson - Special Defense Program  
M. E. Adams - Vanguard  
J. Campbell - Vanguard  
J. Cahill - Vanguard  
G. Gressett - Vanguard  
J. B. Greene - Product Planning  
I. S. Homans - DPHQ, White Plains\*  
H. G. Kolsky - Product Planning, Poughkeepsie\* ←

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This meeting is part of the STRETCH Marketing Survey presently being undertaken under the direction of Mr. Smith Homans. It is a follow up of a lecture given two weeks earlier by D. W. Sweeney to the National Bureau of Standards and the Weather Bureau.

The meeting opened with Mr. Homans explaining the present Marketing organization in White Plains, and the goals of the present survey. He stressed that it was an informal survey concerning the computer being built for the AEC under contract and it should not be construed as being a commercial product at the present time.

I then lectured on the general organization of the SIGMA computer comparing it against the 704 and 709 in the following main areas of difference:

1. Faster circuit components
2. Asynchronous organization
3. Exchange control word technique of I/O
4. Indicator Branching
5. Interrupt System
6. Variable Field Length (generalized fixed point)
7. Generalized Floating Point
8. Generalized indexing
9. Automatic checking and error correcting

Discussion was fairly lively and there were a number of good suggestions and questions. Checking and error correction was stressed as an important sales point. Real time operation was mentioned as definitely necessary. There were several questions concerning the behavior of the machine under momentary power failures. This is apparently a sore point for some applications.

After the meeting I visited the VANGUARD Computing Center and had their Data Processing problems described to me. The ability to process teletype tape directly in the computer would help considerably.

HGK/jcv

cc: Mr. D. W. Pendery  
Mr. D. W. Sweeney

*Howard S. Kolsky*  
H. G. Kolsky  
Product Planning Representative  
Project 7000