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6673  
Memorandum M-2016

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Air Traffic Control Project  
Servomechanisms Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: BI-WEEKLY REPORT, SEPTEMBER 16, 1949

1.0 GENERAL

(W. G. Welchman)

The Harvard Symposium on Computers led to a number of contacts that may prove useful later on. During the Symposium Mr. Gabelman paid us a visit and we had a long discussion covering most of the ideas that are set out in our second Summary Report. We found that Mr. Gabelman is in general agreement with the trend of our thinking. He suggested a few sources of information but said that in his view we should soon come to an end of the useful information that can be derived from work already done.

We also had several visits from Mr. Nicholson but it seems that his line of work is not very closely connected with ours at the present stage. He is concerned with setting up a simulation of a traffic control system but we shall want to spend a lot more time thinking about the nature of the ultimate traffic control system before we want to consider simulation, and the system that we choose to simulate may well prove to be somewhat different from that on which Mr. Nicholson is working.

(C. R. Wieser)

The DATAC project was visited. A brief description is included in Memorandum M-2017.

Mr. F. A. Foss has joined Project 6673.

(A. Orden)

The code for an airport approach traffic control model was checked over and a few changes made. A detailed flow diagram was completed.

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(A. Orden) - continued

The code was examined in the light of the basic considerations on air traffic control systems given in the quarterly progress report. It appeared that the code fits in well with the latter report and can serve as an initial example of computer programming for one of the possible types of system indicated in the report.

(A. J. Perlis)

The complete report on the summer's work on a program for tracking aircraft in a triangular radar net is being drafted and should be completed by the early part of next week.

(D. R. Israel)

The week of September 5 to September 12 was spent on vacation.

At present work is continuing on the previously described private-line code and in the completion of the ship-control problem which is now being typed in preparation for distribution. This code will be presented in two sections to facilitate inspection of the code and the B and C storage.

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