DRAFT

DBMS SUMMARY

Data bases, database management systems and applications in this field have been specifically treated in

- MIS – 62 : Review of LEP D.B. Applications
- MIS – 24 : Audit of the LEP database service
- MIS – 22 : Oracle Usage Audit
- MIS – 53 : Relational data base services supported by DD
- MIS – 31 : Audit of the Administrative Data Processing

In addition there is a wide range of data base applications, often treating the same type of problems (e.g. inventories) running on a large variety of computers, implemented under many different software systems. Most of these computer systems are primarily used for other applications. The documents mentioned are the principal references:

- MIS – 28 : TIS Norsk Data System
- MIS – 25 : PC Office Automation Services in EP Administration
- MIS – 21 : Wang Audit
- MIS – 36 : VAX and applications
- MIS – 37 : Applications on other computers
- MIS – 50 : Stores Applications
- MIS – 49 : COPICS
- MIS – 57 : General Applications
- MIS – 58 : Accounting Applications
- MIS – 14 : Use of ADP facilities in PE Division

In discussions with the Task Force, DAO’s, DPO’s, and in reviewing the previously mentioned documents several issues have been raised requiring further examination. These are:

1. The need to create unique centrally maintained data bases of information considered to be a common requirement by virtually all Divisions. This generates the related issues of who should be responsible for various aspects of these data bases, e.g. maintenance of the system, data security, provision of tools, data entry, data validation/authorisation, report generation.
A definition of the sets of data by topic required must be made. Examples are of the type:

- Accounting Information (status of payments, contracts, commitments)
- Purchasing Information (including on-line status information of any order/contract)
- Budget Planning/Management/Information

This must in some way closely integrate with accounting information. It has to include all known financial planning information to the group/project level. Recent historical data is also required.

- Telephone list
- Personnel list
- List of all persons having access to site
- Stores catalogues

The divisions require simple interrogation facilities which permit the abstraction from these data bases of the relevant data for their current needs.

2. The requirement to recommend data base services and provide tools for divisional applications such as

- Inventory management
- List processing

There is a desire that this should include applications programming support from a central unit.

3. The need for a policy on what information is confidential or of restricted access. This requires a corresponding definition of which sets of staff members should have access to which data. There is a related issue of ensuring easy access to data for these people who have the right and need to use it.

4. The need to define a code of working practices for people who wish to restrict access to sensitive material. This should include recommendations on where and how to
• Create the data
• Store the data
• Transmit the data to interested parties

5. The issue of coherence and integration of all data base services is of critical importance in facilitating access, data entry, easy and efficient use of the information stored, e.g. data from several data bases should be easily accessed by the user and subsequently easily merged, processed, and/or included in reports.