

Executive Registry
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20 NOV 1965

The Honorable John T. Connor
Secretary of Commerce
Department of Commerce
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Mr. Connor:

This letter concerns the proposed American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII).

CIA agrees with the recommendation that Federal agencies adopt a standard code for communications and ADP. The basic idea is a good one and should lead to real gains in information exchange.

Although our future plans call for acquisition of ADP equipment compatible with ASCII standards, we recognize that it will be some time before a complete changeover can occur. Therefore, during the transition equipment manufacturers should be permitted to produce hardware for processing data in existing codes. Specialized equipment may be needed later on to assist in the conversion from non-standard codes to standard. CIA expects to be in a position to undertake ADP conversion to ASCII sometime in FY-67.

Insofar as our message communications system is concerned, we will have to continue for quite a few years utilizing the five-level Baudot code as our standard for exchanging teletype message traffic. The cost of large-scale conversion would be too great to accomplish until such time as our existing teletype and associated cryptographic equipment is normally replaced. This same problem, of course, exists with other government agencies with

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On file DOC release instructions apply.

The Honorable John T. Connor
ASCII
Page 2

which we communicate and with which our communications system is inter-connected. We suggest that the timing of the message communications system conversion from the present five-level code to the ASCII eight-level code be established by the National Communications System structure.

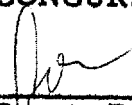
The CIA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the American Standard Code for Information Interchange and wishes to be kept advised of your final recommendation to the Bureau of the Budget. If further information is needed, inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joseph Becker, Director of Computer Services, telephone government [redacted]

Sincerely,

(signed) W. F. Raborn

W. F. Raborn
Director

CONCUR:



Signed: John F. Blake

18 NOV 1965

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

Date

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D/OCS/DD/S&T:JBecker:pf [redacted] (17 Nov. 65)