

Geneva, 2nd November, 1954.

To : The Director General
From: S.A. ff. Dakin

Subject: Conflict between Title and initials of the
Organization.

This matter was raised at the Executive Group after the last Council meeting. For my part I am not worried about the inconsistency; I see no reason why the European Organization for Nuclear Research should not be nicknamed CERN, but I know that Kowarski feels strongly that it is so silly as to be intolerable. You may feel that the least we can do is to draw Member States attention to the problem before we get too deeply involved. So far as I can see the contradiction cannot result in any legal complication, which could not be quite simply avoided either by using the full title at every reference or by having a straightforward statement at the beginning of any legal document, as for instance "European Organization for Nuclear Research, hereinafter called C.E.R.N."



Geneva, 2nd November, 1954

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
to Heads of Delegations

Subject: Title of CERN.

Dear

It has been pointed out that the European Council for Nuclear Research, having now become the European Organization for Nuclear Research, should no longer properly be using the initials C.E.R.N.

Strictly speaking therefore we should amend the initials but O.E.R.N. is difficult to pronounce in most languages, and in any case CERN, pronounced as it is spelled has, I think, a wide-spread, honourable and current acceptance in European scientific, business and governmental circles. In my own view therefore it would be a great mistake to alter the initials and we are left with the alternative of leaving initials and title at variance or amending the title. To do the latter would mean an amendment of the Convention under Article xi and such an amendment requires 3 months notice before the Council can recommend its acceptance to Member States. It is at present proposed to hold the next meeting of the Council in early February. If therefore any Member State wishes to propose an amendment to the title of the Organization (for instance to European Centre for Nuclear Research or even going back to Council) so as to bring it to line with the initials, it would be necessary to do so within the next few days or to wait until probably late next year.

I do not wish to make any recommendation; I am writing to you simply to point out the position. It seems to me that it is for Member States to consider whether they find

the present inconsistency between initials and title so serious a matter that they are prepared to go through the rather elaborate procedure of recommendation by Council and acceptance in writing by all Member States.

V. F. B.