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                           EARN Document
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Author(s): F Greisen
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1 A number of developments have taken place and the Executive is
isinvited to determine what further actions are required with respect
to:

* What is the status of the request to the US DOC and relations with
CERN and what action is needed?

* Is there a need to contact EUNET and UNIDO to determine the status
of traffic to Moscow?

2 Status of request to US DOC.

Frode Greisen has called the US Dep. of Commerce regularly over summer
and fall and spoken to them about five times. I got various
explanations that they were very busy, that thanksgiving is upcoming
and that next week...

Essentially the status I have is as Dennis indicates: The Department
is
working on a reply to letters from Bitnet and EARN, but the replies
will still be subject to 'political approval'. If that is positive,
the answers could be sent next week. The supercomputers are an issue
within EARN but not within Bitnet, and there may be requests in the
EARN letter for some special safeguards at supercomputer sites.

So with some luck, we might be able to treat the matter at the Dec.
Exec meeting where the East European countries are already on the
agenda.

3 Traffic from Moscow (M Hebgen)

As you can see from the attached mail first contacts to eastern block
countries have been established. As far as I understood the mail it is

a mailbox system running in Moscow and having mail connections to the
UUCP network and via gateways also to EARN/BITNET.

As you know we do not have rules for gateways and in my understanding
people allowed in the other network may also use the gateway to
EARN/BITNET. This way I can communicate via mail with commercial
people
in UUCP or .COM part of DARPA, and now with people in Russia.
I think this is the way networking will go in the future, the
limitation
to academia is yet obsolete.

--------------------------Original message------------------------
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Dear Sir,

My name is Kirill "Kirja" V. Tsachin, I am SysOp of the First
Soviet Mailbox system operated by INTERLINK Soviet - W-Germany
Joint Venture. We are based in Moscow, USSR. Our main idea is
to include USSR in global system of computer communications.

Our companion, Gutacker Telecommunications Gmbh, provided a
mailbox software for this network node. Our service will be
offered to Soviet customers at the beginning of January '1990
because we haven't yet fixed all communications and logistics
problems. At the very moment, after a few short announcements
amount of would-be customers reach few thousands.

At the nearest future we will provide our users with the full
range of computer communications services including E-mail on-
line databases, hard copy mail, translation etc.

One of our main concers is to build a Russian-speaking
communications system. We wouldn't like to make a great
mistake at the beginning of our work which will be difficult
to solve in the future. There is a whole bunch of problems
concerning different characters coding systems used here. We
do believe that no one of them can satisfy anybody in the
country.

I have found your adress at the header of the article "Issues
in Developing International Standards for Encoding non-Latin
Alphabets" by David J. Birnbaum, Russian Research Center,
Harvard University (djb@wjh12.harvard.edu [Internet] /
djb@harvunxw.bitnet [Bitnet]).

Probably that means this subject is also interesting for you.

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If so, we will greatly appreciate if you send us information on this subject, as well as others concerning bilingual communications (letters, articles, official documents etc - we have almost nothing). We are ready to share ideas we have in this field.

Please reply to:
Kirill Tsachin, SysOp
unido!gtc!gtc8!kirill

                    INTERLINK USSR
              Joint Soviet-German Venture
       USSR, 123423, Moscow, Narodnogo Opoltceniya St., 34

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                              mailbox   GTC8:KIRILL
                           (sorry, no NUA atthis moment)