Welcome and opening*)

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Normally, if I were making some opening remarks before an audience of 200-300 in this auditorium, they would be particle physicists, accelerator builders, computer experts, or similar people. I must confess I have never made my opening speech before so many distinguished representatives of governments and industry. I have the pleasure of welcoming you to a meeting of a quite different kind from our normal scientific conferences.

Of course, we do have a steady flow of visitors, either for our organized Saturday tours for the general public, or occasional visits by VIP's, by people from industry and by ministers responsible in their government for CERN, and so on. We are very glad to take them round and show them what we are doing. We have, however, never had a visit on such a scale, over several days, from people such as yourselves with positions of responsibility in industry and government.

What, then, did we have in mind in organizing the meeting, and inviting you to it? Advanced technology and technological development are, for CERN, a means and not an end. Our mission is to advance knowledge, and, in doing this, to help train people in scientific practice. We do hope to find new laws of nature. Elementary particle physics is one of the basic sciences where many fundamental laws are still unknown today. A great deal of effort and a great number of people are involved in this research. The outside world, however, can see and appreciate the work involved in building an accelerator more easily than the physics results it produces. Whether we like it or not, the question of the impact of pure research beyond its first aim of extending knowledge is raised regularly and with growing insistence by people in authority in our Member States, as well as by journalists and by the public, who provide the resources for this sort of work.

Such questions are being studied in the context of European science planning by bodies such as the Council of Europe and the Brussels Communities. CERN, which does not have institutional links with other organizations, has for years been the centre of a continuing process of discussion and co-ordination of elementary particle physics activities throughout Europe. The results of this process are vital inputs to those, like Dr. Adams and myself, especially responsible for thinking about the long-term future of CERN. However, as I said earlier, it is not only the scientific needs and possibilities which weigh in the minds of governments along with the cost, but also the possibilities of subsidiary results in technical fields.

Here we feel that neither we nor people in government and industry are particularly well informed on just what are the technological consequences of a large pure research activity such as high-energy physics, and we thought it would be a good idea to try to find out. This meeting therefore attempts to display the technological results of our work, in the hope that our discussions with you during the meeting, and perhaps afterwards, will lead to a better understanding of what can and cannot be expected as subsidiary outputs from building large accelerators, detectors, and so on.

*) Adapted from tape recording.
In watching the preparations for the meeting, I have been impressed by the efforts and enthusiasm of the many people involved. I am particularly glad that the "young" people have taken part in these preparations, since their work normally goes unrecognized. I hope you will take every opportunity to look, to ask questions, to give us your comments, and to criticize if you feel it is necessary. I shall certainly try to meet as many of you as I can in the coming days. Meanwhile I will just say "thank you very much for coming" and I hope you will spend a useful few days here at CERN with us.