To: Operations

From: T. H. Van Vleck, M. A. Padlipsky

Date: 11/07/73

Subject: MIT IPC-specific ARPA Network Information

In addition to the general information about the ARPA Network and its attachment to Multics given in MOSN-6.4.4, certain additional information is presented here which is of specific interest to the MIT IPC's implementation.

Peripheral Switches

There are two peripheral switches in the path from the Network IMP (Interface Message Processor) to the software, one for the read channel and one for the write channel of the ABSI (Asynchronous Bit-Serial Interface, which connects the IMP to a 6180 IOM). For service to function, both switches must of course be in the proper position.

It should be noted that cycling the peripheral switches causes the ABSI to re-initialize the appropriate channel and signal the IMP. Therefore, in obscure situations (when the software or the hardware state does not seem to be covered by the description in MOSN-6.4.4) it is worthwhile to cycle both switches and attempt to bring up the Network Daemon again before contacting the Network system programmers.

The peripheral switches are the first thing the operator should check should "peripheral absent" status be reported.

Network Call List

The people to contact in the event of Network problems are:

Doug Wells
Ken Pogran
Raj Kanodia
Mike Padlipsky

(Numbers are posted on the overall call list.)

Network Control Center

It is not easy to specify the circumstances in which the Network Control Center (661-0100) should be called. Certainly, if the peripheral switches are correct and there are no known problems with the ABSI and IOM, it makes sense to call the NCC on receipt of statuses such as repeated "IMP is down" messages which suggest that the problem has to do with the IMP itself. Beyond that, if

we evolve any general rules, we will publish them in a revision to this memorandum.

Once you decide -- for whatever reason -- to call the NCC, there are a few things you should know. First, the IPC Multics is currently "Host 0 on IMP 6"; however, sometime around December 20, 1973, it will be "Host 0 on IMP 44". This is useful to know, in case the NCC wants a more specific question than "do you show anything peculiar with the Multics IMP?" which is what you should try as the opening question. As a real desperation measure, if nothing else works and no Network system programmer is available, it is possible to ask for a "restart" of the IMP. This should not be done on an operator's own initiative until we are on the Building 39 IMP, because there are other Hosts attached to the Tech Square IMP which will be disrupted by an IMP restart if the IMP is actually working normally.

In general, calling the NCC should be treated as something to do if all else fails, except in those cases where it is "obvious" that it is the thing to do.

"CNet" Project

A project called "CNet" is funded by Project MAC to provide all Network users a chance to sample Multics usage. The funds for this project are limited; unless specifically authorized by a Network system programmer or a System Assurance group member, no requests for tape mounts and the like should be honored for CNet users. Refer any inquiries to the Multics Network Technical Liason (currently Mike Padlipsky).