



## Inter-Office Communication

To: Whom It May Concern  
(c/o Derek Philpott, Beaverton)

Date: 15 Feb 72

From: John Schmid

# HARPENDEN

Subject: FEN and microfiche dates

Dear Sirs or Gents,

I'm quite a mid-Atlantic guy or bloke, the final "me" in programme - well, it doesn't make me choke. I know who WASPS are and what SALT talks are about, and hot dogs, fish and chips, and scones, and sauerkraut. I know that not all plates, when dropped to ground, will break, 'cause some are anodes dropped to earth, for heaven's sake!

When cars drive on the right or on the left, I join their lane: to crash - in view of NHS or Medicare - would be insane. In size and volume US pints and gallons cannot hope to measure up against Imperial standards - yet I cope with all these tricky problems of conversion and confusion, and look upon a world-wide common language as delusion.

But there's one thing about which I must plead: On FENs and microfiche the dates do so mislead. I never can get used to 12 stroke 6 stroke 69 as meaning 6 December in that year of time; for here in London, as in Guernsey and Rangoon, the very same refers of course to "12th of June".

Now I'm not asking you to change these numbers round, since doing so would surely utterly confound your Stateside readers; but then why not look discreetly at how the US Army solves this matter neatly by always using 6 Dec 69 as style on letter, voucher, imprest, airwaybill and file.

You may have pondered this before, but think now coolly, and tell the outcome to

Yours faithfully or truly,

*John Schmid*