February 21, 2006

Mr. Peter Ratcliffe
Pp C5. A
BT Centre
81 Newgate Street
London EC1A 7AJ
UK

Dear Mr. Ratcliffe:

The Computer History Museum's Software Collection Committee was formed to investigate and advise the Museum on how to collect and preserve historically significant software. Their work complements our existing programs to collect and preserve historical computer hardware, documents, and other artifacts. The Museum's collection is widely recognized as the largest and most extensive computer history collection in the world.

One of the projects of the Software Collection Committee is using the NLS/Augment system as a test bed for software collection techniques. Dr. Douglas Engelbart and his team at the Stanford Research Institute created NLS/Augment in the 1960s and 1970s. It was one of the earliest interactive computing systems, and lead to such innovations as the mouse, windowing, WYSIWYG editing, and "groupware".

As part of this effort, the committee is attempting to trace the copyrights for the NLS/Augment source code and documentation, and to get permission to make this groundbreaking system available on a non-commercial basis for historians, engineers, and computer scientists to study. They have determined that SRI initially sold NLS/Augment to Tymnet/Tymshare in the late 1970s, and through a series of acquisitions, Boeing came to own it. Thanks to Mr. Lew Platt, the late chairman of Boeing and a CHM friend, we determined that the business unit that owned NLS/Augment was sold to BT.
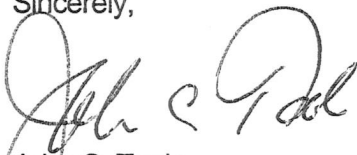
Mr. Simon Garret, the IPR Commercialization Manager at BT, was kind enough to investigate the issue on our behalf. Although it proved difficult to establish ownership, Mr. Garrett said that he believes ownership of NLS/Augment passed with other assets formerly from Tymnet/Tymshare to MCI in 1993-1994.

Mr. Garrett said that BT would be willing to provide us a letter along the following lines to document his findings, and to provide assurance that BT, for its part, would have no issue with any not-for-profit use the Museum makes of the NLS/Augment copyrights in the future:

> BT believes that ownership of NLS/Augment passed with other assets formerly from Tymnet/Tymshare to MCI in 1993-1994. So far as BT is concerned, BT has no issue with the Computer History Museum using such NLS/Augment copyrights in a not-for-profit capacity for the benefit of the general public. BT makes no representation or warranty as to such use.

He asked us to contact you about this. We would be grateful if you would provide us with such a letter at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John C. Toole
Executive Director and
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Ms. Sally Abel
        Mr. Simon Garrett
        Mr. Philip Gust
        Dr. Bernard Peuto