CTSS BULLETIN #56

SUBJECT: New Version of the RUNC@M Command

1. A new version of RUNC@M is presently available, and may be used as a private command, through the following procedure:

COPY P RUNC@M SAVED

RESUME RUNC@M ... arguments

2. The restrictions of the preliminary version of RUNC@M have been eliminated, so that the new command conforms to the specifications stated in the CC Memo No. 238. Namely:

- The $ feature is available.
- The (NIL) argument is available.
- Core image saving and common file switching are handled automatically by RUNC@M, and the user may request the execution of any sequence of commands. Some restrictions remain, however, and are listed below.

3. The following additions, not described in CC Memo 238, are also available:

- (END) argument.

  When the value of an argument, after substitution, is '(END)' it is replaced by a fence of all 1's. Any additional arguments will be ignored by commands in which this substitution is performed. If (END) is substituted as a command name, the chain is terminated at this point, just as though an end of file had been reached.

- RUNC@M may yield a core image, which can be used by the next command, if this is relevant. For example, the the sequence:

RUNC@M ALFA

START

will work properly if the last command executed in ALFA is a LOAD command.

4. Restrictions.

- RUNCOM or RESUME command may switch to various file directories by the use of CHDIR. However, they must restore the initial switching before being terminated.

- Temporary files do not stay in common files when the switching is restored to the user's files. Consequently, when a chain of commands runs through common files, temporary files will be lost whenever RUNCOM switches back to the user's directory to set up another sub-chain in the supervisor buffers. However, they may be used over a maximum of 5 commands if one makes sure that these commands are all contained in a single sub-chain. An easy way to ensure such a condition is the $ feature. Indeed, the first command following a $ headed line starts a new sub-chain.

5. This version of RUNCOM will replace the previous command as soon as it is considered reasonably checked out by users.

6. Further additions are planned in a later step, namely branching and repetition facilities. Proposals for this implementation will be published later on.