TO: Unicode Technical Committee
FROM: Deborah Anderson
DATE: 30. October 2003
RE: Liaison report, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley Dept. of Linguistics

Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform: A Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform proposal is being presented at the UTC. Support from the Society of Biblical Literature has been received to help pay for Michael Everson's attendance. The Unicode proposal will be circulated amongst various members of the cuneiform community for further comment.

N'Ko: Several additional letters from members of the N'Ko community have been sent in support of encoding N'Ko.

Coptic: Prof. Stephen Emmel, University of Münster, has sent detailed comments on Coptic. He represents the International Association for Coptic Studies and has accumulated data from a wide variety of scholars on various missing characters and needed glyphs. This information will be forwarded for inclusion in national body comments.

Tibetan: Discussion and work on the Tibetan extensions is ongoing.

Avestan and Mandaic: Michael Everson will be traveling to Iran in 2004 to discuss these scripts, with support for travel and lodging from the Iranian Academy of Sciences.

Tifinagh: Some interest in moving the Tifinagh proposal along—at least in ISO WG2— has come from members of the Canadian ISO WG2. Discussion on how to get funding for M. Everson to work on a Tifinagh proposal is underway. Peter Constable and I have some additional documents on the Tifinagh script which should be used for the proposal.

IPA: In order to assist the Chinese linguists on a revision of N2626 (L2/03-317), I sent information to Mr. Zhang on the newly approved characters in Unicode 4.0 which don't appear in the *IPA Handbook*, but are used in Sinology. I also sent links to (a) websites which contain IPA characters with Unicode values, (b) Peter Constable's phonetic proposals, and (c) to Peter Constable's document that compares those characters that appear in Geoffrey K. Pullum and William A. Ladusaw's *Phonetic Symbol Guide*, 2nd ed. (1996) vs. what is contained in Unicode 4.0.

Cyrillic: Text samples of a number of historical Cyrillic letters are being scanned by David Birnbaum, University of Pittsburgh. These will be put forward in a proposal in the near future and builds on a meeting from September 2002 between Michael Everson and David Birnbaum in Bulgaria.

Medieval Nordic: Michael Everson met in late August 2003 with Odd Einar Haugen, (Nordisk institutt) and others to work on a proposal for medieval Nordic characters. A proposal will be forthcoming.

Articles on encoding scripts have appeared in MIT's *Technology Review*, *Multilingual Computing*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Cal Monthly* (an alumni magazine), *Ariadne* (an online journal for information science professionals in academia from U.K.), and an article to appear in the *Daily Cal* (a UCB student newspaper). The result has been increased exposure and small donations, and an invitation to write for *SIGNA* and *Communications of the ACM*.