Bastiaan ('Bas') de Raad retires

After a 42-year career spanning almost all CERN's history, Bastiaan ('Bas') de Raad retired at the end of 1996. His methodical approach and meticulous care have ensured that CERN's accelerators have overcome challenges foreseen and unforeseen. Arriving in 1954, he joined the proton synchrotron magnet group, faced with the challenge of building a strong focusing machine, where he contributed first to magnet measurements and then to beam transfer magnets. In 1964 he joined the future ISR team, where he went on to become responsible for beam transfer, injection and dumping for the world's first proton collider. Following the commissioning of the ISR in 1971, he moved to the '300 GeV project', later the Super Proton Synchrotron, where he was one of John Adams' group leaders, again looking after beam injection and ejection. Then came a series of key SPS roles, chairman of the running-in committee, leader of the combined accelerator groups, and finally Division Leader from 1981. During this period, the SPS saw its finest hour as a Nobel Prize-winning proton-antiproton collider, and went on to handle beams of heavy ions. With the SPS also faced with the challenge of having to inject electrons and positrons for LEP, de Raad conceived an ingenious scheme to safeguard the machine, designed to handle protons, from harmful electron synchrotron radiation, with carefully-placed diaphragms and screens, supplemented by lead shielding. With this shining armour, the SPS sailed gracefully into the LEP era. From 1991-96 de Raad culminated his CERN career as Leader of the Technical Inspection and Safety Commission.