                     MAIL TRANSFER PROTOCOL:
                   ISI TOPS20 MTP-NIMAIL INTERFACE

INTRODUCTION

   This document defines the ISI TOPS20s interface between the Mail
   Transfer Protocol (MTP) and the Network Independent Mail Protocol
   (NIMAIL) in terms of the files which implement it. The internal
   structure and name of each file is described below.

   For a complete understanding of the MTP protocol as well as the terms
   used within this document, see RFC 780 "Mail Transfer Protocol", RFC
   784 "ISI TOPS20 Implementation", and RFC 785 "ISI TOPS20 File
   Defintitions". The NIMAIL is documented in IEN 169, "A Simple
   NIFTP-Based Mail System".

DESCRIPTION

   1. NIMAIL to MTP

      NIMAIL will present mail for processing by MTP using the files
      specified in RFC 785.

   2. MTP to NIMAIL

      MTP will present mail for processing by NIMAIL in files of the
      following form:

         address <CR><LF>
         address <CR><LF>
         address <CR><LF>
         <CR><LF>
         Via: USC-ISIE; date-time <CR><LF>
         header
          .
          .
          .
         <CR><LF>
         body
          .
          .
          .

         Where each address is of the form:

```
          user%host%host%host@host
```

    And each address in the same file has the same "@host" part.

    The date-time will be in the default TOPS20 ODTIM format
    "dd-mmm-yy hh:mm:ss" (24 hour time).

    The files will named "arbitrary.NIMAIL.-1", where "arbitrary" will
    be somesort of date-time encoding for human uses. The NIMAIL will
    not care in the least what the "arbitrary" part is. These files
    will be placed into the NIMAIL directory on ISIE.

DISCUSSION

  The NIMAIL and MTP will each perform a transformation of the address
  information to create the appropriate input for the other system.

  NIMAIL to MTP

    The mail that arrives at NIMAIL with the information

```
          joe%hostx%hosty%hostz@isie
```

    will be presented to MTP with the information

```
          FROM: <NIMAIL@ISIE>
          TO: <@hostz,@hosty,joe@hostx>
```

  MTP to NIMAIL

    The mail that arrives at MTP with the information

```
          FROM: <sam@SRI-NIC>
          TO: <@ISIE,@hostz,@hosty,joe@hostx>
```

    will be presented to NIMAIL with the information

```
          joe%hostx%hosty@hostz
```

```
          Via: ISIE
```