

*** More news in a forthcoming issue.**

conclusions were difficult. During its five years of running, CHARM II carefully collected several thousand prized examples of neutrino-electron scattering – about one for every two hours of beam time.

The Brussels/CERN/Louvain/Moscow/Munich/Naples/Rome collaboration, later joined by YEFAM (Turkey) and Leuthen (Germany), caught its neutrinos in 700 tons of 3.7 m-square glass plates interspersed with scintillator and streamer tubes, while a magnetized iron spectrometer downstream intercepted muons from charged current interactions.

CHARM II was the only second-generation SPS neutrino experiment. It succeeded the original CHARM study (CERN/Hamburg/Amsterdam/Rome/Moscow, with alphabetic ordering conveniently disregarded) which came into operation in 1978 immediately downstream of the famous WA1 (CERN/Dortmund/Heidelberg/Saclay) SPS neutrino experiment. When WA1 bowed out in 1984, CHARM II borrowed part of its muon spectrometer.

CHARM II used CERN's famous horn-focused wide-band neutrino beam, employed at the PS proton synchrotron from the early 1960s and subsequently transferred to the SPS in 1976. Thus for the first time in 30 years, CERN's neutrino beam is idle. New projects are on the table, but the target and beamline installations are showing their age after many years of running at maximum intensities.*

During an official visit to China where a new General Agreement of Cooperation between CERN and the Chinese Academy of Sciences was signed, CERN Director General Carlo Rubbia met Communist Party Secretary-General Jian Ze-Min (right).

CHINA Continuing cooperation with CERN

During a visit to China in July, CERN Director General Carlo Rubbia signed an agreement with the Chinese Academy of Sciences which provides a reciprocal framework for CERN and China to continue and develop their scientific and technical cooperation.

This cooperation will be geared to specific projects, each to be the subject of a protocol to the new Agreement, which broadly covers the participation of Chinese specialists in CERN's ongoing work in experimental and theoretical physics, detector and accelerator engineering (including the upgrading of LEP) and informatics.

In the Agreement, China also expressed its interest and intent to participate in major CERN programmes and/or projects, with the proposed LHC Large Hadron Collider in the LEP tunnel cited as a specific example.

Links between CERN and China have steadily strengthened since

first contacts were made in 1973. Western knowhow helped get Beijing's BEPC electron-positron collider off the ground, while Chinese groups make significant contributions to several CERN projects, notably the L3 experiment at LEP.

CERN Cold water on tau pairs

Earlier this year, results from CERN's LEP electron-positron collider included a hint of a new effect seen by the Aleph experiment on the decay of Z particles into two leptons accompanied by an additional pair of charged particles. However the most recent results announced at the Joint International Lepton-Photon Symposium and Europhysics Conference on High Energy Physics (September, page 1) appeared to exclude this.

Aleph had reported a possible excess of tau lepton pairs, with 15 events, compared to ten each with muon and electron pairs, in a sample of 200,000 Z decays.

