July 29, 1970

Dear Section Secretary:

I enclose copy of a letter and enclosures sent today to the Chairman of your Section. Note that action by each Section is requested during the academic year 1970-71 and a summary report sent to me by June 1, 1971.

Since there may be a change in the chairmanship of your Section prior to June 1, 1971, or some other reason why your Chairman cannot carry out the steps as suggested, we are sending a copy of this material to you, asking that you make certain that the procedures outlined in the enclosed letter are followed in your Section and assume the responsibility for making sure that we hear from the appropriate person in your Section by June 1, 1971.

If you have any questions on these matters, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Henry L. Alder
Secretary

[Enclosure]
Dear Section Chairman:

At its 1968 summer meeting, the Board of Governors of the Association requested that CUPM make a study of the question of accreditation and certification in mathematics. Enclosed are two copies of the report by a panel of CUPM and presented to the Board in January 1970 (an additional copy has been sent to the Secretary of your Section). The Board then voted "to authorize the President to appoint a committee...to formulate appropriate questions...to be circulated among the Sections of the Association for their comments; the replies shall be communicated to the committee...[which will then] prepare recommendations to the Board."

In accordance with this charge, we request that each Section of the MAA carry out the following steps during the academic year 1970-71:

1. Schedule time for a panel discussion of accreditation and certification at an early meeting of the Section.

2. Prior to that meeting, call the attention of your members to a condensed version of the CUPM report which will appear in the August-September issue of the MONTHLY.

3. Following the panel discussion, obtain opinions from your members on the issues raised in the enclosed questionnaire. You may wish to provide copies of the questionnaire to members in attendance at that meeting.

4. By June 1, 1971, prepare a summary report that reflects the feelings of your Section regarding these matters. That report should be mailed to

Professor Henry L. Alder, Secretary
Mathematical Association of America
University of California
Davis, California 95616

Time will be reserved at the Laramie meeting of Section Officers for a brief discussion of these steps and an opportunity to ask questions. We hope that your Section representative will have been informed of this request before that meeting.

In formulating recommendations to the Board, our Committee will be guided by the views expressed in these reports from the Sections. We feel that the issues deserve careful attention by the mathematical community, and we shall greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

The Committee to Consider Accreditation and Certification in Mathematics

R. G. Bartle       D. T. Finkbeiner, Chairman
Grace E. Bates     Joseph Hashisaki
D. W. Bushaw       L. H. Lange
E. A. Cameron      F. L. Wolf

cc: Section Secretary