

## INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN EXPEDITION

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### COORDINATOR'S REPORT 24 October 1961

The period of promotion, preliminary organization and development of the Expedition is drawing to a close. Intensive investigation will begin about mid-1962. Planned programs for the forthcoming fiscal period are, in most instances, financed. Future plans must be drawn on the assumption of continued financing. Working groups of participating scientists and ship operators must now coordinate individual and national efforts to achieve optimum coverage of the Indian Ocean with the available facilities.

Participation - The following countries have formed national committees and have indicated that they will participate in the Expedition: Australia, Ceylon, China (Nationalist), Denmark, France, Germany (Federal Republic), India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, Portugal, South Africa, Thailand, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America. Of these, all except Ceylon, China, Denmark and Thailand will operate at least one vessel in the Expedition. Scientists from non-ship operating nations will ride various vessels, and there will be a general practice of carrying non-nationals on all vessels where facilities permit.

All countries, except Ceylon, Denmark, Indonesia, Thailand and U.S.S.R. have indicated that working groups composed of prospectively participating scientists have been established to draw up detailed national plans in one or more of the Expedition's disciplines of biological oceanography, geology and geophysics, meteorology and physical and chemical oceanography. In most instances, however, names of these scientists have not been made available to the office of the Coordinator.

The Malagasy Republic is in the process of forming a National Committee. Ad-hoc committees have been formed in East Africa and in Mauritius and are currently functioning. Burma and Malaya have been approached and participation is under consideration. Egypt has expressed an interest in participation but no action has been reported. Ethiopia and South Vietnam have offered special port facilities. Saudi Arabia, Somalia and the Trucial States as well as Iran and Iraq have not been approached.

Geological programs will be included in over two-thirds of the cruises, geophysical programs in less than half of the cruises, according to present information. Inquiries have been initiated on explosives storage and supply. Proposals have been made to conduct core analysis and samples of all cores at a single center.

Physical and chemical oceanographic observations will emphasize the study of current systems and the seasonal monsoon effect as well as providing a description of the general characteristics of the Indian Ocean. Some increase in intensity of coverage in the Bay of Bengal and the Central Southern Indian Ocean is required for adequate understanding. An effort should be made to obtain full seasonal as well as geographic coverage, through some revision of ship schedules.

Current Developments - During the period since the last meeting of SCOR, the Coordinator has visited each participating nation with the exception of Israel and USSR from one to five times. Consultations with scientists and government officials have been held to facilitate organization and planning of the Expedition.

Three meetings, one on standardization, two on intercalibration, held with financial assistance from UNESCO, have amply demonstrated the importance of further effort along these lines to achieve inter-comparability of results in each discipline.

Each prospective participating nation has been requested to provide hospitality and facilities in accordance with the recommendation of SCOR's Indian Ocean Working Group embodied in the proceedings of the last SCOR meeting. A letter from the Secretary-General of UNESCO to member nations and personal discussions by the Coordinator in nations and other governmental units bordering the Indian Ocean have elicited descriptions of facilities for Expedition ships from Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Malagasy Republic, Mauritius, Singapore, South Africa and South Vietnam. The matter is under consideration in other nations.

Although it is not possible to arrive at a precise figure for the total probable outlay by all nations for the entire period of the Expedition's probable life - 1959 to 1965 - it seems reasonable to estimate that the cost will be in the order of \$60,000,000. This does not include the construction cost of at least six new oceanographic research vessels which are scheduled to be built and to participate in the program.

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