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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 21, 1960

Dr. Paul Fye, Director
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Doctor Fye:

As you doubtless know the NAS-NRC Committee on Oceanography, in its capacity as the U. S. National Committee for SCOR, recently established a number of Working Groups to review and evaluate the scientific programs which together will form this country's participation in the International Indian Ocean Expedition. Preliminary reports of these Working Groups were presented to NASCO at its meeting December 17 - 18. The Committee's Indian Ocean Panel, after reviewing the drafts, reported as follows:

" . . . The addition of programs in biology and meteorology greatly strengthens the inter-disciplinary characteristics of the proposed U. S. participation in the Indian Ocean Expedition. The new programs also bring new problems. A ship is required for biology. Shore stations in the Indian Ocean area are needed for both biology and meteorology. Additional funds must be found and scientists who wish to participate and take responsibility for various parts of both programs must be identified. The panel feels that all of the programs recommended by the Working Groups should be endorsed if suitable scientific interest and leadership is forthcoming."

Since the recommended biology program is new, getting it under way will obviously require a great deal of work. Its success will depend upon further careful planning and upon enlisting the enthusiastic cooperation of biologists in various parts of the country, and it is clear that someone must be found to assume the over-all responsibility. In the opinion of the Committee, Dr. John Ryther, presently serving as chairman of the Biology Working Group, is the person best qualified for this task. The biology program proposed by this working group is a tribute to Dr. Ryther's imagination and drive. His sound scientific stature, his experience and his judgment, combine to assure the biological community that in his hands the biology program will be of high merit. We believe that it will also be a contribution to international cooperation in study of the sea of which this country will be proud.

It is hoped that Dr. Ryther will explore with you the possibility that a way may be found for him to accept this opportunity to serve as Scientific Director of the Biology Program for the Indian Ocean Expedition.

Sincerely yours,

Dixy Lee Ray
Special Consultant
Biological Oceanography