

Meteorological Planning Meeting of the International
Indian Ocean Expedition held at 'Resham Bhavan' at
9 a.m. on 18 July, '61 (Plenary Session I)

- - - -

Present

Mr. Robert G. Snider	Spl.Com. on) Chairman Oceanic Research)
Mr. D. J. Jayasinghe	Ceylon
Mr. B. W. Thompson	East Africa
Dr. K. R. Ramanathan	India
Mr. P. R. Krishna Rao	
Mr. C. Ramaswamy	
Dr. R. Ananthakrishnan	
Dr. L. S. Mathur	
Mr. K. N. Rao	
Dr. P. R. Pisharoty	
Dr. Soeoto Mangoensoemarto	Indonesia
Dr. Soekanto	
Dr. Hidetaka Futi	Japan
Mr. Ramanisarivo	Malagasy Rep.
Mr. K. Rajendram	Malaya
Mr. A. F. Sundberg	Mauritius
Mr. S. N. Naqvi	Pakistan
Cdr. Kajit Buajitti	Thailand
Mr. A. N. Shahbaz	UN Special Representative
Prof. Colin S. Ramage	United States of America
Mr. K. Parthasarathy	WMO Representative

The delegate from the U.K. was expected to arrive the following day. Participation by South Africa and Portugese East Africa was uncertain, while Burma and Australia had intimated that they would not be represented.

Mr. Robert G. Snider, Chairman of the meeting said that there were two issues that had to be considered by the representatives present. Firstly, it was necessary to know the extent of participation by the various countries in the meteorological programme for the expedition and secondly to formulate a regional

request for a grant from the UN Special Fund, to meet the cost of certain elements of the programme. He said that the Executive Agency for handling this request was the WMO. In view of the fact that the Governing Body of the UN Special Fund was to meet shortly, it was important that a formal request to the fund should be submitted by the 5th of September, at the latest. He mentioned that no national commitments to the programme were expected of delegates at this stage.

Prof. Ramage gave a brief outline of the meteorological programme and problems to be studied during the Expedition. Although an international committee of SCOR had been formed for other disciplines, such as Oceanography and Geology, none had yet been set up for Meteorology. If the funds were approved, then the UN and WMO would become the administering body for the programme, while the Sub-Committee would be the day-to-day controlling agency for the proposed IMC.

The Chairman next explained how the Met. programme came to be written by the US Working Group on Meteorology.

Mr. Parthasarathy gave the views of the WMO. He said that a request to the UN Special Fund should have a bearing on the economic development of the countries concerned such as the training of technicians. Pure research as envisaged in the Programme would not be supported by the UN Special Fund. He also mentioned that another criteria for support is that the Government's contribution should be of the same order as the grant. There is no limit for the number of countries required to sponsor the programme in order to obtain funds.

In the discussions that followed, Dr. Ramanathan emphasized that the problem under study in the Indian Ocean was not a matter of merely local interest, since it formed part of the study of the general circulation.

Mr. Thompson said that there may be some difficulty for delegates in inducing their respective Governments to support the programme; it may be a quicker method if one Government makes a request by itself. The Chairman then inquired of the representative from India if his country was prepared to seek support for this project on its own.

Dr. Ramanathan replied that the National Committee for the IIOE fully supports the project and that the support of the Government was also expected. Dr. Krishna Rao then mentioned the proposed establishment of an Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Poona for which a grant from the UN Special Fund is being contemplated. This Institute would co-operate in all respects with the IMC and take over its functions when the IMC ceases to operate after 1964. If the two projects could be related, it would partly meet the criteria laid down by the UN Special Fund.

Prof. Ramage said that the economic aspects of the programme to the various countries would be difficult to assess, but some mention should be made in the request of the devastating nature of cyclones and the importance of forecasting of the onset of the monsoon, in order to stress the importance of the project. He then spoke on the design and distribution of the network of stations proposed for the Expedition and desired that each country amplify how it would fit into the plan.

The Chairman called upon a representative from each country to indicate the present meteorological activity in his country and the future programme that would contribute to the plans of the expedition. The existing programme and the future plans envisaged by the different countries are given separately as an annex to this report.

The Sub-Committees were then formed - one to review the existing draft request to the UN Special Fund under the chairmanship of Dr. Ramanathan. The Second Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Thompson was to draw up a detailed meteorological plan, including costs, for the expedition.

There were discussions on the location of the IMC. Dr. Ramanathan said that every facility would be offered for establishing the IMC at Colaba (Bombay), including training facilities at Santacruz. The facilities offered at Colaba could be inspected by the Committee.

Mr. Naqvi mentioned the existence of a Weather Centre and Institute of Tropical Meteorology at Karachi. He doubted whether the effort of the IMC Bombay would not in some respects duplicate the work already being carried out at Karachi.

The meeting then agreed that the IMC could be located at Bombay, provided the facilities available are suitable.

The meeting then divided to work into two sub-committees.