

NEWS FROM

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

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Washington, December 16--Robert G. Snider has been appointed coordinator of U.S. and international activities in connection with the forthcoming multi-nation expedition to the Indian Ocean, it was announced today by Roger Revelle, chairman of the Special Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions, and Detlev W. Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council.

Mr. Snider will be Coordinator of the International Indian Ocean Expedition for SCOR, functioning within the Academy - Research Council as an executive secretary to the Committee on Oceanography, which serves as the U. S. National Committee to SCOR. Mr. Snider has established an office at 30 East 40th Street, New York City.

Like the International Geophysical Year, the International Indian Ocean Expedition will be a cooperative and concentrated study of related natural phenomena by several nations. Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Indonesia, Japan, Union of South Africa, and the Soviet Union - - as well as the United States - - have all given notice of their intention to participate. Like the IGY, too, it is being organized by a special committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions, a non-governmental body with headquarters in The Hague.

The Expedition's peak activity is expected to occur during 1962 and 1963 when 15 or more ships will be studying these least-known waters of the world. The Expedition will conduct basic research in physical and chemical oceanography, meteorology, marine biology, geophysics, and submarine geology.

In addition to its anticipated contributions to fundamental knowledge, it is hoped that the Expedition will afford unusual benefits to the heavily populated, protein-deficient nations on the ocean's perimeter. First, any new information about the ecology of marine life can be expected to yield corresponding benefits in

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fish harvest - often in terms of thousands of tons. Second, the Expedition will offer these countries an opportunity to further their economic development by the training of marine scientists and technicians who later can be called upon to apply the general scientific findings.

Oceanographic committees in each of the countries participating in the Expedition have already begun programming discussions, and a July 1960 deadline has been set for the development of a preliminary plan. It is estimated that total expenditures will be about \$12,500,000.

Mr. Snider, who was born January 21, 1911, in New York City, has previously held administrative positions on a number of international research projects. He has served as vice president for research of the Conservation Foundation and, at the present time, is President and a trustee of International Population Research, Inc. He is also chairman of the panel on ocean resources of the Academy - Research Council Committee on Oceanography and a Captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Mr. Snider received his A.B. degree in 1932 and M.B.A. in 1934, both from Harvard University.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photographs of Mr. Snider can be obtained from his office in New York (LExington 2-6110).