

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

September 25, 1961

Dr. Columbus Iselin
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Dear Columbus:

I have in hand a memorandum from George Humphrey, via Dick Vetter, regarding positions of Indian Ocean reference stations. Dick urges writing to you. I've discussed these with Bob Arthur and Joe Reid. Bob, in particular, is passionately in favor of the idea, though he didn't suggest possible sites. Xmas is at sea, but I would guess any station between 5° S and 10° N west of Sumatra would be within his reach. The proposed weather ship site at 0°00, 83°00 (?) might be within reach of our other ships, although a station near 0°00, 79°00 E would be easier for us. For the station southwest of Java, convenient to Sunda Strait, why not put in a deep east, for ships so equipped, at 8°54'S, 105°33 E, in the Java Trench? In that area the trench trends about 20° South of east and has a depth (uncorrected for sounding velocity) of 3410--3436 fathoms from 8°49' to 8°59' S. From our MARSOPH profile, it is deeper than 3000 fathoms from 8°39'S, 105°29'E to 9°13'S, 105°38.5 E. Hence, even with questionable navigational accuracy (on both our parts), a deep east could be made with fair safety.

Cordially,

Robert L. Fisher
Not a physical oceanographer

RLF:jd

CC: R. G. Snider
R. C. Vetter