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AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PEACEFUL USES  
OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND  
THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

LETTER DATED 7 FEBRUARY 1968 FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
OF UNESCO ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL\*

Thank you for your letter PO 118 of 2 January 1968 drawing my attention to resolution 2340 (XXII) on "Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the uses of their resources in the interest of mankind", adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second session.

I shall inform the Executive Board of UNESCO of the terms of this resolution at its next session which will open on 20 May, calling attention, in particular, to operative paragraph 4 inviting the specialized agencies and others to co-operate fully with the Ad Hoc Committee.

As regards the substance of the request contained in resolution 2340 (XXII), I wish to inform you that the UNESCO programme in oceanography comprises a considerable number of activities (including assistance to Member States) which pertain to marine geology and geophysics, i.e., which refer directly or indirectly to the ocean floor, sea-bed and marine mineral resources. A brief report on these activities is attached for your information and transmission to the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly.

You will also find attached a note on the relevant activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission prepared by its Secretary. As you know, the Commission was established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

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\* This communication is being circulated at the request of the representative of UNESCO.

Cultural Organization by resolution 2.31 adopted by the General Conference at its eleventh session. Through the Commission its member States conduct active international co-operation, particularly in the field of marine geology and geophysics.

As requested, all further relevant documentation will be sent to you in due course.

(Signed) René MAHEU

SUMMARY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF MARINE GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS  
CONDUCTED UNDER THE OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAMME OF UNESCO

1. Marine geology and geophysics are integral parts of oceanography and therefore the programme of UNESCO in oceanography has, from its inception, included activities in this particular field.
2. These activities pertain largely to fundamental studies of the ocean floor and sea-bed beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction. Results of these fundamental studies may, however, be of immense importance for practical applications, particularly if coupled with the results of national efforts to explore the sea-bed and its resources within such limits.
3. An important element of the UNESCO activities referred to above is the technical assistance provided to Member States in building up their research potential by offering fellowships, conducting training courses and supplying experts and equipment. Such assistance is provided under both the Regular Programme of UNESCO and under the Technical Assistance component of UNDP.
4. During the past six years, fourteen fellowships in marine geology/geophysics were awarded to young scientists from developing countries. This represents approximately 20-25 per cent of the total number of marine science fellowships awarded during the same period and reflects adequately the proportion of UNESCO's marine science budget spent on marine geology/geophysics. Specialized shipboard training courses in marine geology and geophysics are envisaged for 1969-1970.
5. Under the Technical Assistance component of UNDP, consultants and experts in marine geology, geomorphology and geophysics were sent to a number of Member States, upon their request. Under the Regular Programme, instructors in marine geology were provided to the regional marine science training courses conducted for Latin American scientists in 1963 and 1964 aboard the Brazilian research vessel "ALMIRANTE SALDANHA", which was equipped by UNESCO also under its Regular Programme.
6. A considerable proportion of oceanographic equipment and instruments supplied by UNESCO to developing countries under both the Regular Programme and the Technical Assistance component of UNDP pertained to marine geology/geophysics. One may estimate the total cost of marine geological/geophysical equipment supplied over the past six years as being of the order of \$100,000.

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7. UNESCO initiated, through its scientific advisory body in marine science, the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), methodological studies and exchange of information in the field of marine micropalaeontology; these studies resulted in the organization in 1967, jointly by UNESCO and SCOR, of the successful Symposium on Micropalaeontology of Bottom Sediments.
8. Another successful symposium was organized by UNESCO in 1967 in Mexico on "Coastal lagoons, their origin and productivity". The main subjects of this symposium were geomorphological and geological studies.
9. Important marine geological and geophysical studies of the Indian Ocean were promoted through UNESCO's support to the International Indian Ocean Expedition which was carried out during 1958-1965.
10. Since 1963 the Office of the Oceanography of UNESCO has had on its staff a professional specialist at P-5 grade with high academic qualifications in marine geology/geophysics.
11. In the execution of the above-mentioned activities, UNESCO relies on the scientific advice of SCOR and other competent scientific bodies of the ICSU family.

NOTE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION RELEVANT TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2340 (XXII)

(Prepared by the IOC Secretary)

1. By statute the purpose of the Commission is "to promote scientific investigation with a view to learning more about the nature and resources of the oceans, through the concerted action of its members". An important part of oceanographic research deals with the history, shape, structure and composition of the sea floor. Such research contributes to the scientific basis for the extraction of mineral resources from the sea floor. Governments may wish to collaborate in programmes of geological and geophysical research within the framework of the Commission, and thus the Commission could not accept any exclusion from this field of investigation. At the same time, the Commission recognizes the interests of other international organizations in various aspects of the marine mineral resource problem, including the technological aspects of prospecting and exploitation of these resources, scientific investigations and economic aspects, and welcomes the opportunity to co-operate with such organizations towards the goal of utilizing these resources for the benefit of man.
2. Marine geological and geophysical studies made part of all the co-operative studies co-ordinated by the Commission, namely, the International Indian Ocean Expedition (1959-1965), the Co-operative Investigations in the Tropical Atlantic (1963-1964) and the Co-operative Study of the Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions (from 1965 onwards). The essential role of the Commission in these co-operative expeditions is to co-ordinate the research programmes of the participating Member States, to facilitate the conduct of work at sea, and to ensure the international exchange of data and scientific information.
3. The Commission keeps permanently under review the Guide for the Exchange of Oceanographic Data which, inter alia, contains rules on the exchange of soundings either on plotting sheets or in tabulation, exchange of information on bottom samples, exchange of bottom photographs, topographic profiles, interim bathymetric charts, gravity and geomagnetic field measurements, heat flow, seismic refraction and reflection observations. At the recent fifth session of the IOC, the Working

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Group on International Oceanographic Data Exchange was asked specifically to continue the development of means whereby geological and geophysical data are incorporated into the international oceanographic data exchange system.

4. In connexion with co-operative expeditions and, in particular, the International Indian Ocean Expedition, the Secretariat of the IOC accomplished the following work:

- (i) Helped the direct exchange of bathymetric data between research institutions;
- (ii) Distributed widely bathymetric charts of the Indian Ocean prepared by various institutions;
- (iii) Established, with the help of the Disciplinary Leader for Marine Geology/Geophysics, and distributed widely a list of specialists working in marine geology and geophysics of the Indian Ocean;
- (iv) Supported financially the organization of a number of scientific discussions concerning the geology of the floor of the Indian Ocean;
- (v) Published a number of volumes of the Collected Reprints of the International Indian Ocean Expedition containing a great number of geological and geophysical papers.

5. Under the IOC, an international team of scientists, co-ordinated by the Chief Editor appointed by the Commission, is preparing the geological/geophysical atlas of the Indian Ocean which will be published in 1969. Twenty scientific institutions and approximately fifty scientists are engaged in this work. The atlas will comprise more than seventy different maps and profiles and will be a logical conclusion of the great scientific efforts put by the participating countries into the co-operative studies of the Indian Ocean.

6. Another important geophysical activity under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is the International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific which comprises a network established by the interested countries with the Centre in Honolulu under ESSA (USA), the International Co-ordination Group under IOC, and the International Tsunami Information Centre in Honolulu with which international training and research will eventually be associated. The first meeting of the co-ordination Group will take place in Honolulu in March 1968.

7. The Commission is developing its co-operation with the Upper Mantle Project of the IUGG. By its recently adopted resolution V-12, the Commission invited its members to participate in accomplishing Trans-oceanic Geophysical Traverses and, in the first instance, the Geo-Traverse across the North Atlantic. Information on this work, which was initiated by the United States of America, has recently been distributed by the Secretariat of the Commission to its members.

8. At its last session, in October 1967, the Commission decided to establish an IOC Working Group on Legal Questions Related to Scientific Investigations of the Ocean, charging it with considering legal aspects specifically related to scientific investigations of the nature and scientific investigations of the resources of the ocean, as well as with preparing relevant documentation and proposals. The first meeting of the Working Group in question will take place in Paris in September 1968.

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