

INTERNATIONAL INITIALOGRAPHY

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IHB Note. — There is an ever increasing number of international organizations, which are generally known by the initials of the words constituting their name. The Bureau believes that reprinting this article will help States Members to have a better knowledge of the international organizations concerned with oceanography.

I was supposed to talk about international oceanography this morning (*), but I have taken the liberty of changing the title slightly to *International Initialography*.

I have attempted to note in the accompanying list the initials of a few international organizations which are active in the field of oceanography, and I will try to follow the list from left to right and top to bottom.

The first organization listed there is the IHB — the International Hydrographic Bureau — which has its headquarters in Monaco. It was created partly as the result of the interest of one of the previous rulers of Monaco in the ocean — oceanography and marine biology — and the organization is a federation of the hydrographic offices of the world which use it as a clearing house for information.

Since many of the world's hydrographic offices are run by navies, the existence of the IHB is very fortunate. Traditionally, navies can communicate with foreign navies only through their intelligence services. However, the membership in the IHB gives hydrographic offices the right and duty of communicating with each other directly. Thus they exchange charts, sailing directions, notices to mariners, and so on, quickly and expeditiously by virtue of their membership in the International Hydrographic Bureau.

(*) This article is the reproduction of the lecture given by Mr. John LYMAN at the Annual Meeting of the Institute of Navigation, which was held from 18 to 20 June 1962 in San Diego, California.

The IHB also has the function of producing the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans, a comprehensive collection of ocean soundings presented in the form of fairly large scale charts. Unfortunately, the resources of the IHB have not quite kept pace with the technology of obtaining deep ocean soundings, and the production of the GEBCO is a little bit behind time, but recently steps have been taken to divide up responsibilities for various parts of the world among various hydrographic offices, so we can look forward to having revised editions of these charts very soon.

The fishing interests

The next important as well as the oldest international organization is ICES — the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, which was founded in Scandinavia just before the turn of the century. The title "Exploration of the Sea" is a little bit misleading because ICES concerns itself primarily with studying the ocean environment from the standpoint of fishery interests and with providing fishery administrators the hydrographic and statistical information they need to control high-sea fisheries intelligently.

However, particularly in its early days, ICES has always been very active in the field of physical oceanography, and it produced the first good measurements of the density of sea water as a function of temperature and salinity, set up the standard tables which everybody around the world uses — Knudsen's tables — devised a chemical method for rapid determination of salinity or chlorination, and provided a common international standard of chlorinity called Copenhagen Standard Sea Water, which has been universally used for this purpose.

So successful has ICES been in its geographical field, which is primarily Northern Europe, that there have been a number of imitations. There is an International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean, and there was formed more recently the ICNAF — the International Commission for the North American Fisheries — which concerns itself with the problems of the Western North Atlantic. The United States is a member of ICNAF. Its headquarters are at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and information obtained by the various member countries is exchanged through this office.

Then we come to what of course is the greatest organization in international affairs, the United Nations. Shortly after UN's formation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, was formed. In fact UNESCO is a little broader than the UN. There are some countries which, because of their international policies, are not members of the UN (like Switzerland) but which are still members of UNESCO. UNESCO, concerning itself with international aspects of culture, education, and science has realized that oceanographic science in particular was a matter that required some international study. Some years ago, therefore, it set up a committee called the International Advisory Committee for Marine Sciences, IACOMS. This Committee, as a result of

its deliberations, advised UNESCO it would be very appropriate if UNESCO were to set up an Office of Oceanography and consider oceanography as one of the major scientific programs under UNESCO. This was done, as indicated in the list, under O/O.

Unofficial agencies

We also have in the international field organizations which are not officially inter-governmental organizations, but nevertheless they are international organizations concerning themselves in one way or another with the oceans.

In the field of oceanography there is the IAPO, the International Association of Physical Oceanography, which has a history going back to 1920 or earlier. It is a component of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics which holds meetings every third year. The IAPO and the six or seven other associations that make up the Union all meet concurrently at the time of the IUGG meetings. The parent organization of the IUGG is the International Council of Scientific Unions, ICSU.

ICSU is a very highly coordinated body of scientists. It draws representatives from the National Academy of Sciences in each of the member countries, and parenthetically I might add that National Academies of Sciences are not, in general, government bodies. (Of course, the situation is different in the Soviet Union because everything there is government.) In Britain the corresponding organization is the Royal Society, and in the United States we have the National Academy of Sciences — National Research Council which, although it has a federal charter and in Washington is on the government switchboard and uses the government frank for distributing its mail, is, nevertheless, not a government organization in the sense that it gets an appropriation each year from the Treasury.

It was ICSU that sponsored the International Geophysical Year a few years ago when this possibility of international cooperation in all fields of the earth sciences was brought to its attention by the IUGG, and the ICSU set up an organization called CSAGI, which was the Special Committee for the International Geophysical Year; in this case, the letters are the abbreviation of the French title.

CSAGI was the coordinating body that got together all the different scientific disciplines and produced the results of the International Geophysical Year by persuading governments to make much larger appropriations than normal for the support of the kind of science that was to be carried on during the IGY.

Encouraging internationalism

Now, this approach of stimulating governments to support scientific programs in cooperation and perhaps in rivalry, or at least in ways of maintaining their national prestige internationally, was so successful that ICSU was persuaded to form a more or less permanent body, SCOR, Special

Committee for Oceanic Research, which had as its mission the stimulation of further international programs in oceanography.

There are a couple of other similar bodies under ICSU. One is SCAR, Special Committee for Antarctic Research, which embraces oceanographic research in the Antarctic Ocean as one of its functions. Another one is COSPAR, the Committee for Space Research, which I don't think concerns itself to any extent with oceanography, and therefore we can dismiss it by title.

SCOR, having a somewhat overlapping membership with IACOMS, persuaded UNESCO to set up the Office of Oceanography, and SCOR is now a permanent advisory body to the Office of Oceanography.

SCOR also stimulated interest in the Indian Ocean, the result being that an International Indian Ocean Expedition, IIOE, was conceived a few years ago. First President EISENHOWER and then President KENNEDY decided that the United States government would participate in the Indian Ocean Expedition. The task of coordinating the federal support of the International Indian Ocean Expedition was assigned to the National Science Foundation. The task of coordinating the entire U.S. participation was assigned to the National Academy of Sciences which in turn assigned it to the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Oceanography.

Then, in the absence of any formal inter-governmental organization in oceanography on a parallel basis to such other UN organizations as WMO, the World Meteorological Organization, which is an international association of countries that have meteorological offices for exchanging and collecting meteorological data, and IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has the function under the UN of coordinating international development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, it was suggested that something like the WOO, a World Oceanographic Organization, be established.

This proposal met with one of the basic administrative laws — the law of diminishing returns. It appears that the State Department doesn't feel it can go back to Congress each year with a new list of international organizations to which the U.S. is adhering and expect to get new appropriations for its participation in these organizations. Instead, the feeling was expressed that international oceanography under the United Nations should be taken care of under one of the existing UN organizations, either UNESCO, or FAO (which I had not previously mentioned), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with headquarters in Rome.

UNESCO-IOC

After some pulling and hauling it was decided that the International Oceanographic Commission should be formed under UNESCO, having as its secretariat the personnel of UNESCO's Office of Oceanography. So this is now the state of affairs. There is no international governmental organization in oceanography, *per se*, but there is the IOC, which has its home under UNESCO and has its secretariat from the UNESCO Office of Oceanography.

There is still one more international organization in the picture that should be mentioned, namely, NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which maintains a laboratory at La Spezia, Italy, for the study of various basic and applied problems in the ocean. It is staffed with scientists and engineers from all the NATO countries, or as many of the NATO countries as they can get such people from, operating a fairly large ship. This organization has oceanography as one of its missions.

It is obvious, I think, since the seas are international waters and are so vast, that we must have international cooperation in their study. The sea, the high sea which is the common property of all nations, should be utilized for the benefit of all nations. Because of the enormous task it is to study the ocean, international cooperation is desirable from the point of view of getting the job done in some reasonable time.

What I have indicated in the initials in the list, then, is an idea of the present international framework in which oceanography operates.

INTERNATIONAL INITIALOGRAPHY

IHB	IAPO	WMO
GEBCO	IUGG	IAEA
ICES	ICSU	(WOO)
ICSEM	IGY	FAO
ICNAF	CSAGI	IOC
UN	SCOR	
UNESCO	SCAR	
IACOMS	COSPAR	
O/O	IIOE	NATO