



**ROYAL DECREE CONCERNING THE REORGANISATION
OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE OF THE SPANISH NAVY**

(Translated from Spanish)

REPORT TO H. M. THE KING.

Sir,

At the International Hydrographic Conference held at Monaco on the 26th of October 1926, at which a Spanish Delegation was present, it was possible to recognise that Spanish Hydrography, which has such glorious traditions, now requires scientific and practical reform in order that once more it may take its place amongst the nations most advanced in this important branch of science.

To carry out this reform, a Committee was appointed, whose president was the Hydrographic surveyor, Director of the Marine Observatory of San Fernando, who was charged with the drafting of the proposed organisation of the Hydrographic Department, with the right to select the place, taking full advantage of all that exists at present; the greatest economy to be kept in mind.

The work of this Commission was developed from draft principles fully documented by the competent Authorities in consultation with the Headquarters staff of the Navy. As a result of this, the under-signed Minister, with the agreement of the Council of Ministers, has the honour to submit the following proposed decree for the approval of YOUR MAJESTY.

Madrid, 7th December 1927.

(Signed): Honorio CORNEJO Y CARVAJAL.

ROYAL DECREE

On the proposal of the Minister of Marine and with the consent of my Council of Ministers I decree as follows :

ARTICLE I. The " Hydrographic Service of the Navy " shall be constituted in accordance with the following principles :

PRINCIPLE A.

There will be centralised at the Marine Observatory of San Fernando the direction of all hydrographic subjects and the scientific study of such subjects, and the Hydrographic Section and the Depósito Hidrográfico of the Department of Navigation being suppressed, in their place shall be created at the Observatory, a fourth Section thereof, to be called the " Hydrographic Service of the Navy ".

PRINCIPLE B.

The principal charge of this Service shall be :

(1) To maintain close relations and the exchange of publications with the hydrographic services of other nations :

(2) To take part in all international conferences and congresses dealing with hydrography, drawing up memoranda and proposing to the Directing Authorities the best procedure which shall appear suitable in all things with which the Hydrographic Service has to do, with the object of causing it to reach and to maintain the highest efficiency.

(3) To propose to the Directing Authorities the appointment of such hydrographic chiefs and officers, whether attached or not to the Service, for the purpose of making both at home and abroad studies of new appliances and methods in the practice of hydrography and in the engraving and printing of nautical charts with the object of applying them to our Service if found advantageous.

(4) To study and propose to the Authorities projected work which should be carried out by the Hydrographic expeditions, noting the most modern and practical methods to be used in the execution thereof, such notes being the result of studies made by the personnel of the Service in technical books and of their relations with foreign hydrographic centres.

(5) The examination of the charts and plans made by the hydrographic expeditions and the selecting and proposing to the Authorities those which should be published.

(6) The study of tides, currents and meteorology off the coast of the PENINSULA, of the BALEARIC and CANARY ISLANDS, of the SPANISH PROTECTORATE IN MOROCCO and of the SPANISH POSSESSIONS on the WEST COAST OF AFRICA and in the GULF OF GUINEA.

(7) The construction, drafting, engraving and printing of hydrographic charts and plans. The editing of the *Anales Hidrográficos*, *Light Lists* and *Lists of Maritime Signals*, *Sailing Directions*, etc., the publication, issue and sale of all these publications.

PRINCIPLE C.

(1) The personnel appointed to the Hydrographic Service shall be equal in number and in employ to that of the existing Section of Hydrography, namely :

- 1 Captain-Hydrographer.
- 1 Commander-Assistant Hydrographer.
- 2 Lieutenant-Commanders.
- 1 Lieutenant.
- 4 Cartographers.
- 6 Permanent Engravers.
- 3 Supernumerary Engravers.
- 1 Employee in charge of the ruling machines.
- 1 Conservator of chart plates.
- 1 Master Printer.
- 1 Photographer.

(2) The Captain and the Commander must be experienced hydrographic specialists and the former shall be the chief of the Service, but both of them may be replaced by other heads of inferior rank should none of the proper rank be available..... (*Deals with remuneration*).

(3) The remaining Heads and Officers shall be appointed from the general service provided that all of them, or at any rate the greater number of them, are specialists in hydrography; they may be taken from other employment in order to fulfil this requirement.

PRINCIPLE D.

(1) The Captain, two of the other Heads and one of the staff, besides one cartographer, shall have their offices and carry out their work in the Observatory and for this purpose there shall be allotted to them furniture and other requisites from the existing hydrographic section, as well as the necessary rooms.

(2) As auxiliary personnel there shall be placed under their orders an assistant and a clerk from the office personnel.

(3) The Head of the Hydrographic Service shall be a member of the Permanent Committee on Lights, but he may delegate this duty to the Chief of the branch office in Madrid.

PRINCIPLE E.

(1) The other Chief of the staff and all of the personnel which is not mentioned above shall have offices and shall work at the Ministry of Marine where they shall be under the rules which govern the interior organisation of that Ministry.

(2) This Chief shall have under his immediate orders all the personnel which resides at Madrid consisting of cartographers, engravers, the man in charge of the ruling machine, the conservator of chart plates, the master printer and the photographer.

(3) To assist him there shall be placed under his orders an assistant from the office staff who, in addition to these duties, shall have charge of the stores and in this connection shall be under the orders of the Administrative Officer of the Observatory.

(4) This personnel shall be wholly under the orders of the Head of the Hydrographic Service and shall be considered to be on detached duty in Madrid.

(5) This Chief shall take part in the meetings of the Permanent Commission on Lights as the Delegate of the Head of the Hydrographic Service should the latter be unable to attend.

PRINCIPLE F.

There being at present a library of the Department of Navigation based on the old library of the original Depósito Hidrográfico (now the Hydrographic Section) all works which are directly or indirectly related to hydrography shall be taken therefrom and shall be handed over to the Observatory.

PRINCIPLE G.

(1) The *Anales Hidrográficos*, *Sailing Directions*, *Lists of Lights* and of *Maritime Signals* and other printed publications shall be printed whenever possible at the Observatory press. Those which it is not possible to print at that press, shall be printed by private contract.

(2) The handling of all publications, including that of nautical charts, shall be the same as that of those which are now published by the other sections of the Observatory.

PRINCIPLE H.

(1), (2), & (3) (*Deal with rates of pay*).

PRINCIPLE I.

(1) The hydrographic expeditions will receive orders direct from the Hydrographic Service on all subjects which deal with the carrying out of hydrographic work which has been approved and ordered by the Authorities, with the formulae and methods of calculations which they should use, with the use of instruments and methods of observation, with the drafting of plans and charts, with the testing of new instruments and processes and with the observation and collation of data for the study of tides, currents and meteorology.

(2) Whenever the Head of the Hydrographic Service considers it advisable, he will visit the hydrographic expeditions and make enquiry with reference to the progress and execution of the hydrographic work.

PRINCIPLE J.

The detachment of hydrographic assistants of the hydrographic expeditions and the whole of the crew shall be attached to the Hydrographic Service

PRINCIPLE K.

(1) and (2) *Arrange for transfer of credits in the Budget.*

PRINCIPLE L.

The Director of the Observatory shall place before the Authorities the regulations which govern the interior organisation of the Hydrographic Service which shall be based on those which govern the other sections of the Observatory, taking care that in their working, all matters are treated by the most modern methods which national practice may suggest and which he may obtain from information gathered at the international hydrographic conferences, from relations with similar organisations abroad, and from the Hydrographic Bureau at Monaco.

PRINCIPLE LL.

(1) Before carrying out the transfer of stores, material, books, charts, etc. which are now in the Depósito Hidrográfico, these shall be closely inventoried in order that only those which are of present use and of historic and scientific value, shall be handed to the Observatory. All those which do not fulfil these conditions shall be sold.

(2) *(Deals with the cost of transfer).*

ARTICLE II. — The Minister of Marine shall take the necessary steps and give the necessary detailed orders so that the principles set out above shall be carried out.

7th December 1927

(Signed) : ALFONSO.

