NEWS IN BRIEF...

ICSU REVIEWS SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF CLIMATE AND CLIMATIC VARIATIONS

The interests of IUGS and INQUA were represented by **Dr. Richard G. West** of Cambridge in a meeting convened in March by the International Council of Scientific Unions to consider the need for a forum to bring together expertise on climatic research and to relate it to the activities of organizations such as the WMO.

During the session reviewing ongoing ICSU studies on Meteorology, Oceanography, Cryology, Palaeoclimatology and Simulation/Modelling, Dr. West commented on the IUGS interest in palaeoclimatology (especially insofar as some of the IGCP projects were concerned), as well as the interests of SCOR, SCAR, IGU (e.g. the Periglacial Commission), INQUA (including "committees" on sea-level, Quaternary of the oceans, tephrochronology), and IPOD. He noted the value of co-operative projects and the necessity for any committee dealing with climatic research to include on it a member involved in the "time-factor" of climatic change.

The importance of sea-level change and of vulcanicity was discussed. Dr. West expressed the view that while palaeoclimatological input into climatic research was very diverse, there was no focal point for bringing together the many interests.

The meeting focussed on a general discussion of research and data needs and on the possible organization of a committee dealing with climatic research. Representatives concluded that the JOC of GARP/WMO might evolve into a JOC-like committee dealing with a wider range of climatic research interests; it would probably include a palaeoclimatologist. The services and data needs could be considered by this committee, while impact studies would require a separate committee of experts involving collaboration with various international bodies.

The meeting was held at the Royal Society in London, England and was attended by some fifteen representatives of ICSU and its bodies, including SCOR, SCOPE, SCAR, COSPAR, GARP, SCOSTEP, IAMAP, IAPSO and IUBS.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL PROBLEM EXAMINED BY ICSU

A small "preparatory committee" has been established within the International Council of Scientific Unions to examine the problem of waste disposal from nuclear reactors and to identify the areas in which ICSU's contribution could be most useful.

NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

REVIEW COMMITTEE OF IUGS SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FORMED

(Continued from page 28)

Meeting in Paris May 12-13, committee members concluded that the primary focus of a possible ICSU study should be on the ultimate disposal of nuclear wastes, although long-term storage could not be ignored (for example, storage of liquids resulting from re-processing of irradiated fuel, or storage of irradiated fuel held for potential re-processing). Once agreed on, the proposal will be circulated to all scientific and national members of ICSU for decision at the General Assembly in Athens next September.

The committee felt that ICSU might comment on the following selected problems which could best be appraised by appropriate specialized working groups:

1. Terrestrial Underground Disposal
2. Marine Disposal
3. Disposal in the Antarctic Ice-sheets
4. Extraterrestrial Disposal
5. Pathway Analyses
6. Alternative Possibilities for Energy Systems
7. Perceptions of Problems

The leaders of the various working groups (whose members would be named by the appropriate unions, associations and committees) could form a Steering Committee under an "independent" chairman appointed by the President of ICSU. The Steering Committee's mandate would include

- studying existing and planned R&D so that programmes could be appraised and suggestions made;
- examining coordination between programmes sponsored by international inter-governmental agencies;
- identifying possible gaps in programmes;
- commenting on adequacy of individual and collective programmes; and
- preparing for the ICSU General Assembly in 1980 an outline of a document incorporating the results of the working groups' studies and a summary of conclusions.

IUGS input would probably be sought in the work undertaken by the Terrestrial, Marine, Antarctic, and Pathways working groups.

The President of ICSU, **Professor F.B. Straub** (Hungary) established the preparatory committee following a decision taken by the ICSU Executive Board and the General Committee in September 1977 to initiate studies in the following key areas: agriculture, scientific aspects of climate and climatic variation, and radioactive waste disposal. The proposal that ICSU consider the possibility of studying what is being done to ensure that wastes from the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle are safely disposed of originated from the National Academy of Sciences of the USA and was supported by both the National Academy of Engineering and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The May meeting, convened by **J.M. Harrison** (Canada), past President of ICSU, was attended also by **V.S. Emelyanov** (U.S.S.R.) - Corresponding Member of the Soviet Academy; **H. Lacombe** (France) of the Laboratoire d'Océanographie Physique; **G.F. White** (U.S.A.) - Chairman of SCOPE, and **Y. Yamamoto** (Japan) - Professor Emeritus of Engineering. **A. Preston** of the Fisheries Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Lowestoft, U.K., was unable to attend.)

Dr. J.M. Harrison (Canada) has agreed to act as Chairman of an Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the current status and the future scope of the IUGS scientific program. At present, the other Committee members are **Professor Derek Ager** (U.K.), **Professor Herwig F. Holzer** (Austria), **Dr. Yves Lancelot** (France) and **Professor Jan Petranek** (Czechoslovakia). The President and the Secretary General of IUGS are ex-officio members.

The Committee hopes to consider and evaluate

- current IUGS scientific aims, responsibilities and procedures;
- relationships between IUGS and its constituent bodies, affiliated and other international organizations, as well as the geological community in general;
- the scope of IUGS scientific work - its present and possible future impact on the development of geoscience; and
- a framework for appraising and monitoring the IUGS scientific program on a continuing basis, including procedures by which new scientific initiatives could be formulated, launched and evaluated.

The Committee plans to seek advice not only from the main groups currently responsible for IUGS scientific activities, that is the Commissions, Committees, and "Joint Ventures" (The Inter-Union Commission on Geodynamics and The International Geological Correlation Programme), but also from Affiliated Organizations and appropriate scientists who are or have been involved in other international organizations.

Since the mandate is extensive and the results vital to IUGS' general reappraisal of its constitution, its organization and its financial bases and operations, the Committee expects to present a preliminary report to the Executive Committee at the next Annual Meeting scheduled for January 1979, and a more definitive report by the end of 1979. It is anticipated that this report will then be submitted to the Council in July of 1980, together with the draft for the new Statutes, currently under review by the IUGS Constitution Committee.

The decision to establish a scientific review committee was taken by the Executive Committee at its last Annual Meeting (see EPISODES, March, 1978, p. 25) in response to a general concern expressed over the need for IUGS to keep better pace with the evolution of geoscience, to set firm scientific objectives and priorities and to improve its links with the geological community. Dr. Harrison, who is well-known in the international arena having served as Assistant Director General for Science at UNESCO, was also the founding President of IUGS (1961 - 1964) and Past President from 1964 to 1968.

Dr. J.M. Harrison

NEWS IN BRIEF (continued)

26th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS
PARIS, JULY, 1980

UPDATE

Following the meeting held on February 20, 1978 between the Congress Organizing Committee and representatives of IUGS, the Committee has been contacting the designated scientists in the various countries to ensure their participation in the organization of the Congress Sections and Symposia and their agreement on the scientific agenda as defined on February 20.

A meeting with representatives from the 19 countries hosting field excursions at the Congress took place in Paris on May 16 - 17. The purpose of this meeting was to narrow down the range of the possible field excursions (as listed in the First Circular on the Congress) according to the responses received to the Circular. 91 field excursions have been retained and these will be listed in the Second Circular. Each country will provide excursion participants with a descriptive guide book summarizing the geology of that country.

SPECIAL NOTE: FIRST CIRCULAR

While 4,500 responses to the First Circular were received by May 15 - the official deadline, some may have been delayed due to unforeseen distribution difficulties.

In view of this, the Organizing Committee is prepared to accept and record all forms or letters submitted to the Congress Secretariat at the address given below.

Should you wish to receive general information on the forthcoming Congress, or be placed on the circulation list for future Circulars, please write to:

SECRETARIAT DU XXVI C.G.I.
77, rue Claude Bernard
75005 PARIS
FRANCE

or clip and send this form:

Please send Congress Circulars.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Telephone: _____

Several changes in responsibilities amongst Congress Organizing Committee members were announced recently by the French National Committee for Geology, as follows (*denotes change):

M. J. Aubouin	President
M. C. Allegre	
* M. J. Bodelle	 Vice Presidents
M. J. Dercourt	
M. C. Sallé	
* M. P. Sangnier	Secretary General
* M. J. Halfon	Deputy Secretary General
M. R. Bourrouilh	Treasurer
Mme. B. Lepeltier	 Assistants to the
* Mme. M.J. Lienhardt	Secretary General

Paul Sangnier, Secretary General of the 26th International Geological Congress, at the entrance of the headquarters of the Congress Secretariat - La Maison de la Géologie, Paris.

PROGRESS ON MULTILINGUAL THESAURUS

At a meeting held in Prague, Czechoslovakia late in April, the joint working group (IUGS Committee on Geological Documentation and ICSU Abstracting Board) developing a multilingual thesaurus in geology concentrated on the following:

- discussing and incorporating into the multilingual thesaurus (MT) file the new descriptors introduced by the American Geological Institute, the French-German-Italian-Spanish group, Canada and the USSR;
- reviewing the systematic lists for stratigraphy, rock names, soils, minerals, palaeontology, chemical compounds and elements, commodities, extraterrestrial bodies and meteorites, and geographic terms; and
- modifying the file structure (for example, introducing USE-OR relationships in some special cases where linguistic considerations or individual indexing philosophies necessitate this).

The MT file as it now stands includes the basic terminology (key entries) taken initially from the Glossary of Geology, as well as terms taken from existing national thesauri. Once additional new terms from thesauri and

NEWS IN BRIEF (continued)

systematic terms have been included in the file, it will be tested, edited, programmed and published as a working model for presentation to the International Geological Congress in 1980.

Over the 1977-78 working year, some 4,500 terms were corrected or introduced to the file by the German Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) which supplied the necessary programming and keying for this work. The total Czech version has been introduced, while the French, German, Spanish and Italian versions have been thoroughly homogenized and controlled by computer programs.

The Prague meeting was the sixth session of the joint working group. The Chairman, **Dr. H. Glashoff** (BGR, FRG) and the Secretary, **Dr. J. Gravesteijn** (BRGM, France) have set tight working deadlines in preparation for the group's next meeting scheduled for June 1979 in Helsinki.

AGID HEADQUARTERS TO MOVE TO VENEZUELA

In order to facilitate closer contacts with developing countries, AGID Executive Officers and Council have accepted the invitation of the Venezuelan Ministry of Energy and Mines to house the AGID Secretariat in Caracas as of September 1, 1978.

Ing. Alirio Bellizzia, Director of the Geological Survey, will take over the duties of AGID Secretary, while **Emilio Herrero**, Chief of the Geophysical Division of the Survey, will act as Treasurer. **Victor Ricaldi** will be Executive Co-ordinator in charge of Headquarters operations, and a search is now underway for a second full-time staff geoscientist (preferably from Africa or Asia) who will have special responsibilities for francophone regions.

Meeting recently in St. John's, Canada, AGID Executive members (L to R): Dr. Antony R. Berger (Secretary-Treasurer), Emilio Herrero (incoming Treasurer), Dr. Roger A. Blais (Vice-President), Dr. Deborah Enilo Ajakaiye (President), Mrs. N. Bellizzia, Ing. Alirio Bellizzia (incoming Secretary), Dr. Victor Ricaldi (incoming Executive Co-ordinator), Dr. Leopold A. Heindl (Editor).

AGID

Association of Geoscientists for International Development

Services for Developing Countries

SURPLUS LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION

Have your surplus geoscience literature "recycled" by AGID and sent to selected libraries in developing countries otherwise unable to obtain this material.

Donations (books, journals, maps) are continuously needed. We arrange for collection and shipping.

Libraries in developing countries: write to us for details of material available.

Please contact: *Prof. John Moore, (AGID)*
Dept. of Geology
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 5B6

PERSONNEL ROSTER

AGID's growing roster includes over 500 member geoscientists interested in employment in developing countries. Referral service is freely available to LDC prospective employers.

Send your job descriptions to AGID HQ.

REGISTRY OF VISITING GEOSCIENTISTS

Geoscientists visiting developing countries: if you wish to act as a guest lecturer or "resource person", write to us for lists of contacts, stating your interests and itinerary.

Organizations in developing countries: interested in being added to this Registry? Send us your main fields of interest with information on local services provided to visitors.

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SERVICE

AGID assists with technical problems from developing countries - especially small-scale, low cost and labour-intensive approaches to exploration and development of minerals, groundwater and fossil fuels, etc.

Submit requests (indicating preferred form for answers i.e. references, machine copies, general advice, and language) to AGID HQ.

HQ ADDRESS: **AGID**
Department of Geology
Memorial University
St. John's, Newfoundland
Canada, A1B 3X5