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INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE
(IASC)

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A Report of the Working Group

July 14, 1988

Moscow, USSR

A PROPOSAL FOR AN ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

I.2. MANDATE FOR THE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group was appointed by the participants of a meeting (hereinafter called the IASC Planning Group) of scholars and scientists from Arctic countries (Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, USA, USSR) held in Stockholm, March 24-26, 1988, where it was unanimously agreed that an International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) should be established to promote international cooperation and coordination of scientific research in the Arctic. The Working Group was asked to develop a proposal for an organizational framework for the IASC. The proposed framework will be submitted to the IASC Planning Group for review and further action.

The Working Group is composed of:

O. Rogne, Oslo (Chairman)
 R.W. Corell, Washington (USA)
 A. Karlqvist, Stockholm (Sweden)
 V. Kotlyakov, Moscow (USSR)
 F.A. Mathys, Ottawa (Canada)

I.2. THE REPORT

The Working Group sought to prepare a concise report focusing on general principles, membership and role of the various parts of the organizational structure.

Several background documents about IASC already exist. The Working Group felt, therefore, there was no need for a lengthy report.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. IASC is a scientific committee charged with the initiation, promotion, exchange of information, coordination, and facilitation of scientific activity in the Arctic.

2. IASC, in carrying out its activities, shall be guided by the highest standards of excellence in science and by the principle of scientific openness.

3. IASC shall cover all subjects and fields of science for the benefit of the peoples of the Arctic and for the advancement

4.
of world science.

4. IASC shall cooperate with other international scientific organizations or programmes concerned with Arctic research.

5. IASC shall not interfere with the independent activities of any country carrying out research in Arctic.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The IASC shall be composed of:

- An Executive Committee
- A Scientific Council
- Working and Project Groups
- A Secretariat

Representatives at all levels in IASC should be appointed by an identified national scientific organization or committee.

The general terms of reference of each of these components of the IASC is described in the section that follow.

3.2. ORGANIZATIONAL DIAGRAM

3.3. EXECUTIVE (STEERING) COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall have overall responsibility for the activities of the IASC.
2. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing policies and guidelines. It shall endorse scientific programmes and projects to be undertaken by the IASC.
3. Membership shall be composed of a representative from a national scientific organization from each founding country.
4. The Executive Committee shall be chaired by one of its member.
5. Any decisions shall be based on consensus.

3.4. SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL:

1. The Scientific Council shall have the responsibility for overall scientific cooperation and coordination.
2. The Scientific Council shall be responsible for guiding the development of research programmes, projects and special activities consistent with the policies of the Executive Committee.
3. The Scientific Council shall be responsible for establishing and providing guidance to working and project groups.
4. Membership shall be composed of a representative of a national scientific organization from each founding country.
5. Membership shall also be available to a national scientific representative from non-founding countries with active and continuing independent programmes of research in the Arctic.^{X/}

^{X/} The USSR member of the Working Group expressed the wish to reconsider, if necessary, the implications of this paragraph. However, the principle of participation in the Scientific Council (Committee) by qualified non-Arctic countries is considered essential by the other members of the Working Group. This paragraph is to be discussed further.

6. Membership is limited to one from each participating country.
7. All decisions shall be based on consensus.

3.5. WORKING GROUPS

1. Working Groups are permanent. They are the main fora for scientific discussion, exchange of scientific information, and identification of possible fields of cooperation.
2. Working Groups are responsible for preparing and submitting projects and other scientific proposals to the Scientific Council. 3. Each member of the Scientific Council may appoint an individual to any Working Group. Additional membership shall be determined by the Council.

3.6. PROJECT GROUPS

1. Project Groups are ad hoc bodies. They are established to plan, organize and coordinate research project and programmes or undertake special tasks. 2. Each member of the Scientific Council may appoint an individual to any Project Group. Additional membership shall be determined by the Council.

3.7. SECRETARIAT

1. A Secretariat shall be established to serve the organizational needs of the IASC. For the first period, the Secretariat shall be located in one of the Nordic countries. 2. The Secretariat shall be directed by an Executive Secretary, who shall be responsible to the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary shall be proposed by the host country and appointed by the Executive Committee. 3. The host country shall provide basic funding for the operation of the IASC Secretariat. Basic funding includes: salaries for an Executive Secretary, office help, basic office expenses, and some travel funds.

3.8. FUNDING CONSIDERATION

Participating countries shall be responsible for travel or other related costs for their representatives to the IASC. Programme, project, or special activity costs shall be borne by countries participating in such efforts.

3.9. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Working Group recognize that several scientific organizations and individual scientists in non-Arctic countries are

making a significant contribution to Arctic science. Applications to join the IASC shall follow these guideline:

- (a) Membership is open to non-Arctic countries as stated in the membership paragraph of the various parts of IAS
- (b) Application to membership shall only be considered if submitted through a national scientific organization
- (c) The application must present a short statement in writing of its achievements in and proposed continuing programme of scientific research in the Arctic.

The Working Group expects that the Executive Committee shall work out a detailed procedure for such applications.

4. NEXT STEPS

(a) Proposed time schedule.

The Working Group suggests the following time schedule:

1. October 1988: Working Group report sent to all participants at the Stockholm meeting.
2. Leningrad, December, 1988: The report will be discussed at a meeting at the IASC Planning Group.
3. If there is general agreement with the proposed IASC the Working Group suggests that a founding meeting be held as early as possible in 1989.

(b) Development of the IASC organization.

The Working Group believes that the Executive Committee is responsible for guiding the establishment of the organization.