

THE 1992 COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT

IASC

The International Arctic Science Committee

The 1992 Council Meeting

Report

27 - 29 April, 1992

Reykjavik, Iceland

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IASC

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and
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IASC

The International Arctic Science Committee

The 1992 Council Meeting

27 - 29 April 1992

Reykjavik, Iceland

REPORT

Participants:	Canada:	Fred Roots
	Denmark:	Martin Ghisler
	Finland:	Pentti Mälkki
	France:	Claude Lorius
	Germany:	Gotthilf Hempel
	Iceland:	Magnus Magnusson
	Japan:	Takao Hoshiai
	The Netherlands:	Louwrens Hacquebord
	Norway:	Anders Omholt
	Poland:	Krzysztof Birkenmajer
	Russia:	Igor S. Gramberg
	Sweden:	Gunnar Hoppe
	United Kingdom:	Eileen Buttle
USA:	Norbert Untersteiner	
Observers:	Canada:	Gilles Breton
		Whitney Fraser
		Gerald Lock
		Barrie Maxwell
		Marianne Stenbaek
	Denmark:	Jens Peder Hart Hansen
		Jørgen Taagholt
	Finland:	Riitta Mansukoski
	Iceland:	Sigfús J. Johnsen (under item 3)
		Leó Kristjánsson "
		Svend-Aage Malmberg "
		Gísli Pálsson "
	Japan:	Nobuo Ono
	Russia:	Yuri B. Kazmin
		Vladimir I. Pavlenko
	Andrey I. Schola	
Sweden:	Dick Hedberg	
	Anders Karlqvist	
USA:	Sherburne B. Abbott	
	Gunter Weller	
The Secretariat:	Odd Rogne, Executive Secretary	
	Maryanne Rygg, Adm. Secretary	

A list of full names and addresses is included as **Appendix I**.

IASC

The 1992 Council Meeting

Report, continued

1. Opening and Reporting Session

1.1 Welcome and introductions

Participants were welcomed to this second IASC Council Meeting by the IASC President, Dr. Fred Roots. As some new Council members had been appointed, participants introduced themselves to the meeting.

In his briefing on practical information the local host, Professor Magnus Magnusson mentioned that participants at the meeting had been invited to a reception hosted by the President of Iceland.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as such was adopted. However, as some members would have to leave on Wednesday, it was agreed that the sequence could be changed in order to cover all major items in two days.

1.3 Report from the 1991 Council Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting

Comments had been received to the Human and Social Science part of the report, and were noted. Otherwise the report was accepted. It was noted that, in the future, reports would be distributed to Council members for comment and approval before being distributed externally.

The report from the 1991 Executive Committee meeting had been circulated to all Council and Regional Board members in early November 1991. No comments were received. All major items in the Executive Committee report had been included in the agenda for the 1992 Council meeting.

1.4 The President's report

The President informed that Dr. Jim Zumberge had died recently. Dr. Zumberge had held a series of prominent positions in science and in polar affairs. It was he who had called the informal meeting in San Diego that led to the discussions on establishing IASC. The meeting recorded its high regards and respect for Dr. Zumberge, and noted with sadness his passing away.

The President reported that he and Dr. Gunter Weller, Chairman of the IASC Working Group on Global Change Studies, had attended the IGBP/Standing Committee for Global Change START meeting in Vienna in November, 1991.

The President had attended the following meetings on the Protection of the Arctic Environment (the Finnish Initiative):

- The First Ministerial Conference on the Protection of the Arctic Environment in Rovaniemi in June, 1991,
- The first AMAP (Arctic Monitoring Assessment Programme) Task Force Meeting in Tromsø in December 1991, and
- The meeting on Conservation of Flora and Fauna in Ottawa in April, 1992.

Further information was given under agenda item 1.5, Arctic governmental cooperation - reports.

The President finally mentioned the multitude and frequent communications between the Executive Secretary and himself.

1.5 Arctic governmental cooperation - reports and discussion

1.5.1 Declaration and Strategy on the Protection of the Arctic Environment

IASC had been invited to the First Ministerial Conference on the Protection of the Arctic Environment in June, 1991. The President attended this meeting and gave a speech on IASC to the meeting (copies available from the Secretariat).

The IASC poster and other information material were produced by IASC for this meeting.

The Declaration on the Protection of the Arctic Environment and the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy were included in the agenda papers as item 10.1 and 10.2.

1.5.2 The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

Information on this programme had been reported to the Council and the Executive Committee earlier. Since then IASC had been invited to the first meeting of the AMAP Task Force in Tromsø, Norway in December 1991. The President and Executive Secretary attended. A copy of IASC President, Dr. Fred Roots' talk at this meeting was included in the agenda papers.

At the Task Force meeting it was suggested that IASC could assist AMAP in the following areas:

- to help develop a scientifically sound plan for an arctic health monitoring programme,
- to draw up proposals in which the traditional knowledge of indigenous people could contribute to and supplement the AMAP, and
- to consider the present state of knowledge and data regarding changes and trends in arctic climate and ice conditions.

The full text of the proposals is attached as **Appendix II**.

The IASC proposals were recorded in the minutes from the AMAP Task Force meeting.

1.5.3 Co-operative Measures for Conservation of Flora and Fauna (CFF)

At a workshop concerned with the development and implementation of cooperative measures for the conservation of arctic flora and fauna under the International Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy held in Ottawa 7-9 April, 1992 and attended by the IASC President, IASC had been invited to consider the following areas:

1. Participation in the establishment of a clearing house on international scientific information, and co-ordination of meetings and exchange of results of research on arctic flora, fauna and habitats,
2. Assistance in finding effective ways to include the knowledge and cultural values of arctic indigenous people into the work of CFF,
3. Consideration of whether the arctic global change research co-ordinated by IASC could give special attention to those areas of interest to CFF.

The full text of these requests is attached as **Appendix III**. Copy of a provisional workplan for CFF is available from the IASC Secretariat. The work plan will be sent to Council members when available for general distribution.

During the ensuing discussions in IASC Council, the *Council agreed that:*

- a. The President would write a letter to the workshop organizers to get more specific information on needs, organisation and the economy of the proposal for a "clearing house",*
- b. The traditional knowledge request was in part similar to that already discussed with AMAP and should be considered by the new ad-hoc group on human and social sciences. The President would inform the CFF organizers that this was being done, and*
- c. After consultations with the chairman of IASC Working Group on Global Change, the President would write a positive letter on the Global Change request to the workshop organizers.*

1.5.4 The State of the Arctic Environment Reports

Council was reminded that the studies included in these reports constitute opportunities for IASC actions as they would be continued. Information about these reports should again be included in IASC Progress.

1.5.5 Other information on Arctic governmental co-operation:

International Arctic Council

Some information was given on the present status of this proposal. A consultative meeting on the feasibility of establishing an International Arctic Council would be held in Canada in May.

Nordic Sami Research

It was reported that the Nordic Council of Ministers had agreed to a 5-year research programme on Sami issues.

Nordic Polar Research Report

A group had been tasked to produce a report on Nordic cooperation in polar research. The report had been finished, suggesting initiatives within climate, environment and Inuit cultural studies. However, there were as yet no funding commitments.

1.6 Reports from other arctic science organisations

1.6.1 MAB/Northern Science Network

Dr. Fred Roots, being also the Chairman of the International Advisory Group of MAB/Northern Science Network, reported on the following ongoing or planned research projects:

- Long term studies of birch forest ecosystems and the forest-tundra margins.
- ITEX (the International Tundra Experiment): a project on responses of specific plants to global change.
- Research on different community-based approaches to sustainable utilization of northern resources.
- A project concerned with the redefinition of bioecological zones of the Arctic.

Forthcoming MAB/NSN meetings of possible interest to IASC Council members included a workshop of managers of Biosphere Reserves and other protected areas in the Arctic, to be held in Alaska in September, and a conference on conflicting values and demands for northern resources planned in Norway.

Dr. Roots also mentioned that MAB/Northern Science Network has a secretariat in Rovaniemi (Finland) and that their newsletter tries to incorporate information on other research activities going on in the Arctic, including IASC. Copies of the current Newsletter were available at the meeting.

1.6.2 Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB)

Dr. Eileen Buttle, Chairman of AOSB, reported from the last meeting held 7-10 April, 1992.

Their main activities were:

- *The International Arctic Polynya Programme*
This programme includes studies of three different polynyas. A workshop will be held on the similarities and differences between the polynyas prior to the next meeting of AOSB to be held in January 1993 in Seattle, USA.

- *The Greenland Sea Project (GSP)*
GSP concentrates on interannual variability in the marginal ice zone. A major field operation will take place next year involving seven ships. A state-of-the-science symposium is being planned for November 1992.

AOSB also had a reporting session in their meetings on programmes close to their own activities. Such activity had included PIPOR (Program for International Polar Ocean Research), LIDEX and NAD (Nansen Arctic Drilling).

AOSB had also considered their relationship to IASC, but agreed to delay any decision until IASC had decided on their mission and strategy.

Meanwhile, AOSB had adopted its own statement, *AOSB Long-term Mission and Strategy* attached as **Appendix IV** to this report.

The Council noted the utility of having regular reports on AOSB activities and hoped that AOSB would welcome the same from IASC.

1.6.3 French Institute for Polar Research and Technology

Dr. Claude Lorius reported that this institute had been established in January, 1992, and that it will be engaged both in the Arctic and the Antarctic. At present they have a staff of 45 persons. Further information will be found in **Appendix V**.

1.6.4 The European Committee on Ocean and Polar Sciences (ECOPS)

Dr. Gotthilf Hempel summarized this initiative and included the following:
In 1986 the European Science Foundation (ESF) established a Polar Science Network. This network had implemented the following science programs in the Arctic:

- Deep Core Drilling in Greenland
- PONAM (the Polar North Atlantic Margin)
- EPOS (European Polarstern Studies), of which EPOS II was carried out around Svalbard.

In 1990 ESF and the CEC (Commission of the European Communities) established ECOPS (the European Committee on Ocean and Polar Studies). ECOPS consists of 12 persons, has some broad terms of reference and is mainly an advisory body on long-term strategy and fostering science projects.

Copies of the first publication from ECOPS: *The Ocean and the Poles* were available at the meeting. More detailed information will be found in this publication.

A series of Euro-Conferences will be held in 1993 on various themes.

In 1994 a final conference will be organized by ECOPS to draw conclusions from the series of theme meetings going on.

Dr. Hempel concluded that within Europe there is a polar program being developed of coherent activities (and not in conflict with national programmes). As to funding, it

was anticipated that in Europe national funding may weaken whereas supranational funding may increase.

It would be of interest to ECOPS to discuss an integration or an interlinking between a major European strategy and a circumarctic body as IASC.

(This report was given at the meeting as an introduction to a discussion of a *Workshop on Arctic Ocean Studies* - see agenda item 3.5).

IASC

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Report, continued

2. IASC Mission and Scope**2.1 Mission and Scope**

A paper was introduced by Dr. Norbert Untersteiner. A copy is attached as **Appendix VI**.

Comments:

Some Council members felt a need to emphasize the strength and uniqueness of IASC earlier in the paper (the circumarctic aspect; the interdisciplinarity as IASC includes all fields of science; the possibility of giving support to sciences in need of a circumarctic organisation; IASC as the only scientific organisation that links scientific academies and institutes in each of the countries engaged in arctic research; etc.)

The suggested advisory function was discussed. Most but not all members felt that IASC had a legitimate advisory role, provided that this function would be supportive and not interfere with the scientific activities of IASC. This function could be similar to that of SCAR and provide advice both to governments and science in a responsive way. It was pointed out that the Arctic does not have an international political organ that could consider and act on IASC advice in a co-operative manner.

Decision:

Council adopted in principle "the Mission and Scope" document but asked that a revised text be prepared, taking into account points raised during the discussion. Council advised that in the revised document, the strength and uniqueness of IASC should be emphasized, and featured earlier in the text.

2.2 Relation to other arctic science organisations

An agenda paper written by the Executive Secretary pointed to the need for clarifying relations to other arctic science organisations as a part of developing an IASC strategy document. One of the intentions when IASC was planned was to create an organisation that could offer a *multi-disciplinary* approach to science in the Arctic, and do so by supporting and building upon *existing scientific organisations* or cooperative networks.

It was suggested that:

- IASC should take on the responsibility for initiating and planning projects/programmes in the Arctic as a part of international global science programmes (for example IGBP/Global Change), and promote itself to global science organisations interested in a regional programme for the Arctic.
- IASC should establish a clear and, where useful, formally stated relation to existing organisations involved in arctic science. These relations can be

participation in an IASC Working Group, or in another form that is mutually agreed. Some guidelines were suggested for entering into the most appropriate cooperative forms.

Council agreed that in pursuit of its selected programmes, IASC should build on existing organisations if an appropriate organisation existed, and IASC should take on a strong role in helping to coordinate the arctic regional component of interdisciplinary science programmes that are international and global. It was also agreed that IASC should actively initiate such relations. The Executive Committee was asked to consider actions to be taken and also review the guidelines. No comments to the guideline proposed in developing cooperative relations had been received. Council members were encouraged to send written comments by 30 June. A revised version of the guidelines will be prepared by the Secretariat and distributed.

One Council member raised the question whether IASC should actively seek observer status in other scientific organisations. It was felt that this was an important question that needed some consideration. Members were asked to comment and possibly suggest relevant organisations before the next Executive meeting, and further discussion was left to the Executive.

2.3 Strategy

There was no separate paper on IASC strategy worked out for this meeting. However, the paper on *IASC Mission and Scope* (see item 2.1) and *A Draft Proposed to Develop an IASC Strategy for Scientific Research in the Arctic* (a paper initiated in and currently discussed in the Regional Board) served as an introduction to an unstructured discussion on possible elements to be included in a future paper on IASC strategy.

Decision:

Council asked Dr. Untersteiner to draft an IASC strategy document and report back to the Executive. The draft should be circulated to Council and Regional Board members. The IASC strategy document should be presented at the next Council meeting and constitute a major agenda item at that meeting.

IASC

The 1992 Council Meeting

Report, continued

3. Scientific Initiatives**3.1 Global change research in the Arctic.**

IASC organized a *Planning Workshop on a Regional Research Programme in the Arctic on Global Change* in Reykjavik 22-25 April.

Council members were briefed by the Chairman of the IASC Working Group on Global Change, Dr. Gunter Weller on the outcome of the workshop before the Council meeting, on 26 April. This session made it possible for the Council members to acquaint themselves more fully with the work being done.

The workshop was attended by 44 participants from 13 IASC countries as well as from international organisations [International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, IGBP/Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems (GCTE), World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) etc.].

The workshop had worked both in plenum and in working groups with the following tasks for the various groups:

1. Background and justification for each "core" (Why?)
2. Research objectives for each "core" (What?)
 - parameters to be monitored
 - process studies
 - modelling.
3. Listing of major current and future planned international projects that are relevant (Where? When?)
4. Specific problems and recommendations,
e.g. do the existing and planned projects meet the identified core research objectives? If not, what is needed?

During the workshop the working groups had started drafting a preliminary report with contents as mentioned above. As a considerable number of projects of a Global Change nature either were planned or ongoing, the main task would be to identify missing gaps and make links between the various projects or programmes.

Decisions:

Council congratulated Dr. Weller on a well organized workshop and tasked him to continue the preparation of the Workshop Report.

The report would be reviewed by the Workshop participants within three months, and an internal copy would also be distributed to Council and Regional Board members for comment.

The next action could be to send the report to a wider group of interested arctic scientists for comments. Appropriate international organisations such as IGBP/START, WCRP and core groups of IGBP, SCAR, GOOS etc. would be informed, and a copy of the report would also be sent to AMAP and CFF as a preliminary response to their interest in the subject. Brief summaries should be published in international newsletters and journals (the IGBP Newsletter, EOS etc.).

Council agreed that another workshop would be needed. There would likely be a need for increased emphasis on the human and social sciences.

Council made no decisions on an implementation strategy for the programme, but such decisions were envisaged shortly after the next workshop. Council members were asked to explore opportunities for support to this programme, including national funding of a secretariat.

As SCAR has planned a similar programme for the Antarctic (by a working group chaired by Dr. Weller), the question was raised if some formal linkages should be established. Council agreed that the two programmes should be in touch, but wished, however, to see further progress in our own plans before any decisions were taken as to any direct linkage or co-operation.

3.2 Human and Social Sciences

The IASC ad-hoc group on human sciences in the Arctic had submitted a document called "Arctic Human Sciences: Trends and Recommendations". The report was introduced by the chairperson of the group, Dr. Marianne Stenbaek.

In addition to the contents of the report, Dr. Stenbaek mentioned that several organisations had been initiated within these sciences since the founding of IASC, and she pointed to the need for restructuring the ad-hoc working group. She had also been in contact with IASSA (the International Arctic Social Sciences Association) and reported that they would consider their relation to IASC at a meeting in October.

Comments by Council members were very positive as to supporting initiatives within human and social sciences in the Arctic. It was noted that a subgroup on the human dimensions of global change in the Arctic was convened at the IASC Global Change Workshop.

Some Council members reported on new national human and social science programmes in the Arctic, and advocated the timeliness for an IASC initiative at an international level. It was noted that the human and social sciences represented a multitude of sciences, and that it was important to find an organisational approach that could be adequate. It was anticipated that a "bottom-up" approach was very important, and to concentrate on science proposals that met the IASC philosophy.

Decisions:

Council thanked Dr. Stenbaek and her ad-hoc group on the work being done. Drs. Hacquebord, Maxwell and Stenbaek were asked to develop a proposal on how IASC could be involved in a further development, noting the various comments during the discussion in Council. They were asked to report back before the next meeting in the Executive (to be held October, 1992).

3.3 Medical and Health Sciences

At the previous Council meeting Dr. Jens Peder Hart Hansen had been asked to investigate the need and opportunities for IASC to play a role in facilitating international co-operation for research in medical and health sciences in the Arctic.

Dr. Hart Hansen had submitted a comprehensive report including a proposal for liaison and cooperation. He introduced the report to the Council and informed the Council as well about the activities of IUCH (the International Union of Circumpolar Health), of which he presently is the president.

At the AMAP Task Force Meeting, IASC had suggested that IUCH should assist in developing the Arctic Human Health Monitoring. Denmark has been appointed as lead country for this monitoring programme, and Dr. Hart Hansen reported that a draft programme for health monitoring would be sent out in a few months.

Council appreciated the positive interest of liaison and cooperation as expressed by IUCH, and recognized that IUCH was the expert body on health issues in the Arctic. Since IASC, as a matter of policy, wished to build on existing scientific organisations whenever possible,

Council decided to liaise with IUCH through its President. IUCH's Council was asked to constitute a standing advisory body to IASC as to medical and health services in the Arctic. IASC would also draw on IUCH advice as to including these sciences into multi-disciplinary programmes being initiated or supported by IASC.

3.4 Arctic Geology and Geophysics

3.4.1 Working group for geophysical compilation and mapping

Preliminary proposals to establish a working group within this field had been suggested to the Executive in 1991 independently by Canadian and Russian scientists. The Executive had asked Dr. Macnab (Canada), together with Dr. Gramberg, to present a more detailed proposal to the Council Meeting.

A comprehensive proposal had been submitted and was introduced at the Council Meeting by Dr. Gramberg.

Council agreed to establish a working group in this field, but the link to the working group in geology needed further clarification (see 3.4.2).

3.4.2 The Marine Geological Sciences Panel

A late paper suggesting an IASC Marine Geological Sciences Panel had been circulated and was introduced. The proposal suggested two working groups: one for geophysics and one for geology, supervised by a co-ordinating panel.

Council questioned the need for a co-ordinating panel *between Council and the proposed working groups*, although a panel to provide linkage *between the groups* might be useful.

Further, Council noted that no specific science program had been suggested for the proposed working group on geology and recommended that such details needed to be worked out before a group would be established.

Decision:

Council decided that an ad-hoc group should propose a specific science program for this group and report back to the Executive. The ad-hoc group was also asked to suggest how the working group for geophysics and geology best could be linked. Dr. Gramberg was asked to initiate this process.

3.5 Workshop on Arctic Ocean Studies

This proposal was introduced by Dr. Hempel as a continuation of his report on ECOPS (see item 1.6).

As several scientific programmes were planned in the Arctic Ocean, there was a need to discuss coordination between these initiatives and address both the central scientific questions and the logistical and administrative problems related to co-operative studies of the Central Arctic Ocean and its shelf seas.

The proposal was for IASC to establish an ad-hoc group to plan a workshop, thereby bringing all interested groups together.

Decision:

The Council took note of the ongoing actions of AOSB and ECOPS in the promotion of co-operative work in the Arctic Ocean. In view of its circumpolar perception and membership and multi-disciplinary perspective, IASC wishes to take part in those activities. It therefore supports the idea of a joint workshop on Arctic Ocean Studies to be held in 1993, possibly in Russia.

Membership of the planning group for the workshop should reflect the interests of the three participating organisations. Dr. Hempel is asked to report back to the IASC Executive at its next meeting.

3.6 Catalogue of arctic scientific data

On this subject, the Executive had in 1991 recommended to Council that "IASC takes no further action at this time. It should await the outcome of the impending activities related to AMAP and the GRID-Arendal inventory, and co-operate with them if a useful role for IASC becomes apparent."

Some other recent initiatives, such as the report from the Regional Board and from the meeting on Conservation of Flora and Fauna pointed to the needs for some internationally co-ordinated activities within this field. It had been suggested that IASC would be an appropriate body to give attention to this problem. Council therefore re-examined the subject.

Council members pointed to the difference between data for scientific versus regulatory purposes, and advised strongly against IASC being involved in regulatory data. There were severe doubts if any action to develop a comprehensive international arctic data system would be useful in proportion to the effort and expense it would

entail. However, developing a directory of existing arctic scientific data bases could be worth exploring.

Decision:

Council decided that a small group of experts should be identified to advise IASC on appropriate actions to be taken (if any) with respect to developing a catalogue of arctic scientific data bases.

Council members were asked to identify possible members of such a group.

The Executive Secretary was asked to initiate this decision.

3.7 Inventory of major arctic scientific activities

The need for an all-embracing inventory of this kind had earlier been questioned, and it had been suggested that IASC wait until some specific needs arose before further action was taken. However, publication of national directories had been encouraged.

The Executive had recommended to Council

that IASC

1. *note the progress and scope of other ongoing inventories of research*
2. *urge all member countries to compile or up-date their lists of research.*

At the meeting Council members were informed that Canada, Norway and UK had published national directories, and information about them had been listed in *IASC Progress*. It was also noted that The Netherlands was compiling a national directory and that Iceland had done so for scientists involved in research on Arctic Global Change.

Council accepted the recommendations made by the Executive, and noted the progress in publishing national directories. Members were encouraged to send the IASC Secretariat a copy of new directories so that information on them could be included in IASC Progress.

3.8 Opportunities for future scientific actions

3.8.1 Arctic glaciers

A proposal called *Arctic Glaciers and Global Change* had been circulated, suggesting a network for monitoring the mass balance of a representative selection of small or medium-sized glaciers in the Arctic. Also some information on a glaciological workshop to be held at the Polish Station in Svalbard had been distributed. The workshop intended to discuss "a working group on glaciological research in the European Arctic with special interest in studies of the glacier evolution due to contemporary climatic changes."

Council was also informed that at a recent international glaciological meeting in Copenhagen there had been an agreed recommendation that an international group should be established to study the small glaciers of the Arctic.

Comments from Council members were that this was an interesting initiative that could fit into IASC activities. The terms of reference should also consider whether it

would be advisable to include ablation from the Greenland ice sheet (as sea level rise is one main area of concern in Global Change), and possibly also to include pollution studies of the glaciers. It also would be important to ensure that there was liaison and, if possible, support or approval from the International Commission on Snow and Ice (ICSI) and the Permanent Service on the Fluctuations of Glaciers (PSFG), who have international programmes related to mass balance of glaciers.

Decision:

Council agreed that this is an interesting initiative, which should get IASC support if it does not run counter to or duplicate other international glaciological programmes. Before establishing a working group, an ad-hoc group of glaciologists should develop a scientific program and terms of reference. The Chairman of the IASC working group on global change should also be asked to comment on this proposal. Council members were requested to propose members of an ad-hoc group. The Executive Secretary was tasked to initiate further progress. The ad-hoc group should report back to the Executive.

3.8.2 The Arctic ozone depletion - causes and effects

Dr. Eileen Buttle introduced this proposal at the Council meeting.

Recent evidence continues to show that the stratospheric ozone layer over the Arctic is being reduced, especially during the late winter period. This winter there could have been a dramatic ozone "hole" in the Arctic if the winter had been longer and colder.

Monitoring of the stratospheric ozone and studies of causes and processes of depletion are well in progress, although a main reason for concern with respect to stratospheric ozone depletion is the consequent increase in UV-B radiation.

There is as yet no satisfactory monitoring on a regional basis of UV-B as received at the surface. The UV-B instruments presently used are not ideal, and the reliability of data currently available is uncertain. Both improved instrumentation and measurements of UV-B, and basic research on the environmental and biological effects of UV-B are needed.

However, arctic ozone depletion should also be of concern to sciences outside the natural sciences. The social sciences could contribute vital information about effects on arctic settlements and industries, communication and risk analysis, etc. For the medical sciences, studies of physiological and psychological effects on northern residents would be important.

It was proposed that IASC initiate a multidisciplinary research project bringing together all relevant disciplines, thereby achieving added value for the participants.

Decision:

Council agreed that this proposal fitted well into IASC strategy. Dr. Eileen Buttle was asked to initiate further progress in consultation with:

- Dr. Hart Hansen (medicine)

***- Dr. Louwrens Hacquebord and Dr. Barrie Maxwell
(environmental change and effects on societies) and***

- Dr. Gunter Weller (global change)

and to propose to the Executive appropriate steps to be taken by IASC.

3.8.3 Zemlya Frantsa Iosifa Project (ZFI)

A paper distributed at the meeting by Academician I. S. Gramberg invited interested groups to participate in a geological and marine geological project on and offshore Zemlya Frantsa Iosifa (Franz Josef Land, north-eastern Barents Sea). Participants could get access via Svalbard and there would be a base on land Zemlya Frantsa Iosifa. VNIIO would support the project with scientific vessels.

A copy of the scientific opportunity is attached as **Appendix VII**.

Council welcomed the information from Dr. Gramberg and the opportunity for cooperative works in the Russian Arctic. **Council members are encouraged to pass this information on to possibly interested groups and organisations in their country. A note on this opportunity could also be included in IASC Progress.**

The Regional Board had held a meeting on 25 April in Reykjavik and had continued the discussion of the issues reported. Professor Karlqvist emphasized that the Regional Board would be supportive to the scientific activities of IASC in dealing with management, resources and the conduct of research, and that the Regional Board seeks to develop a close relationship to the Council, the Executive and the Secretariat.

Decision:

Council decided to invite the Chairman of the Regional Board to take part in the meetings of the Executive, and thereby ensure that the activities of the Council and the Regional Board would interlink.

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The 1992 Council Meeting

Report, continued

5. Administrative issues

5.1 Rules and Procedures

5.1.1 Appointment procedure

At the last Council meeting it was agreed that a paper on procedures for future elections should be worked out before the 1992 meeting, and an agenda paper was introduced. However, as IASC operates by consensus, "elections" would have to be deleted and replaced by "selected" or "appointed". A revised paper is attached as **Appendix VIII**.

As for terms of office, Council agreed to introduce a staggered system starting from the 1993 meeting, i.e. two persons of the Executive Committee would then be replaced by other persons who will serve for four years.

A proposal to have the past president serve on the Executive Committee was considered, but it was considered more important to have a flexible system that would allow the past president to be a member without making it compulsory.

Council agreed in principle to the changes made, and members were asked to review and possibly comment the revised procedure (see Appendix VIII).

5.1.2 Revision of Existing Rules and Procedures

A revised set of Rules and Procedures was "adopted by consensus as the operating rules until the next meeting of Council" at the 1991 Council meeting. As some amendments were made at that meeting, the final text was not available at the meeting and was consequently on the agenda for the 1992 meeting for final approval.

Since the last Council meeting there had been some changes in the way IASC operates, and an agenda paper suggested several minor corrections in the existing Rules and Procedures.

The previous Rules and Procedures have been corrected using the suggested amendments in **Appendix IX**, also taking into account the following comments made by Council:

- Election Procedure: change title, and use "select" or "appoint", not "elect". See agenda item 5.1.1.
- Terms of office corrected (see Appendix VIII - Appointment Procedure).
- Rule 12: "endorsement" substituted for "approval" at the end of the proposed text.

- Definitions and Criteria, par. 1: "Russia" replaces "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics".

Council members are referred to **Appendix IX** for the full amended wording of *Rules and Procedures*. Any comments should be sent to the Secretariat.

5.1.3 IASC Titles and other formalities

Several proposals suggested by the Executive were reviewed by Council, which decided

1. *The titles President be used, and consequently vice-president for other members of the Executive Committee except the ex-officio members.*
2. *Letterhead may be supplied by the Executive Secretary to those having a need for IASC letterhead. Copies of all correspondence where IASC letterhead is used should be filed with the IASC Secretariat.*

The Executive Committee is asked to propose a new rule on what an IASC officer can express in writing or orally on behalf of IASC. Until this rule has been adopted by Council, those having received IASC letterhead should be informed that a rule will be worked out, and they should be asked to be careful not to express any IASC opinions until the rule is adopted.

3. *Chairmen of IASC working groups can correspond and contact outside persons on scientific questions related to the working group. For these purposes the letterhead of their own institution could be used.*

Contacts between a working group and another organisation that has to do with funding, appointment and other major activities are to be made through or in agreement with the Executive Secretary. Copies of all correspondence of this sort should be filed with the Secretariat.

5.2. National Committees

The Executive had discussed the needs for an identified body in each country to provide active contact between the Council member and the arctic scientific community in each respective country. It was also recommended that this body included senior scientists (or science administrators) engaged in arctic research, so it fully could advise a Council member on issues to be discussed in Council, or bring forward to Council proposals that had been discussed at national level. It would also serve to ensure that activities of IASC become known to a broad representation of the arctic scientific community in each country.

The Secretariat had been requested to inform Council members on these recommendations and to collect information on such bodies as soon as they were established. This information is attached in **Appendix X**.

Council agreed that:

- *there was a need for an identified body or "national committee" to provide active ongoing contact between the Council member and the arctic scientific community in each respective country, and*
- *the National Committee should include senior scientists (or science administrators) engaged in Arctic research.*

5.3 The IASC Secretariat

The Executive had discussed several issues concerning how the Secretariat should operate, who they should be accountable to etc. An agenda paper introducing some proposals on tasks, responsibilities and terms of reference was discussed by the Council.

Council agreed that:

- *The administrative relations, tasks etc. for the IASC Secretariat be specified in its terms of reference.*
- *The Secretariat is accountable to the Executive Committee.*
- *The Secretariat shall prepare an annual workplan that will be presented to the President and reviewed by the Executive Committee.*

Council discussed item 3 in the agenda paper: *Decentralization*, and suggested the term *Regional Assistance Centre* instead of *Decentralization*. Such centres could render assistance to the IASC Secretariat on specific tasks of common utility to IASC. However, providing IASC information to a member's own scientific community is considered a national responsibility, although IASC encourages such activities.

The IASC Secretariat should continue to be the central focal point for IASC activities.

As the IASC Secretariat presently is housed together with the Norwegian Polar Research Institute and the location of this institute is under national consideration, Council briefly discussed the situation for the Secretariat if the institute should move. As the Secretariat is provided for an international organisation, IASC Council would be the body to decide its location.

5.4 IASC Information

An agenda paper gave a survey of IASC information activities. Council expressed its appreciation for the work being done.

It was noted that the Secretariat was compiling a mailing list for information material, assisted by information from Council members and others. Priority has been given to key arctic scientists, arctic research centres and administrators.

A question whether the Secretariat should provide information on arctic scientists and activities in different countries, i. e. to what extent the Secretariat should be an information and referral centre, was left to the Executive for further consideration.

5.5 Other Administrative Issues

The Secretariat had produced an agenda paper reporting on an IASC Handbook and IASC logo.

Preparation of a draft *IASC Handbook* was on the Secretariat's workplan for September 1992, as it was anticipated that Council would by then have decided on most of the items to go into a first issue of a handbook at the 1992 IASC Council meeting.

It was recommended that the Secretariat consider editing the handbook in two parts, as some information could change often and would need frequent updating.

Council noted that a first draft would be considered by the Executive Committee.

Council was informed that proposals received for an *IASC logo* were being reviewed by a group of designers, and that the outcome would be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive. Council members are still welcome and invited to deliver ideas or proposals.

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The 1992 Council Meeting

Report, continued

6. IASC Economy

At the 1991 IASC Council meeting it was agreed that there was a need for some common funds. Further details were discussed at the 1991 Executive Committee meeting and an abstract from the report from the Executive meeting was included as an agenda paper.

Common funds are needed for those expenses that are not met by national funding or by the government of Norway for operation of the secretariat.

Comments by Council members revealed that the majority would find the suggested contribution system acceptable, whereas others would prefer to contribute in a different way. For some members, funding for contributions would be easier to obtain if IASC were affiliated to ICSU.

Decision:

Council agreed that a budget of about \$100.000 should be raised by voluntary contributions from members. Members are invited to make contributions according to their level of Arctic science. Council members were asked to inform the Secretariat how or in which form it is feasible for their country to contribute. Contributions to start for 1993.

[Comment by the Executive Secretary:

Comments received to the draft of this report indicate that the wording as stated ***did not meet the approval of all members***. A better solution probably would have been

- to have a normal contribution system (acceptable to most of the members), and alternatively
- to explore other solutions for those members which have problems in principle with a contribution system.

The decision was a compromise between very different situations and seems to please neither the majority nor the minority. The word *voluntary* creates confusion for some members belonging to the majority, and the minority still have their principal problem.

The Executive Committee may have to reconsider the wording of this decision.]

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The 1992 Council Meeting

Report, continued

7. Other business**7.1 Possible future members**

- The polar research committee in Switzerland had indicated that they would be interested in applying for membership, but the time available was too short for an application to be submitted for consideration at the 1992 Council meeting. The Swiss Committee on Polar Research had been provided with full information on IASC and its activities.
- Italy had also expressed interest and were considering their qualifications. The question of being an observer at Council meetings had been brought up by them.

However, as IASC had no rules on observers other than from member countries, the question had to be discussed in Council first. It was noted that inviting observers to working groups or conferences was no problem, so this question only applies to meetings of Council.

Council decided that an observer from a non-member country could be invited to a Council meeting. Any applications should be sent to the Executive Committee for consideration. An observer of this type should only be invited for one meeting or a part of a meeting.

7.2 Arctic Science Conference

Council members had an exchange of ideas and views on an *Arctic Science Conference*, which is listed in the Founding Articles as one of the activities of IASC:

An Arctic Science Conference will be convened periodically by the IASC to identify key scientific questions and issues. The Conference will provide an international forum to:

- Review the current status of Arctic science,*
- Provide scientific and technical advice,*
- Promote cooperation and links with other national and international organisations, and*
- Increase understanding and support for the work of IASC.*

Council agreed that members should explore possibilities for funding and report back to the Executive Secretary. Proposals for scope and contents for a Conference are also welcomed.

7.3 Relation to ICSU

Council members had expressed an interest in a possible relation between IASC and ICSU under several agenda items.

Council agreed that members should explore with their national scientific organization the conditions, concerns, and obstacles involved in establishing an ICSU affiliation.

Council asked Dr. Claude Lorius to contact the Secretary General of ICSU to explore the conditions for becoming a member of or affiliated with ICSU.

