International Arctic Science Committee

THE 1997 IASC ANNUAL AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

REPORTS

5 - 7 MAY, 1997

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Two separate meetings were held, and two separate reports are included in this publication, separated by a color page:

The IASC Annual Meeting is an open meeting with a number of invited persons, aiming at presenting and discussing a few key issues.

The IASC Council Meeting is a decision-oriented meeting attended by members of Council, with members of the Regional Board as observers, in addition to a few regular observers.

There are several links between these meetings, as some of the issues presented at the Annual Meeting are followed up with decisions made by Council at the Council Meeting.

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1997 IASC Meeting Report
St. Petersburg, Russia

Executive Summary

The following IASC meetings were held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation:

5 May:	Meeting of the Regional Board Annual Meeting (afternoon)
6 May:	Annual Meeting
7 May:	Council Meeting

Some highlights from the meetings:

- **Italy** was unanimously voted in as the 17th member of IASC Council.
- **The Regional Board** will identify science issues relevant for the Arctic Council, and promote them through the Executive Committee.
- **IASC Mission statement changed** to:
  The Mission of IASC is to encourage, facilitate and promote the full range of basic and applied research, encouraging cooperation and integration of human, social and natural sciences concerned with the Arctic at a circumarctic or international level, and to provide scientific advice on arctic issues.
- **A Forum for Operators** was proposed and discussed. It was proposed that IASC organise a workshop on arctic logistics aimed at managers of national arctic programmes. See item 2.1.4 in the Council Report.
- **IASC Priority Projects**
  IASC will appoint a small group to propose criteria and procedure for an evaluation process identifying those projects that should be given this status.
- **IASC Project Catalogue** is a new undertaking to inform about all major IASC projects in planning. Available by 1 July, 1997.
- **New Projects**
  Planning was agreed to be initiated on the following project ideas:
  - Arctic Bathymetric Map
  - Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic
  - Rapid Cultural and Social Change in the Circumpolar North
- **New relationships** were agreed upon with:
  - Northern Forum Academy (NFA)
  - Polar Libraries Colloquy (PLC)

- **Election of President and Vice Presidents:**
  President: Dr. David J. Drewry, United Kingdom
  Vice Presidents: Dr. Bert Bolin, Sweden
  Academician Igor S. Gramberg, Russian Federation
  Mr. Barrie Maxwell, Canada
  Dr. Oran R. Young, United States of America

- **IASC Review Report**
  A review group had evaluated the first five years of IASC operations, and a number of recommendations had been suggested. Some of these recommendations are already under implementation, and the others were discussed by Council at this meeting.

- **Progress reports** for IASC projects were discussed and advice for improvements were given. Working groups for Global Change, for Geophysical Compilation and Mapping, and for Marine Geology were dissolved and replaced by an Earth Sciences Network.

- The **Next meeting** is to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA in early May, 1998.

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IASC Annual Meeting
St. Petersburg, Russia
5-6 May, 1997

Annual Meeting Report

INTRODUCTION

A new model for the IASC Annual Meeting was introduced this year. The intention was to bring up a few key issues of concern to arctic science and to IASC, inviting some key speakers from outside as well as from within IASC. The need for this change of contents of the Annual Meeting is a consequence of developments within IASC as well as a growing number of observers attending the IASC meetings. Hence the topics should be more outward-looking than internal.

IASC Issues

The main themes were:

- Science and the Arctic Council
- Contamination and Arctic Research
- Arctic Impact Studies
- Cooperation in the Russian Arctic
- Present and new IASC Projects
- New Cooperating Organisations, and
- The IASC Review Report

A brief summary report is given from this meeting.

1. OPENING SESSION

1.1 OPENING AND WELCOME

The President, Professor Magnús Magnússon, welcomed all participants to the meeting, including invited speakers and observers.

The participants were welcomed to Russia by Academician Igor S. Gramberg, Vice Chairman of the United Council of Russian Academy of Sciences for Arctic and Antarctic Research. He is Vice President of IASC and the IASC Council member from the host country.

Finally, members were welcomed to the State Research Centre of the Russian Federation, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute by Dr. Sergey Priamikov. AARI was the institution hosting the meeting.

1.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as suggested in the draft agenda.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN AN ARCTIC COUNCIL CONTEXT

During the last year IASC has discussed a potential relationship with the Arctic Council as IASC is the circum-arctic science organisation with a wide "mandate" incorporating both all the Arctic, as well as all other nations undertaking Arctic research, and this could be the logical organisation for the Arctic Council to turn to for advice on science issues.

The Arctic Council was established in September, 1996 and is at present discussing internal organisational issues such as terms of reference and rules of procedure, i.e. they have not begun discussing thematical issues such as their need for scientific issues.

In this situation, Mr Robert S Senseney, Polar Affairs Chief of the U.S. department of State was invited to talk on the Role of Science in an Arctic Council Context. His contribution "Science and Public Policy - an Arctic Perspective", was delivered by Chris Elfring of the Polar Research Board, USA; and is enclosed to this report (see Enclosure 1).

2.2 REGIONAL RESEARCH NEEDS

Within IASC, the Regional Board had been given responsibility for ensuring that IASC activities were consistent with the interests of the Arctic countries. The Regional Board had discussed a new task, namely discussing regional research needs and thereby helping IASC become a better advisor to the Arctic Council.

At their meeting earlier the same day, the Regional Board had agreed to support three new IASC project ideas:

- Arctic Bathymetric Map
- Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic
- Rapid Cultural Changes

(Papers on all proposals are available from the IASC Secretariat)

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS IN THE ARCTIC

Academician Erik M Galimov, Russian Federation had been invited as a key-note speaker on this theme. The title of his speech was "Ecological-Geochemical Research in the Arctic Basin".

Most of the data presented referred to the Kara Sea, and mainly to the possibility for contamination from nuclear waste. The main finding was that no significant contamination was detected from dumped nuclear waste, but this could be a potential risk due to corrosion. Hence, permanent monitoring would be important, and such monitoring could be combined with a number of suggested studies.

2.3.1 CONTAMINANTS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH

The Canadian member organisation of IASC, the Canadian Polar Commission, held a conference in October 1996 on "Contaminants, the Environment and Human Health". The report from the conference is published as Polaris Papers No. 10 by the Canadian Polar Commission.

The Chairman of the Commission, Mr Whit Fraser was invited to the IASC Annual Meeting to present the outcome and recommendations. In his remarks (delivered by Mr Barrie Maxwell), Mr Fraser emphasised that:

- there are significant gaps in our knowledge of northern ecosystems and food-chain dynamics
- there is a serious lack of long-term support for contaminants research which makes it difficult to identify trends, and
- more research is needed on the human health effects of contaminants in the northern diet

Contamination in the food-chain is a serious concern for those living in the Arctic, and especially for those having a traditional diet based on hunting and fishing.

(Mr Fraser's presentation is available from the IASC Secretariat.)

2.3.2 AMAP AND RESEARCH NEEDS

The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) was established in 1991 as one of the programmes under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS). This circumarctic governmental cooperation has initiated several other programmes. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR), Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME), and Sustainable Development and Utilisation (SDU).

AMAP has focused on collecting data and analysing contamination in all parts of the arctic environment. Their findings will be published in June 1997 in two assessment reports, one report to the Ministers (200 pages) and a scientific and technical report (1000 pages).
Their conclusions are that the Arctic environment in general is a clean environment, except for some "hot spots" and some parts of the ecosystem and human populations.

The AMAP Assessment Reports will give further details on research needs, but some examples were mentioned:

- Effect studies of climate change (ref.: IASC Impact studies)
- Effects of increased UV radiation (ref.: IASC project with the same contents)
- Transport processes (how pollution "travels" in the environment)

Considering closer cooperation between AMAP and IASC was suggested during the discussion, and the AMAP Assessment Report could be a basis for discussing specific projects.

2.3.3 CONTAMINATION AND HUMAN HEALTH IN THE ARCTIC

The conference mentioned under 2.3.1 prompted the IASC President to propose an ad-hoc group "to advise IASC on whether work could be initiated on research on *Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic*.

The ad-hoc group appointed included members from AMAP and IUCH (International Union of Circumpolar Health) to ensure that any research suggested would complement research ongoing or planned in these other organisations, and also the Director of the Center for Indigenous Peoples Nutrition and Environment (CINE), McGill University, Canada.

The chairman of the ad-hoc group, Dr Jens Peder Hart Hansen, Denmark, presented the report from the ad-hoc group.

Their **main conclusion** was that this issue should be taken up by IASC as a priority scientific topic, and that a planning group should be nominated to prepare a science and implementation plan.
As to possible **objectives** the ad-hoc group suggested:

- *Detailed information on the diet and food consumption patterns of specific Arctic populations, and the importance of wildlife in the diet;*
- *a better understanding of physiological and toxicological effect of contaminants on humans, especially on development of offspring, immunosuppression and endocrine disrupting properties;*
- *improvement of the evaluation of potential risk to human health associated with the consumption of certain contaminants at the observed levels of dietary exposure;*
- *integration of physical and biological models with information on environmental measurements of sources and pathways, to aid the design and implementation of monitoring, research and management, including mitigation;*
- *better knowledge about combined effects of contaminants on biota and humans, both at the individual and ecosystem level;*
- *better understanding of the pathways of transport of contaminants and deposition, and the influence of Arctic conditions on the transformation and fate of contaminants;*
- *development of the active participation of Arctic Indigenous Peoples in the work;*
- *improvement of risk assessment and risk communication to local communities;*
- *improvement of the use of local knowledge in environmental research.*

A copy of the full report is available from the IASC Secretariat.

2.4 ARCTIC IMPACT STUDIES

Impacts of global change (and in particular climate change) have been on the IASC science agenda for some time. Dr Gunter Weller, who has been a strong promoter for such studies in the Arctic, was invited to give the scientific background for impact studies, and the current status of the IASC impact studies (BASIS and BESIS) with a focus on the Bering Sea Impact Study (BESIS).

Impact studies are concerned with an assessment of impacts due to global climate change. They provide an excellent means of interdisciplinary analysis and synthesis of existing data.

The key questions asked by BESIS are:

- What current pressures and environmental stresses already exist in the region?
- What are the additional impacts of future global change in the Bering Sea?
- What are the uncertainties associated with assessing the projected impacts?
- What additional research is needed to remove these uncertainties?
- What mitigation and adaptation measures or policy decisions can reduce the impacts?

The BESIS project has been developed by bringing key scientists to workshops looking at effects on the natural environment, on industries and economic activities, and on native culture and the subsistence way of life. Users and stakeholders have been invited to these workshops to ensure that the assessment addresses major concerns of the user community.

The latest workshop report is available from the BESIS Project Office (Campus Box 7740, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7740).

The second Bering Sea Impacts Study (BESIS) workshop will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska on 3-6 June 1997.

A Barents Sea Impact Study (BASIS) workshop is planned to be held in St Petersburg, Russian Federation in early Autumn 1997, in order to gain more involvement from Russian scientists.

2.5 COOPERATION IN THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC

2.5.1 RESEARCH IN THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC

Academician Vladimir Kotlyakov, Chairman of the ISIRA Advisory Group was invited to give a talk introducing the Russian Arctic, research opportunities and about Russian Arctic scientists.

The Arctic and northern regions are economically important, and about 60% of Russian hard currency comes from petroleum, minerals, fish and timber from these regions. The oil and gas industry and mining of several important minerals have promising prospects for the future.

However, an economy in transition creates special problems in the northern territories. In addition, indigenous peoples' situation, sustainable use of and development of resources, severe funding problems etc. make a complicated mixture of problems and opportunities. Several problems require research such as those related to environmental issues, climate change, coastal/delta studies, socio-economic development, biological diversity, extraction of natural resources in a sustainable way etc.

Joint projects with foreign scientists are welcomed provided they address issues of concern to Russian scientists. Access to the Russian Arctic requires special permission under the administration of the Ministry of Science (foreigners apply through Russian embassies at least 6 months in advance).

Some years ago, a special initiative was taken by IASC to promote cooperation between Russian and foreign scientists. This initiative was called ISIRA (the International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic).

ISIRA has promoted the need for special funds for this type of cooperation, and several countries have established bi-lateral funding, as have several international (or multinational) organisations. ISIRA has also initiated some projects and workshops.

2.5.2 LOIRA: LAND-OCEAN INTERACTIONS IN THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC

In November, 1995 IASC sponsored a workshop in St Petersburg, Russia bringing together scientists working bilaterally in the Russian Arctic to consider broader cooperation.

The main cluster of interests was a coastal programme, and some initial ideas about the contents were formulated.

At ICARP, The International Conference for Arctic Research Planning, in December, 1995 these ideas were further discussed. As a follow-up action after ICARP, the IASC Executive Committee agreed to ask a Russian Organising Committee to convene a workshop to identify Russian priorities under this theme. This workshop was held in September, 1996 in Moscow.

Academician Alexander Lisitzin, the chairman of the Russian Organising Committee was invited to give a presentation of the present LOIRA plans. LOIRA has basically used the LOICZ (Land Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone, an IGBP core project) and ELOISE (European Land-Ocean Interaction Studies) plans and adapted them to the Russian Arctic.

The present LOIRA plan is a science plan with elements of an implementation plan. The latest version is presently undergoing linguistic and editorial improvements, and will be available from the IASC Secretariat.

The scientific foci are:

Focus 1: The Effect of changes in external forcing or boundary conditions on coastal fluxes

Focus 2: Permafrost of the coastal zone of the Russian Arctic seas.

Focus 3: Terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems: Changing environments under anthropogenic impact.

Focus 4: Studies on the structure and functions of the biological components of the marine ecosystems.

Focus 5: Geomorphology and prediction of topographical development in the coastal zone of the Arctic sector of Russia.

Focus 6: Carbon fluxes and trace gas emissions.

Focus 7: Social and economic development of the Arctic coastal zone

The suggested study areas are: the Pechora Sea and coastal zone; in the second stage: the Kara Sea coastal zone, and lastly: the coastal zones of the Laptev, East Siberian and Chukchi seas.

LOIRA has now been developed almost to an implementation stage, and foreign scientists are invited to discuss specific cooperative projects either bilaterally or multilaterally.

2.5.3 LAPTEV SEA SYSTEM

Brief information was given about a major, ongoing German-Russian project called "the Laptev Sea System".

It was also noted that scientists from Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom had been involved in this bilateral project. Plans had also been discussed for drilling in the Laptev Sea (also a part of the Nansen Arctic Drilling Programme).

2.5.4 THE RUSSIAN-US ATLAS OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN

Following the end of the Cold War, the possibility of releasing some Arctic data to the public domain was discussed by Vice President Gore of the USA and Prime Minister Tchernomyrdin of the Russian Federation. After a political agreement on this issue, the Subgroup on Arctic Climatology of the Gore-Tchernomyrdin Commission's Environmental Working Group started this work, and a significant amount of Arctic data was released earlier this year in the form of an atlas and CD-ROMs.

AARI (the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute) was one of the major contributors to this project, and scientists from AARI gave an overview of the Arctic data now made available from this project in atlas form. The presentation also included a demonstration of the CD-ROMs.

2.6 PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

The IASC Review Report pointed to the need for greater visibility of the IASC projects. This item was one of the responses to this recommendation. Two presentations had been selected for this purpose:

2.6.1 THE IASC PROJECT CATALOGUE

This catalogue was presented in a draft form, and starts with a summary of information about IASC and the principles for project selection.

Information on all IASC projects are the major contents of the catalogue, listing objective, main contents (scientific foci), planning information etc. IASC projects range from the project idea stage to implementation.

IASC has also initiated some smaller projects, mostly originating from previous years. They are not listed in the catalogue, but should be mentioned under past achievements.

The 1997 IASC Project Catalogue will be published late in June.
The Executive Secretary, Odd Rogne, gave a presentation of the Project Catalogue, as well as a status report on all IASC Projects.

2.6.2 WORKING GROUP ON GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION AND MAPPING

This WG was established in 1992 to promote a liaison among organisations and individuals engaged in the acquisition and analysis of observations which describe the physical parameters of the sea bed and the underlying crustal structure of the Arctic region. The main focus was on bathymetry, magnetic, gravity, and seismic data.

The chairman and secretary of the WG, Drs Jacob Verhoef and Ron Macnab both at Geological Survey of Canada, Dartmouth NS had prepared a "Concluding Report of the Working Group for Geophysical Compilation and Mapping" together with a number of transparencies showing what this data was used for (tectonic investigations, sedimentary basins, hydrate likelihood areas, ocean circulation, and delimitation of the judicial continental shelf). Further, the report included the current state of geophysical coverage in the Arctic (bathymetry, magnetic field, gravity field, and acoustic propagation).

This data network (WG) had made significant progress and most of its aims had been achieved. The work will continue, but developments had made the group superfluous in the present form.

However, a **New Bathymetric Map of the Arctic** was suggested as a new project (and a new project group).

The International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Hydrographic Office (IHO) have the international responsibility for cooperative projects leading to international maps (GEBCO). IOC has been contacted and there is support for improving the present GEBCO Sheet 5.17.

Information was given in the presentation about the GEBCO track lines, public-domain bathymetric data in digital form, SCICEX tracks and SCICEX missions after 1997.

An early autumn workshop is planned to be held in St Petersburg inviting all major data-holders. As most of the unreleased data is held by naval institutes, some agreement between these institutes is vital, or alternatively a political consensus that some of these data should be released to the public domain.

2.7 RAPID CULTURAL CHANGES IN THE CIRCUMPOLAR NORTH

An ad-hoc group chaired by Dr Jens Dahl, Denmark had been asked to identify research needs in this area. Dr Dahl presented their report, suggesting that the main goal should be the development of international, comparative, interdisciplinary and co-managed projects addressing the following major scientific questions:

- Indigenous and local environmental knowledge
- Social viability and cultural continuity
- Political dynamics, governance and collective rights.

For each focus, a number of sub-projects were listed.

As next steps, it was proposed that the suggested science priority will be circulated among stakeholders and scientists.

Later a planning group meeting was suggested for refinement of the three research topics, and a workshop during Spring 1998 to work out project proposals.

2.8 REPORT FROM NEW COOPERATING ORGANISATIONS

Last year, relationships with the Northern Forum Academy and Polar Libraries Colloquy were initiated. Representatives of these organisations as well as ACSYS (the Arctic Climate System Study) were invited to give presentations of their activities and the relationship to IASC.

2.8.1 NORTHERN FORUM ACADEMY (NFA)

The presentation was by Dr V N Vasiliev, Head of the Northern Forum Academy Secretariat.

The Northern Forum Academy was established to provide academic support for all the activities of The Northern Forum. NFA is a non-governmental international organisation established to facilitate cooperation between northern regions of the arctic countries.

NFA members are scientists, experts, businessmen, statesmen, public figures and organisations interested in research and development of the North and the Arctic, in promotion of ideas and projects covering all fields of NFA's activities. At present representatives from 12 countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russia, South Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) are NFA members.

NFA will encourage, facilitate and promote basic and applied interdisciplinary research and elaborations in the North to improve the knowledge basis for policies on the development, management and conservation of regional natural resources, the protection of the northern environment and cultural heritage and the support of northern residents. NFA will support the goals and objectives of The Northern Forum and will coordinate its work with The Northern Forum priority-project committees.

The Northern Forum Academy:

- establishes the scientific basis for activities of NFA
- assists The Northern Forum priority projects through advice or focused support activities
- produces reports and newsletters which further mutual understanding among northern residents and promote cooperation in solving common problems
- holds international conferences, seminars and meetings on actual northern issues
- strives to enhance capacity building through focused educational and training activities (courses, seminars, etc.) in northern communities.

2.8.2 POLAR LIBRARIES COLLOQUY (PLC)

Mr William Mills, Librarian of the Scott Polar Research Institute and secretary of the PLC gave a presentation of the PLC and how interactions between PLC and IASC could be developed. Further, he presented some of the bibliographic services available relevant to arctic research.

Major arctic libraries and their librarians and information specialists can contribute to the IASC science planning activities by bibliographies and other information services.

Mr Mills had compiled a bibliography on UV in the Arctic, as he had been informed that this IASC group had a need for it.

2.8.3 ACSYS - THE ARCTIC CLIMATE SYSTEM STUDIES

There is no formal agreement between ACSYS and IASC, but there is close contact between them, as the secretariats are situated adjacent to each other in the same building. There have also been close relationships between scientists as well as some joint initiatives.

Dr Christoph Oelke, Deputy Director of ACSYS gave a presentation of ACSYS activities.

ACSYS is one of the WCRPs projects (World Climate Research Program). The goal of ACSYS is to ascertain the role of the Arctic in global climate. To this end, ACSYS seeks to promote and coordinate national and international activities aimed at three primary objectives:

1. Providing a sound physical basis for accurate representation of arctic processes in global climate models:
2. Initiating long-term climate research and monitoring programmes for the Arctic; and
3. Understanding the interactions between the Arctic Ocean circulation, the ice cover, and hydrologic cycle.

2.9 IASC REVIEW REPORT

Two years ago, IASC appointed a Review Group to undertake an independent review of IASC activities and to recommend improvements.

Dr David Drewry, United Kingdom, had chaired the Review Group and presented their main findings.

The Group sent out a questionnaire to approximately 400 arctic scientists and their analysis and recommendations were based on the comments and information received.

Please find the "Executive Summary and Recommendations" enclosed as Enclosure 2.

3 CLOSURE

The IASC President extended thanks to all participants, and in particular all invited speakers and others making presentations.

1997 IASC Council Meeting Report

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LIST OF ENCLOSURES: **REPORT ITEM**

IASC COUNCIL MEETING
St Petersburg, Russia
7 May 1997

Council Meeting Report

ITALIAN APPLICATION

A special meeting of IASC Council was called on 6 May in the afternoon to consider the Italian application to become a member on IASC Council.

The IASC President, Professor Magnús Magnússon, welcomed the Italian representative, Professor Bruno Battaglia, and briefly explained the application procedure.

Professor Battaglia gave an overview of the Italian Arctic research activities as documented in the application, as well as future plans.

After a brief discussion in IASC Council, **Italy was unanimously voted in as the 17th member of IASC Council.**

1 OPENING SESSION

1.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted, although there were some changes in the sequence.

1.2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President pointed out efforts to make IASC more visible, including attendance at several meetings:

- **SCAR Meeting**
  The President had attended part of this meeting held in Cambridge, UK in August 1996. Possibilities for strengthening the relationship had been discussed.
- **Inauguration Meeting of the Arctic Council**
  Mr Barrie Maxwell had been asked to represent the President at this meeting. Further, the President has been active in ensuring that international science and IASC were mentioned in the Communiqué from the meeting, as they had been included in the Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council.
- **AEPS/SAAO Meeting in Oslo:**
  The outcome of the IASC discussion on *Ethical Principles* had been reported, and the SAAOs took over the issue and had their own discussions. At their next meeting in Kautokeino, Norway, they reached a conclusion close to the IASC conclusions.

  The Executive Secretary had drafted a part of the Sustainable Development and Utilisation document presented at the meeting, and a summary of the IASC SD-projects had been annexed to this paper.
- **Arctic Council, SAO Meeting in Oslo**
  This meeting was held immediately after the SAAO meeting, and participants were given the reports from the SAAO meeting. They discussed rules of procedure for the AC, but these were not finalised at this meeting. Further, they had agreed to invite the AEPS Accredited Observers to Arctic Council meetings.
  IASC is in this category, being the only science organisation in this group.
- **AOSB-EPB-IASC Meeting**
  The chairmen/presidents of these organisations had met in October 1996 to explore possibilities for cooperation and division of labour, resulting in a positive outcome.
- **SAAO/SAO Meetings in Kautokeino, Norway**
  Held in March this year. The discussion of *Ethical Principles* had been finalised as agreed earlier. The SAOs had not reached any final conclusions on rules of procedure for the Arctic Council.

- **Canadian Conference on *Contaminants, the Environment and Human Health in the Arctic***
  The President had been asked to take part in this conference. The outcome of the conference was reported at the IASC Annual Meeting, and also the report from an ad-hoc group considering a new IASC project idea. See papers for the Annual Meeting.
- **European Polar Board Meeting**
  Held in April 1997. This was attended by the Executive Secretary. EPB had agreed to focus their activity on implementation, and had agreed to use the IASC Project Catalogue (Draft) in their selection of project(s) for implementation.

Finally, the President expressed some thoughts on the Executive Committee and its composition, the Annual and Council meetings, tasks for the Regional Board, and the need for IASC to speak with one voice.

2 MAIN ISSUES

2.1 IASC REVIEW REPORT

A Review Group chaired by Dr David J Drewry, UK had delivered their report in September 1996 (see item 2.9 in the Annual Meeting Report). An Executive Summary and Recommendations are enclosed with this report as **Enclosure 1**.

The Executive Committee had discussed the report, and had initiated actions to be taken including asking Council members for national comments.

As Dr Drewry had presented the report at the Annual Meeting, Council started their deliberations directly on the recommendations.

2.1.1 ALTER MISSION STATEMENT

Council agreed to change the IASC Mission Statement (as suggested by the Review Group and worded by the Executive Committee) to:

> **"The Mission of IASC is to encourage, facilitate and promote the full range of basic and applied research encouraging cooperation and integration of human, social and natural sciences concerned with the Arctic at a circumarctic or international level, and to provide scientific advice on arctic issues."**

2.1.2 ARCTIC OCEAN SCIENCES BOARD (AOSB) AND EUROPEAN POLAR BOARD (EPB)

With regard to the recommendation to clarify relations with AOSB and EPB, Council noted that this had already been initiated (see item 3.5 in this report).

2.1.3 WCRP AND IGBP

The recommendation was for IASC to assume responsibility for developing the polar component of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the International Geosphere/Biosphere Programme (IGBP), and suggested initiation of cooperation between MAGICS and ACSYS, FATE and GCTE, and LOIRA and LOICZ.

Council was informed as follows:

MAGICS: At the WCRP meeting in Cambridge, UK, 3 - 5 February 1997 a presentation was given by the WG chairman proposing MAGICS as the terrestrial counterpart of ACSYS. This proposal is being considered by the Scientific Committee of WCRP, see proposal, **Enclosure 2.**

FATE: FATE has been adopted by GCTE, i.e. FATE is a joint project of IASC and GCTE.

LOIRA: Project in early stage. The LOICZ Core Office is being currently informed.

Sustainable Development: Affiliation would be sought with the International Human Dimension Programme (IHDP)

Council noted this information, and that these developments were adequately taking care of the recommendation.

2.1.4 FORUM FOR OPERATORS

This recommendation had been discussed by the Executive Committee and the Regional Board, which recommended the following proposal.

"It has been suggested that the managers of Arctic research programmes should establish a forum as a logistic counterpart to IASC. A rationale for bringing such a group together would be to facilitate international cooperation and to provide effective logistic support on an international scale. The IASC Review Group has strongly recommended such an action, and this recommendation has been supported by the IASC Executive Committee.

It is obviously outside the mandate of IASC to create such an operators' forum. It would also be inappropriate for IASC, as a non-governmental organisation, to try to incorporate representatives for governmental operating agencies. However, IASC can promote this idea by giving the managers an opportunity to get together with IASC to discuss a way forward.

We propose that IASC organise a workshop on Arctic logistics aimed at managers of national Arctic programmes, in conjunction with the IASC Annual Meeting in 1998.
In consultation with the host of the 98-meeting, IASC Council should appoint a small planning group to prepare the agenda and invitation for such a managers' forum meeting."

Council agreed to this proposal.

2.1.5 SCIENCE AGENDA

Most of the issues brought up under this recommendation are, or can be, included in the IASC Science Planning Guide, which had been drafted after the Review Report had been published.
Council noted or commented on the following issues:

- ***User representation in planning groups***

  Council agreed that IASC should consider engaging the user community when appropriate, but felt that it could be better achieved by inviting them to workshops etc. than having a rule that users should be represented on all planning groups.

- ***Publicise the Science Agenda***

  Council noted that an IASC Project Catalogue had been drafted, and agreed that this initiative could be an adequate first follow-up step (see also 2.2.4)

- *Effective Procedure for Identifying IASC Projects*

  Council agreed that it was necessary to have some specific rules, and requested the Executive Committee to come back to Council with a set of specific rules.

  Action: Executive Committee

- *Reviewing the Portfolio*

  Reviewing the portfolio of IASC projects will be a part of the Executive Committee/Council meeting agenda.

- *IASC Planning Guide* should be revised as a consequence of the specific rules mentioned above. **Council members should send any comments for improvements to the IASC Secretariat** (see also item 2.3)

2.1.6 MORE HUMAN SCIENCE

Council noted this recommendation, and further that several proposals would accommodate the recommendation.

2.1.7 FUNDING

The Executive Committee had recommended that the IASC Group of Funding Specialists be dissolved, as they had completed their main task.
At the meeting, Council was informed that the proposal for an Arctic group under IGFA (International Group of Funding Agencies) had not been accepted, as they were resistant to sub-groups.
It was proposed, therefore, that IASC should maintain a funding group.

Council agreed that the Executive Committee should consider maintaining a funding group, and suggest terms of reference and potential members.

Action: Executive Committee

2.1.8 ICSU

Council had previously agreed that IASC should apply for scientific associate status with ICSU (the International Council of Scientific Unions). Unfortunately, one of our member countries had misinterpreted this decision, and the application had been delayed.
Council was informed that the next meeting of ICSU would be held in September 1998, in Vienna.

It was felt important that IASC make this application without further delay, thereby manifesting that IASC represents the Arctic science community in the world of science.

Council concluded that this issue is of high priority and requested the Executive Committee to take necessary steps as soon as feasible.

Action: Executive Committee

2.1.9 ARCTIC COUNCIL

See item 2.6

2.1.10 IHDP AND IPCC

The recommendation that IASC should develop a closer relationship with IHDP and IPCC led to the following comments:

IHDP (International Human Dimension Programme)
This part of the recommendation was implemented, as Dr Oran R Young had been appointed co-ordinator of the IASC Sustainable Development projects, and as these projects would be seeking an affiliated status with IHDP.

Action: Dr Young

IPCC (The International Panel for Climate Change)
Dr Bolin is Chairman of the IPCC, and he reported that IPCC is not a research body, but concerned with assessments. He also informed that IPCC would be more concerned about regional aspects.
He suggested that while establishing a relationship to IPCC would not make sense, workshops organised by IPCC may materialise which are relevant to IASC.

Monitoring: Dr Bolin

2.1.11 ADVICE

IASC may not be asked directly for advice on a particular issue, but for the best knowledge or assessment of knowledge. The basis for offering this advice (or knowledge) is the ability of IASC to identify the best specialists. The way in which IASC will assume responsibility for an advisory report will be decided from case to case, usually by a formal approval from the Executive Committee/Council.

2.1.12 REVIEW WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

All groups are now asked to report as follows:

1. Full report for Council by 15 March: including research done, progress and funding needs (see the Project Catalogue).
2. Semi-annual progress report to the Executive Committee by 1 October.

A need for close contact with **Project Leaders** was mentioned, and Council **agreed to leave it to the Executive Committee to organise a meeting with them.**

Action: Executive Committee

The President thanked the Review group for their excellent work, and he thanked Council members for their valuable work in follow-up actions.

2.2 PROGRESS REPORTS AND ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES

Council went through progress reports for all projects. However, before doing so, some common issues were discussed:

2.2.1 STRUCTURE, TERMINOLOGY

The Executive Committee had recommended that the term *project group* should be used for all IASC groups dealing with a project. Other terms to be used were: *advisory group* and *network.*

Council agreed to this proposal, except for groups operating several projects (for instance the Working Group on Arctic Glaciology).

2.2.2 PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING MEMBERS ON GROUPS

As IASC has several types of groups, an agreement should be reached with regard to who makes nominations and who should cover travel expenses.

- **Ad-hoc groups:**
  These groups consist of 3-5 persons with the purpose of working out a first report to clarify contents of a project idea.

  Council agreed that Council/Executive Committee should nominate members for ad-hoc groups, and meeting expenses should be covered by IASC General Fund.

- **Regular Project Groups and Working Groups**
  Ideally this is a group consisting of 7-10 well-qualified scientists whose purpose it is to work out a science/implementation plan.
  As most of these groups are multi-disciplinary, there is a need to acquire a balanced group with regard to disciplines.

  Council agreed that nominations should be made by national member organisations in consultation with the Executive Committee. Travel expenses to be covered at national level.

- **Election of Group Leaders**

  Council decided that for ad-hoc groups, the Executive Committee should appoint group leaders. With regard to regular project and working groups, they should be elected by the group.

2.2.3 MATURE PROJECTS

Last year council discussed how projects should be developed to a **maturity level,** meaning that a project is sufficiently developed to be proposed for funding. Several comments received indicate that a clearer understanding should be reached with regard to the practical implication of this decision.

As to approach, there had been two views:

- **Internal IASC evaluation** should be made of all projects, and Council should then decide if a project plan should be accepted as an **IASC project.**
- **"The Market solution"**
  Another approach would be to leave it to the group to decide when a project is ready for funding. Council would provide advice on how a project be improved or developed, and leave it to the group to decide when a project is mature for funding.

Council agreed that there should be an evaluation process, and only projects succeeding in this evaluation should be called an "IASC priority project". Council requested that the Executive Committee appoint a small ad-hoc group (2-3 persons) to develop criteria and procedure for this evaluation.

Action: Executive Committee

2.2.4 THE IASC PROJECT CATALOGUE (DRAFT)

A draft for an IASC Project Catalogue was presented at the Annual Meeting (see item 2.6.1 from that meeting).

Some comments were received concerning improvements (information about development stage for each project, address of project leaders).

Council agreed that:

- **Members should be asked for improvements to be submitted by 1 June, aiming at printing by 1 July.**
- **The Project Catalogue to be sent to all national member organisations soliciting their input in the form of national priorities or interest.**

Action: Rogne

2.2.5 PRESENT GROUPS AND SUGGESTED CHANGES

Council was invited to make comments on all projects, and more specifically on:

- group membership
- progress made (information available in the Project Catalogue)
- suggested changes
- national interest and commitment

- **FATE: IASC-GCTE Project Group**
  FATE was in charge of a joint GCTE and IASC group.
  Members had been nominated by national IGBP committees and approved by IASC. The present group started their work in 1996.

  Council noted that this project had already been accepted as a mature project, and that the group was working out the final details of the implementation plan. Council further noted that funding was sought for initial parts of this project, but mainly by European members.

  Council confirmed their earlier evaluation that this project is mature.

- **MAGICS: IASC Working Group on Arctic Glaciology**
  The present group was formally established in 1994 after a period of time as an ad-hoc group, to formulate some terms of reference and a science plan. Parts of the implementation plan had been or are being implemented.

  Comments made re-emphasised the need to include the Greenland Ice Cap, and that modelling efforts were still missing.

  Council confirmed their earlier evaluation that this project is mature.

  Action: Rogne

- **UVIRC: Effects of Increased UV-Radiation Project Group**
  The present group was appointed in 1996. **A representative for the social sciences has not been identified, and Council members are requested to suggest such a person.**

  Their implementation plan: "UVIRC-UV International Research Centres" had just been published. This plan suggested some specific steps for implementing this project, including establishing 4-5 UV research centres in the Arctic.

  Further, a strong interest from the Finnish Meteorological Institute was reported. Their interest covered taking part in the UVIRC implementation, in serving as a link between the atmospheric UV science community and the UV effect community, and to various European projects.

  Council agreed that the Finnish comments should be sent to the project group for consideration. As for identifying suitable UVIRC centres, the project group was encouraged to make further investigations and report to Council.
  Council confirmed their earlier evaluation that this project is mature.

  Action: Rogne, DeFabo

- **BASIS: Barents Sea Impact Study**
  The group was identified in 1995 and re-appointed in 1996.

  Some critical comments regarding approach and methodology were expressed at Council Meeting last year, and to some extent repeated this year, as this advice was not seen to have been acted upon.

  Some critical comments were reported from the Regional Board Meeting.

  Council was reminded that a BASIS workshop was planned for October in St. Petersburg in order to gain more involvement of Russian scientists, and further that the group had made an application to the EU.

- **BESIS: Bering Sea Impact Study**
  The group was identified in 1995 and re-appointed in 1996.

  The BESIS project has been developed by bringing key scientists to workshops looking at effects on the natural environment, on industries and economic activities, and on native culture and the subsistence way of life (see also the presentation at the Annual Meeting, item 2.4).
  The BESIS group was commended for its approach.

- **BASIS and BESIS:**
  Making assessments based on expected climate change require some care. Dr Bert Bolin agreed to write a note of advice based on his experience as Chairman of IPCC. **Action: Bolin**

- **LOIRA: Land-Ocean Interactions in the Russian Arctic**
  A major group of leading Russian scientists had formulated a science plan following a workshop in Moscow in September 1996. The main contents were presented at the Annual Meeting (see item 2.6.2 in the Annual Meeting Report). LOIRA received positive comments.

  Council agreed that there was a need for identifying interested foreign scientists so that the national group could be reinforced by international participation. Thereafter an implementation planning workshop should be called. Action: Rogne

- **Sustainable Use of Living Resources**
  In accordance with the Council decision of last year, a small workshop was held in September 1996 to identify the scientific foci. The result was a proposal for two projects on:

  Caribou/reindeer and **Fish/marine mammals**
  Both projects will be taken forward by workshops in 1998.
  Those responsible for organising the workshops are:
  - Caribou/reindeer: Dr David Klein, USA
  - Fish/marine mammals: Alf Håkon Hoel, Norway

  Council noted and approved this development, and advised the two groups to consult and co-ordinate.

- **Environmental and Social Impacts of Industrialisation**
  Drs. Rasmus Ole Rasmussen and Patrick J Webber, USA had been appointed as co-chairs for this project, and requested to organise workshop(s) to identify a focus and work out a science plan.

  Council was informed that the suggested focus was on "Environmental, Economic and Social Impacts of the Development of Large Scale Energy Projects in the Arctic". Further, that a workshop would be organised before the end of 1997.

  Action: Rasmussen, Webber

- **Working Group for Geophysical Compilation and Mapping**
  This working group was appointed in 1993, and according to their recent report they had fulfilled their main objectives.
  The WG suggested that the group be dissolved, and that a new project should be initiated (see new project: "Arctic Bathymetric Map", item 2.4).
  See also their report at the Annual Meeting, item 2.6.2.

  Council agreed that this working group should be dissolved.

  Action: Rogne, Macnab

- **Working Group on Marine Geology/Earth Sciences Network**
  This WG had concluded that a communication network is now appropriate for present needs. Members of the former geophysical group, the marine geology group and others will be asked to join in this Earth Sciences Network.

  Council agreed to the suggested changes.

  Action: Rogne, Stein

- **ADD - The International Arctic Environmental Data Directory**
  This group was appointed in 1995 and consists mainly of representatives from national agencies having (or planning to create) a national arctic data directory, and representatives of international organisations having such directories.

  Council noted their report.

- **COASP: Cooperative Arctic Seismological Project**
  This previous ad-hoc group was adopted as a formal IASC project group by Council in 1996. Council noted that their first project was being considered by funding agencies.

- **IASC Group of Funding Specialists**
  This group was appointed as an ad-hoc group in 1995 to work out an advisory report on funding. Their report and recommendations were received in 1996, and a funding guide was published as IASC Report No. 6. The Executive Committee recommended that this group be dissolved, as they had completed their task. Council was informed that IGFA did not accommodate the proposal for an Arctic group, hence it could be wise to reconsider IASC needs before dissolving the group. See 2.1.7.

- **ISIRA Advisory Group (The International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic)** An ISIRA Working Group was appointed in 1993, and ended their period of service in 1996. The Executive Committee recommended that a new group should be appointed, and had nominated the following persons:

  Academician Vladimir Kotlyakov, Russia (Chairman)
  A second Russian representative (to be identified)
  Professor Robert M Crawford, UK
  Dr Dick Hedberg, Sweden
  Professor, Dr Michael Spindler, Germany
  A North American representative
  Any other country interested in appointing a member.

  Council approved the nominations made, and encouraged other nominations to be made within as short a time as possible.
  Further, the Group was requested to consider the present terms of reference and the future needs for the group, at their first meeting.

  Action: Rogne, Kotlyakov

2.3 IASC SCIENCE PLANNING GUIDE (DRAFT)

Elements of IASC science planning have been discussed under several items, and also in the Review Report. The intention with this guide was to create a working document to be improved and up-dated, so it can serve as advice to project leaders and persons suggesting a project.

Suggestions for improvements:

- Sources for Project Ideas (p.2, bottom) to be moved to I. on p. 1
- "multidisciplinary" to replace interdisciplinary throughout the document
- Insert a flow diagram

Council approved the Planning Guide as a working document, to be improved as our procedures are changed.

2.4 NEW PROJECTS

2.4.1 ARCTIC BATHYMETRIC MAP

This project idea originated in the Working Group for Geophysical Compilation and Mapping. Our present knowledge of Arctic bathymetric data is somewhat poor, but data exists in naval establishments, hydrographic services and in some major research institutes. There are some expectations that previously classified data may be released.

The project idea is supported by the IOC (International Oceanographic Commission) and the IHO GEBCO (International Hydrographic Office, General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans).

This project idea had been recommended by the Executive Committee, and was also presented at the Annual Meeting, see item 2.6.2.

Council agreed to support the suggested workshop, and requested a workshop report to the Executive Committee suggesting how this project idea should be further developed.
(Copy of the full project proposal is available from the IASC Secretariat).

2.4.2 CONTAMINANTS AND HUMAN HEALTH IN THE ARCTIC

The Executive Committee had tasked an ad-hoc group consisting of Dr Jens Peder Hart Hansen, Denmark, as Chairman (IUCH), Dr Harriet Kuhnlein, Canada and Lars-Erik Liljelund, Sweden (AMAP Vice-Chairman) to consider the need for a research project on "Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic". Their report was presented at the Annual Meeting, see item 2.3.3 in that report.

Council agreed that this project proposal should proceed, and that a planning group should be identified.
(Copy of the full project report is available from the IASC Secretariat).

Action: Hart Hansen

2.4.3 RAPID CULTURAL CHANGES IN THE CIRCUMPOLAR NORTH

At the last Council Meeting an ad-hoc group chaired by Dr Jens Dahl, IASSA was tasked to work out a report on scientific foci for this project idea. Dr Dahl presented this report of the ad-hoc group at the Annual Meeting, see item 2.7 in that report.

Council agreed that this project proposal should proceed, and that a planning group should be identified. *(Copy of the full project report is available from the IASC Secretariat).* **Action: Dahl**

2.5 GLOBAL CHANGE

2.5.1 WORKING GROUP ON GLOBAL CHANGE

The Executive Committee had recommended that this WG should be disbanded. When BASIS and BESIS evolved, the need for this WG diminished, and there have been no recent meetings in the WG.

Council agreed to disband the Working Group on Global Change.

2.5.2 LIAISON WITH START

The Working Group on Global Change was identified as the body within IASC to liaise with START. There is a need to find a solution which provides good communication between IASC and START. At present we have the following project groups involved in global change research: BASIS, BESIS, FATE, MAGICS, UVIRC, Sustainable Use of Living Resources, and possibly also LOIRA. Please find a copy of the MoU with START as Enclosure III.

Council agreed to appoint Dr. Gunter Weller, USA as the liaison person to START. Dr. Weller is asked to report to the Executive Committee, and to consult other chairmen of IASC global change groups when needed.
Action: Rogne, Weller

2.5.3 THE GLOBAL CHANGE PROGRAMME OFFICE (GCPO)

The host - Arctic Centre, Rovaniemi, Finland - has confirmed willingness to house and fund the GCPO until the end of 1999, i.e. a new 3-year period.

The Executive Committee agreed that a preliminary answer should be sent thanking for the generous offer, and informing that revised terms of reference would be discussed at the IASC Council meeting in May.

Discussion in Council revealed some need for reconsidering the suggested terms of reference.

Council tasked the Executive Secretary to contact the GCPO and the global change project groups about how this resource best can be used. The Executive Committee should then decide on the final terms of reference.
Action: Rogne

2.6 REGIONAL BOARD

Professor Anders Karlqvist, the acting Chairman of the Regional Board, gave an oral report to Council about the outcome of the Regional Board meeting held earlier in the week.

The Regional Board had discussed some items on the Council agenda, especially those of regional interest. They had agreed that there was a need for some criteria for selecting IASC priority projects, and expressed willingness to join a small group to work out some criteria and procedure. They encouraged further planning for three new project proposals (Arctic Bathymetric Map; Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic; and Rapid Cultural Changes in the Circumpolar North). They were more critical to the BASIS project.

The Board had discussed their role, and identified three main tasks:

- internal, as stated in the IASC Founding Articles,
- supporting IASC work as a link to Arctic Council issues through the Chairman of the Regional Board in his capacity as member of the Executive Committee, and
- a link from IASC back to national governments.

The proposed *Operators Forum* had been discussed. The Regional Board supported this initiative, and suggested that this forum meet back-to-back with other meetings they would attend (IASC, European Polar Board, etc.)

Finally, Dr. Robert W. Corell, USA, had been elected as new Chairman.

During the discussion that followed, some concerns were expressed as to how far the Regional Board should influence the IASC science agenda. It was emphasised that IASC was an independent science organisation, which should speak with one voice.

2.7 NEW RELATIONSHIPS

In addition to START (see separate item), two organisations had discussed their relationship to IASC during the last year. Both had been invited to give a short presentation of their activities and benefits from developing a relationship at the Annual Meeting.

2.7.1 NORTHERN FORUM ACADEMY (NFA)

Council agreed to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IASC and Northern Forum Academy (NFA).

2.7.2 POLAR LIBRARIES COLLOQUY (PLC)

Council agreed that the Polar Libraries Colloquy (PLC) should become a Standing Advisory Group to IASC.

2.8 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Bert Bolin had been asked to serve as a nominating committee for the election, and to do so by consulting Council members before and during the meeting.

The following proposal was unanimously agreed upon:

President:	Dr. David J. Drewry
Vice President:	Dr. Bert Bolin
Vice President:	Academician Igor S. Gramberg
Vice President:	Mr. Barrie Maxwell
Vice President:	Dr. Oran R. Young

3. OTHER ISSUES

3.1 IASC GENERAL FUND

3.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR 1996

Council approved the accounts for 1996. In future reporting, Council wished to get a survey of expenses for each project over a period of time.

3.1.2 STATUS AND DEVELOPMENT 1993 - 96

The first year in operation of the General Fund was in 1993, and this status showed an accumulation of surplus during the first year and deficits during the remaining years.

3.1.3 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1997

Last year Council expressed a desire for stronger influence on the final budget. As some new activities had been agreed upon at this meeting (Contaminants and Human Health), reductions were suggested for BASIS (workshop), Effects of UV and MAGICS.

The Executive Secretary was asked to make a final draft budget, taking into account advice given by Council, to be accepted by the Executive Committee.

Action: Rogne, Executive Committee

3.2 THE IASC SECRETARIAT

As the first term of employment for the present Executive Secretary expired on 1 April, 1997, the Secretariat had been discussed by the Executive Committee, deciding as follows:

> *The Executive Committee agreed that the Secretariat should continue to be located in Oslo. They further noted the strong testimony given to the Secretariat in the IASC Review Report. They also agreed on a need for strengthening the Secretariat with an Assistant Executive Secretary either by support of the host country, or as a secondment.*

The President had thereafter sent a letter to all Council members, asking for opinions on continuing the employment of the present Executive Secretary, the need for an Assistant Executive Secretary, and location of the Secretariat. There had been unanimous support for continuation of the present Executive Secretary, and for location of the Secretariat in Oslo, as well as wide support for appointment of an Assistant Executive Secretary. These recommendations had been conveyed to the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, which funds the Secretariat, by a formal letter sent by the President recommending the extention of the employment of the present Executive Secretary for another term.

Council approved these actions.

As to funding an Assistant Executive Secretary, three options were mentioned:

- Norwegian government.
  This option was tried, but was not successful. The Norwegian Ministry of Environment has had a budget cut.
- General Fund (like SCAR).
  Council members expressed that it only could be within the present contributions; therefore no solution.
- Secondment.
  No volunteers at the meeting, but Council wanted some information about the tasks.

3.3 IASC/SCAR Symposium on Bi-Polar Aspects of Global Change

Council noted the draft announcement for this symposium, which is to be held in August, 1998, and agreed that atmospheric chemistry (including ozone) should be added to the programme.

Action: Weller

3.4 IASC/SCAR Cooperation

As a follow-up to the visit of the IASC President to the SCAR meeting in Cambridge, UK in August, 1996, the executive secretaries of IASC and SCAR had been requested to consider some actions for developing further cooperation.

Their report and suggested actions had been approved by the executive committees, and steps were already taken for implementation.

Council noted these actions.

3.5 Meeting with Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB) and European Polar Board (EPB)

Council noted the report from a meeting between the IASC President and the chairmen of AOSB and EPB, and their agreement to consult regularly.

Further, Council was informed that the Executive Secretary had attended the European Polar Board meeting in April, and that he had given a survey of IASC projects at that meeting.

3.6 AEPS/Arctic Council

Reports from these meetings were covered by the report of the IASC President in the opening session.

3.7 IASC REPORTS

Council was informed that the following reports had been published since the last Council meeting:

- Report No. 5: *Mass Balance of Arctic Glaciers*, 62 pages
- Report No. 6: *Funding of Arctic Research, Planning and Projects,* 38 pages
- Report No. 7: *Ultraviolet International Research Centers (UVIRCs),* 36 pages

A Council member raised the question of having *external reviewers* before reports are published, and pointed out some errors in the published reports.

Council tasked the Executive Committee to consider this need.

3.8 OTHER ISSUES

3.8.1 NEXT MEETING

The Council member from the USA invited Council to Fairbanks, Alaska for the meeting in 1998. The invitation was unanimously accepted. Tentative dates: First week in May, 1998.

3.8.2 MEETING IN 1999

The Norwegian Council member indicated that they would be prepared to host the meeting in 1999.

3.8.3 ENLARGING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An oral proposal by the President for enlarging the Executive Committee with one additional person was made. The question was left to the Executive Committee.

Action: Executive Committee

4. CLOSURE

The President thanked all members for their positive contributions to the deliberations of Council, and wished all participants a safe return.