

Oslo,

18 August 1988
1635/88/OR/MW/066-ASC

IASC WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Vår/our ref.:

Deres/Your ref.:


Dear Friends,

INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE

./.. Enclosed please find a copy of some remarks to our Moscow draft from Dr. Kotlyakov. No major comments have been received from others.

However, the Soviet position calls for some consideration and probably a meeting in Stockholm on 23 October. As I have just returned from summer vacation, I have had no time to come with a proposal as to the contents. The intention of this letter is therefore to inform you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Odd Rogne

Encl.

ДИРЕКТОР
ИНСТИТУТА ГЕОГРАФИИ АКАДЕМИИ НАУК СССР

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| №: 1635 |
| Мотти: 8.8.88 |
| Besvart: 18.8.88 |
| Arkiv: 2-10 |

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Dr. Odd Rogne
Director
Norwegian Polar Institute
P.O.Box 158
N-1330 Oslo Lufthavn
Norway

Moscow
August 2, 1988

Dear Dr. Rogne,

Thinking back to our meeting in Moscow on July 12-14, I believe that we worked fruitfully and during a short period of time made a good progress after our last meeting in Stockholm. In particular, this became possible thanks to the much effort you had made prior to the Moscow meeting having prepared a basic document for our discussions. Such a method is very efficient and should be used in future.

Yet the document does not fully satisfy our side. The major problem, as you have probably felt at the meeting, is the form of participation of non-arctic countries in the activities of IASC. It is quite clear that international cooperation in the Arctic will lose much, if some non-arctic countries having advanced technologies and great achievements in Polar research do not take part in it. However, we are not ready to include into the Status of a clause about the possibility for representatives of non-arctic countries to become members of IASC, as it contradicts the regional principle of IASC, although we agree to their participation in its working groups.

The Soviet position is comprehensively presented in the four-page document handed in to the participants of the Moscow meeting. Will you be so kind as to study it carefully and as far as possible take it into account when specifying the suggestions of our Working Group. In particular, we stress the desirability of a two-stage structure of IASC: a governing body (council) consisting of representatives of the eight countries and working groups with participation of representatives of both arctic and non-arctic countries.

The creation of the three-tier structure, as indicated in the document worked out in Moscow, is unwarranted by the practice of many international organizations, for instance SCAR, SCORS, and others, and in the final instance, it will lead to equal rights in IASC of both arctic and non-arctic countries, to which we decisively object. As for the current activities of IASC, this Committee will create working groups on definite problems

not closely connected with each other (climate, ecosystems, geology, ethnography, etc.). It seems to me that there is no need for the scientific council to coordinate these problems, while the questions of consideration and approval of joint scientific projects, which are prepared by the working groups, may and should be the responsibility of the governing body of IASC.

Hence, there should be other rules of procedure as compared to the ones mentioned in point 3.9. On the whole, it should be remembered that this paragraph was hardly discussed in Moscow and its text should probably be coordinated with the main principles related above.

Besides this main argument, I have a number of editorial comments to the Moscow document:

1. The enumeration of the eight countries which are called founding countries (see 3.3.3.) should from the very beginning be made in item 1.1.

2. As agreed in Stockholm, the following phrase should be added to item 2.3. (for the benefit of the peoples of the Arctic and for advancement of world science) IASC will embrace all topics and fields of science, which are of mutual interest for the countries participants.

3. The following should be added at the end of item 2.4.: (IASC will cooperate with other international scientific organizations or programmes concerned with Arctic research) on the basis of its governing body's decisions.

4. And yet the name "Executive Committee (even in English)" does not seem satisfactory. As the practice shows, Executive Committee is a body which performs current work implementing someone's decisions and so far as we plan a governing body, the words "Executive Committee" should be replaced by "Council". The word "governing" is also quite justified and applicable to this body.

5. In item 3.3.2. the word "scientific" was omitted, although it seems to me that we agreed in Moscow that it should be "scientific policy".

6. Item 3.5.1: here possible fields of cooperation should be determined not by working groups, but by the governing body of IASC.

7. Item 3.8. should begin with the words "Organizations of the countries-participants" (and not the countries themselves)

8. In item 4(a).3 after the word "structure" it would be better to add "and functions".

Will you be so kind as consider attentively the above comments, which proceed from the present position of our country. The main thing here to be taken into account is the following: this cooperation is of a regional character and its implementation should proceed from the key positions of the eight arctic and nordic countries. At the same time scientific organizations of non-arctic countries should, certainly, be invited for participation in the scientific programmes supervised by IASC.

- 5 -

Taking into account the above discrepancies, it would have been very useful to exchange opinions prior to the meeting of the whole Group for planning the creation of IASC in Leningrad this December, both by correspondence and, maybe, by personal meeting in Stockholm on October 23.

With sincere respect,



Prof. V.M. Kotlyakov

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

nsf

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FOR GEOSCIENCES

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| No. | 1884 |
| Modtatt: | 21.9.88 |
| Besvort: | |
| Arkiv: | ASC |

September 2, 1988

Professor V. M. Kotlyakov
Director, Institute of Geography
USSR Academy of Sciences
Staromonetny Street 29
Moscow 109017, USSR

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Saksbehandler | |
| VOR ✓ | |
| Orientering | Uttalelse |
| JAH ✓ | |
| Arkivbetegnelse (og ev. kryss-henvisning). | |
| 066 ASC | |

Dear Dr. Kotlyakov:

Mr. Rogne has kindly forwarded to me your letter of August 2nd, containing your comments on the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). I share your interest in the establishment of a committee which will serve to promote science in the Arctic. We are committed to achieve an effective mechanism for doing so.

For this reason, I am concerned that your letter appears to contradict an important point on which I thought we had agreement at our last meeting. Specifically, you suggest that the IASC should be open only to the eight Arctic Circle countries (USSR, Canada, United States, Norway, Sweden, Denmark/Greenland, Finland and Iceland), allowing for wider international participation only in the working groups. This position causes us great difficulty.

The U.S. view is that the IASC should be an international science organization with a regional focus. As such, we believe that it is imperative that the IASC be open to any country which can demonstrate an active interest in Arctic science. As you may recall, we originally supported the establishment of a two-tiered organization (Council and working groups) in which any country active in Arctic science could be a full member, in both the Council and the working groups. However, in order to meet your concerns, we had agreed, with reluctance, to the establishment of a three-tiered organization, in which the Executive Committee or Board would be open only to the Arctic Circle countries, and the Council and the working groups would be open to all countries with an active interest in Arctic science. Your proposal in your letter of August 2 appears to withdraw from the compromise solution which I thought we had reached.

I note your concern that the three-tiered structure may be unwarranted by the examples of SCAR, SCOR and others. I must point out, however, that these organizations are open to any country which is actively involved in the relevant science. The compromise of a three-tiered organization was formulated to meet your concerns that Arctic countries have a position of leadership within the IASC.

Professor V. M. Kotlyakov

Page 2

I believe that we share an interest in working towards a mutually agreeable solution and endorse your suggestion that the five of us who met in Moscow should meet again in Stockholm in October. To adequately examine the issues we face, I believe that we should set aside at least two days for our discussions, and I am prepared to arrive in Stockholm by October 20 to do so.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Corell
Assistant Director

cc: Dr. Odd Rogne, Norwegian Polar Research Institute
Dr. Francois A. Mathys, Director General, External Affairs, Canada
Professor Anders Karlqvist, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat

17 March 1989 OR/MW

IASC - Survey of Comments

1. USSR

Following telex received from Dr. Kotlyakov:

"Soviet side considered founding articles for IASC.

We do not have essential comments on text and are ready to accept it without changes except a few specifications such as to add in part G secretariat is located in and executive secretary is chosen from one of the founding countries and to specify in part C1 board as IASC governing body is responsible for all IASC activities.

We shall not insist on the above changes if other countries have not suggested alterations.

We do not insist on circulation of our suggestions prior to the April meeting either to proceed as you believe feasible depending on suggestions from other countries."

2. Finland

No changes suggested.

3. Sweden

No changes suggested

4. Denmark/Greenland

The proposal approved by the Danish Minister of Education and Research. The national scientific organization representing Denmark will be the Danish Polarcenter. Professor L.L.D. Isi Foighel is authorized to sign the articles. In his capacity of being chairman of the Danish Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland, professor

Foighel will be the Danish representative of the Board.

5. Norway

The proposal approved, but with some concern about the relation to scientists in non-Arctic countries. The Norwegian Academy of Sciences will be the national member organization and its president will be signing the articles. The chairman of the Norwegian National Committee on Polar Research (under the Academy) will be member of the Board. Another comment of interest is that all or a majority of board members are likely to be science administrators. An active scientist from each country should be appointed as a second member or as permanent scientific advisors to the Board.

6. Iceland

No changes suggested.

7. Canada

The proposal approved as it is. The proposal has a good balance and should not be changed.

8. USA

USA is not ready to accept the proposal and Dr. Corell suggests another planning meeting instead of a preparatory meeting.

All participants in the Planning Group were informed about this by telefax/telex of 7 MArch. Dr. Corell was asked to circulate a propoosal as soon as posible.

9. Non-Arctic Countries

Ministries of foreign affairs of all eight arctic countries were approached by diplomats representing France, FRG, the Netherlands and UK presenting a joint "Note Verbale" during the second week of March.

3 April 1989

International Arctic Science Committee - IASC

A personal note on the present situation

IASC is intended to address cooperation in two fields:

- a. regional scientific needs and
- b. general scientific needs or "world science".

Regional science

constitutes a major part of Arctic research in the Arctic countries and is linked to management needs.

Scientists active in this field are almost without exception coming from the Arctic countries. This is natural, as the problems to be solved are of less interest outside these countries.

World science

or general scientific questions are shared by scientists from all over the world - Arctic as well as non-Arctic.

As non-Arctic countries do not have domestic Arctic responsibilities, which have first call on their Arctic scientific resources, they can concentrate on Arctic science in terms of international programmes, and make a major contribution to fundamental Arctic science and world science.

This distinction as well as other issues of importance were identified at an early stage of the IASC-discussions, see:

Roots, E. F. and O. Rogne
The Need for, Feasibility and Possible Role
of An International Arctic Science Committee,
Ottawa/Oslo 1987, 16 p.

This paper was circulated prior to the Oslo meeting in February 1987.

How to organize?

Although the needs are somewhat different in Arctic and non-Arctic countries, we all share the needs in world science. Further, regional science will benefit from research being undertaken in world science, although non-Arctic scientists have no wish to join in the regional science questions.

For the Arctic countries, creating one organization covering both fields would be most useful. It should also be acceptable for the non-Arctic scientists, provided they are fully represented in "the world science part of the organization". The present proposal takes care of the world science needs in the Scientific Working Groups, the Arctic Science Conference (not to be compared to the Soviet conference run in Leningrad last year) and the Arctic Science Programmes Group (the implementation phase).

The demarche

The joint demarche from France, the Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany and United Kingdom was a surprise.

The demarche concerns only the world science part of IASC and clearly demonstrates a misunderstanding of the intention of the proposal to cover both fields mentioned above. Apart from a non-understandable reference to the Spitsbergen Treaty, Article 5 and participation in the Board (commented below), the views of the demarche is fully shared and implemented in the present proposal.

However, the demarche makes no reference to the regional science field and thus the representation in the Board, gets remarkable for them. There seems to be a need for providing them with more background material. In addition to the above-mentioned paper, they should be provided by:

*Roots, E. F., O. Rogne and J. Taagholt:
International Communication and
Co-ordination in Arctic Science
- A Proposal for Action.
Ottawa, Oslo, Copenhagen 1987.*

As I see it, the Arctic Science Programmes Group will be "the Board" for the world science part of IASC and in this body all qualified participants are invited.

The Board of the total organization would have other functions such as to be careful as to the total balance of the organization's activities and also alert to internal proposals, which could be too sensitive for IASC to be engaged in.

Obviously, there is a need for more communication with the non-Arctic part. We all have a wish to cooperate as openly and positively as possible with those scientists, as we already have done for decades in the past.

Odd Rogne

DEN NORSKE NASJONALKOMITÉ FOR POLARFORSKNING

(Norwegian National Committee on Polar Research)

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Professor, Dr. Gotthilf Hempel
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Oslo.

12 April 1989
864/89/OR/MW/066-IASC

Vår/our ref.:

Deres/Your ref.:

Dear Gotthilf,

IASC

For your information: the Planning Group recently agreed to postpone the preparatory meeting in Helsinki till 18-19 May. The main reason is to have time for contact with science administrators in non-Arctic countries both to give some more background information on IASC and to see if there is a possibility of finding a better solution. Any new proposal or rather amendment to the present one should be worded by 1 May in order to have it circulated in due time before the Helsinki meeting.

As to substance, I think it is vital to consider that IASC also shall cover the needs for "regional science", see ./. further information about that part in the enclosed note and papers. Judging from the demarche, the authors of the demarche have not been aware of the two main goals IASC is trying to achieve, as only "world science" is mentioned.

As I see the present organizational structure, there will be scientific working groups related both to world science and to regional science. The implementation body for the world science part (or the Board/Executive Committee or whatever you will call it) is today called the Arctic Programme Group. The regional science part would have the present Board as its implementation body - as most likely this part will be more sensitive (native people etc.).

I would imagine that scientists from non-Arctic countries would not be interested in regional science questions - at least I have not observed anybody up till now.

I have the feeling that the present proposal could work very well, and I also see that you and others from non-Arctic countries not taking part in the ongoing discussions, have read the proposal somewhat different from its intentions.

If I should summarize my present "impressions", it would be as follows:

- there is a genuine and strong wish to have scientists and scientific organizations from non-Arctic countries to participate in IASC. Please keep in mind that in multi-national cooperation up till now the cooperative pattern has been north-south and nobody would have the intention to damage established relations,
- there is a strong concern that IASC should take care of regional science as well as world science,
- there is an eagerness and some pressure to get IASC started, several self-established working groups are asking for acceptance.

After having presented these personal views, I would also underline that amendments taking care of the non-Arctic concerns would have to be worded during this month. If you have a better proposal for an organizational structure, bearing in mind that you would have to satisfy also the regional science part, that would be most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Odd Rogne

Enclosures



Der Direktor

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20 April 1989
GH/gk/bf7

Dear Odd,

your letter of 12 April arrived just when I left for holidays. I don't have any old background documents with me nor the demarche and John Bowman's letter to R. Correll.

So I can give you just a few personal comments:

Because of the climate issue several non-Arctic governments are determined to increase their Arctic research. The Arctic part of global programmes call for international cooperation and new projects are rapidly developing.

From the discussions I attended with diplomats of various non-Arctic countries it became obvious that they will not agree to our participation in IASC in its present form. Such an abstention would result in a split of Arctic and non-Arctic European polar science.

Any organizational combination of regional and global Arctic science has to meet both the request such of Arctic countries for exclusiveness and of non-Arctic countries for equal representation when dealing with common domestic problems.

One solution would be a clear cut split between the two objectives by establishing two independent bodies: A governmental body of the Arctic countries to deal with common regional problems and a non-governmental scientific body which is open to all research institutions active in Arctic science.

Prof. Dr. G. Hempel

20 April 1989

The Board

The Board is responsible for consideration and decision of scientific programmes, projects and data banks directed to the needs of native people and to regional and local management.

The Board will be composed of a representative from each of the founding countries.

The Board will work on the consensus principle.

The Council (replaces the AS Programmes Group)

The Council is responsible for the overall activities of IASC, particularly its programmes of global scope.

The responsibilities include:

- Establishing policies and guidelines for the large-scale scientific activities of IASC
- Recommending large-scale scientific plans, programmes and projects. Activities directly related to the needs of founding countries should be referred to the Board for (final?) consideration.
- Establishing and disbanding scientific working groups,
- Develop plans and facilitate the coordination of logistics and operations for IASC programmes and activities.
- Keep liaison with national and international Arctic research programmes and organizations.

The Council will be composed of representatives from founding and otherwise qualified countries.

The Council will operate on the consensus principle.

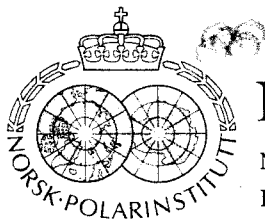
Note: The report and recommendations of the Conference need no endorsement. I would also delete the last paragraph of the Working Groups as well as the paragraph on Rules and Procedures. For the time being a document with very few regulations might find easier acceptance than a "perfect" one.

An alternative would be to put the two bodies under one umbrella by certain change in the terms of reference of the Board and the Programmes Group. This is outlined in the attached proposal which I had no possibility to discuss with my fellow scientists or with diplomats. The main thrust is the upgrading of the Programmes Group to a Council and the reduction of the functions of the Board to regional affairs. By such an arrangement membership of Board and Programmes Group (= Council) would remain as in your Statutes, but the inferiority of the non-Arctic countries would be restricted to the regional affairs only. By this the dual character of IASC as a body for regional and global science would be taken care of without severe changes in the Statutes which might be difficult to sell to one or the other of the Arctic parties.

I do hope that you will realize that many of us are fully aware of the complexity of the political and other problems involved in the establishment of IASC and in fostering international cooperation on a broad scale. To my mind it is now time for a round table discussion of Arctic and non-Arctic people.

Yours sincerely,

G. Hempel
signed in draft



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✓ Dr. Robert Corell
NSF, WASHINGTON, USA

Vår dato 20 April 1989
- referanse 989/89/OR/MW/066-IASC

✓ Professor, Dr. Gotthilf Hempel
AWI, BREMERHAVEN, W-G

Deres dato
- referanse

✓ Dr. John Bowman
NERC, SWINDON, UK

TELEFAX - 2 pages

Dear Friends,

IASC

Being up at 79°N with some friendly non-Arctic scientists, I think I have found a simple formula that may work for the organizational structure. In short, my points are as follows:

1. Consider the two main goals of IASC:

- a. Regional science
- b. World global science

See my recent note about these goals.

Arctic countries want to have regional science as well as global science research by IASC. Non-Arctic countries' scientists are mainly (exclusively) concerned about global science, but but unhappy with the present Board construction.

2. Take the present proposal and make the following amendments.:

- a. Arctic Science Programmes Group changed to:
Global Science Board.
- b. Present Board changed to:
Regional Science Board.
- c. Regional Science Board is in addition responsible for starting up the organization and taking care of any regional sensitive questions.

3. Scientist working groups will be composed of some global science groups and some regional science groups. Qualified non-Arctic national scientific organizations are 100 % participants in all bodies dealing with global science.

4. Arctic Science Conference would cover both fields.

These amendments are not discussed with anybody, but I have a feeling that it may be a more realistic solution than other ideas I have heard mentioned. My impression is that consensus on major changes may be very hard to reach. Furthermore, a solution by 1 May is essential, there is a real danger that what is achieved may be lost if care is not taken.

Please report back if this formula could be acceptable.

May I also remind that IASC is intended to facilitate and improve international cooperation in the Arctic, not creating conflicts or bad relations between good, old friends.

Yours sincerely,

Odd Rogne