



CANADA

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## OCEANIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Canadian Government has set up a committee to co-ordinate and direct its work in oceanography and to represent it internationally in the field of oceanographic research.

In a move to ensure that Canadian research in oceanography is carried out on an integrated basis and, at the same time, to maintain the necessary international liaison with other countries doing similar research, the Canadian Government has reorganized its Joint Committee on Oceanography and renamed it the Canadian Committee on Oceanography, the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys reports.

Federal government agencies interested in oceanography are the Royal Canadian Navy, the Fisheries Research Board, the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, the Defence Research Board, the National Research Council, and the Meteorological Branch and the Marine Services of the Department of Transport.

The new Canadian Committee on Oceanography will comprise representatives from these agencies as well as from universities interested in this field of work.

Dr. W.E. van Steenburgh, Director General of Scientific Services of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, has been selected as chairman of the new committee and Dr. H.B. Hachey of the Fisheries Research Board as secretary.

Growing world consciousness of the vital importance of oceanographic research in the scheme of things today has focussed attention

on the necessity for such research in countries like Canada, which possess long coastlines and extensive continental shelves. More recently, it has emphasized the need for a national committee in Canada empowered to represent it on international committees. In particular, the new committee will represent Canada on the Special Conference on Oceanographic Research (SCOR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions and on the NATO Scientific Committee on Oceanographic Research.

The reorganization of the Canadian Committee on Oceanography, by providing better co-ordination of federal government oceanographic activities in co-operation with the universities, will add impetus to Canada's expanding programme in this work. A major feature of this programme is the establishment, on the east coast, under the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, of a \$3 million oceanographic institute to be known as the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. The new institute, which will have the facilities to allow studies in any phase of the science, is being built in Bedford Basin near Halifax. It will take five years to complete and, when in operation, will have a staff of some 300 oceanographers, hydrographers, submarine geologists, geophysicists, and other scientific personnel, plus supporting staff, and an operating fleet of 10 oceanographic and hydrographic vessels.