



ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967

Note by the Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
Legal aspects of scientific research on the high seas  
and of the exploitation of the mineral resources of the high seas

The attached circular letter dated 3 April 1967 with enclosure was received from the Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on 11 April 1967.

The Commission has been asked to submit its comments on the USSR proposal to create a new IOC Working Group which would deal with the above-mentioned subject.

The Circular was received too late to be included on the Agenda for the 16th Annual Meeting. Commissioners may wish to express their views on this subject in the time allotted for other business under Plenary Agenda Item 23.

25 April 1967

Office of the Secretariat



place de Fontenoy,  
Paris 7<sup>e</sup>



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION



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AVS/9/89  
CL. 159

- 3 APR 1967

C I R C U L A R

To : Governments Members of the IOC  
and interested International Organizations

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At the last meeting of the IOC Bureau with the Consultative Council, the USSR Delegation presented a proposal to create a new IOC Working Group which would deal with the broad legal aspects of scientific research on the high seas and of the exploitation of mineral resources of the high seas. The Bureau, having received this proposal and recognising its importance, instructed the Secretary "to circulate it to the IOC Members and interested international organizations for comments".

... The Secretariat has pleasure in transmitting to you herewith the text of the above proposal and will appreciate receiving your comments not later than 1st July 1967. These comments will later be made available to the delegates to the Fifth IOC Session for further discussion.

*K. N. Fedorov*

K.N. Fedorov  
Secretary

- Chairman: Professeur H. Lacombe, Directeur du Laboratoire d'océanographie physique du Muséum d'histoire naturelle, 43, rue Cuvier, Paris-5<sup>e</sup>, France.
- Vice-Chairmen: Professor Dr. F. Pautsch, Stacja Biologiczna, Gorki Wschodnie via, Sobieszewo, Poland.  
Rear Admiral W. Langeraar, Chief, Hydrographic Service, Royal Netherlands Navy, Badhuisweg 171, The Hague, Netherlands.
- Secretary: Dr. K.N. Fedorov, Director, Office of Oceanography, Unesco, Paris, France.



Proposal of the USSR Delegation in connection with Item 8  
of the Agenda of the 7th Meeting of the IOC Bureau and  
Consultative Council - "Legal Aspects of Ocean Data Stations"

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LEGAL ASPECTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE HIGH SEAS  
AND OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF  
THE HIGH SEAS

The USSR Delegation,

Taking into account the recommendations of the IOC Working Group on Ocean Data Stations of 30 March 1966 (Doc. AVS/9/89E-ODS, Item 8) and also the recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the IOC Bureau with the Consultative Council of 18 May 1966 (Doc. UNESCO/IOC/B-25, Rec. 6.6 - 6.10),

Basing itself on the fact that the legal aspects of such broad problems as investigations of the oceans and use in this connection of autonomous floating stations, buoys, and other devices collecting oceanographic data, and also the legal aspects of the exploitation of mineral marine resources, have not yet found their interpretation in any of the international conventions actually in force,

Taking into account the importance of these legal aspects and also the necessity to implement the recommendations quoted above,

Proposes to the IOC Bureau and Consultative Council the following:

1. To create a special working group of the IOC on legal aspects of studies of the ocean and utilization of oceanic resources, composed of representatives of six to eight Member Governments of the IOC, which representatives would be well qualified specialists in the field of international maritime law.
2. To charge this group with the responsibility to prepare drafts of the following documents :
  - a) A convention on the basic principles of conducting scientific research on the high seas and using for this purpose autonomous data-collecting stations;
  - b) A convention on the international norms of exploration and exploitation of the mineral resources of the high seas.

It is understood that these projects, after having been developed by the working group, should be circulated for study to all IOC Members and also to those governments non-Members of the IOC who might be interested in resolving these problems.

3. To ask the above-mentioned IOC working group, in addition to working out these two draft conventions, to provide the IOC Secretariat with advice on legal aspects of scientific studies of the ocean.
4. To ask the Fifth Session of the IOC to consider calling, following the initiative of the IOC, an International Conference, in which all the interested States of the world would participate, in order to discuss and adopt the above-mentioned conventions.

Monaco, 1st February 1967  
(translated from the Russian)