

UCSD staff to participate in NASA conference

August 4, 1964

Some 26 members of the academic staff of Scripps Institution of Oceanography have been invited to take part in a National Aeronautics and Space Administration conference convened to evaluate the use of satellites for future oceanographic explorations. The conference will be held at Little Harbor Farm, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, August 24 through 28.

Dr. Gifford C. Ewing, Research Oceanographer and former Chairman of the Oceanic Research Division of Scripps, will be chairman of the conference, which is expected to attract nearly 100 oceanographic experts working in the fields of microwaves, radar, and infrared and aerophotography.

Within the next 10 years NASA expects to initiate a program of scientific experiments to be conducted from manned orbital space laboratories and other heavy payload satellites. Since the satellites, circling the globe in a polar orbit, will be over oceanic areas about two-thirds of the time, the Woods Hole conference has been called to determine if they will be adaptable for observations of the ocean.

The challenge is two-fold. For the first time the whole world ocean could be placed under continuous surveillance for purely scientific purposes. On the other hand, the remoteness of the satellites from direct contact with the water presents problems that cannot be resolved by conventional thinking or standard oceanographic methods.

According to Dr. Ewing, NASA is already in the process of developing an extensive geology study program. If a similar study of the oceans from satellites is practicable, effective planning now will eliminate a pile-up of crash programs, he said.

"NASA has asked us to begin work on the program now," Dr. Ewing said. "First the people working with instruments will tell us what is possible and then the oceanographers will outline what they want to know."

Dr. Ewing said until the satellites are sent aloft there will be an opportunity to test research concepts, ideas, and hardware in laboratories, ships, low-flying aircraft, and high-flying aircraft.

Those attending the conference will spend the first two days reviewing present and potential capabilities of various remote sensors and the results already obtained in existing satellite programs. The next day will be spent considering various oceanic problems which appear adaptable to available remote sensors.

The joint meetings will be followed by working panels which will try to define more specifically the various problems of oceanic study. The final meeting will consist of reports from these working groups and the designation by the conference of those areas and problems which show the most promise, with an outline of how studies of these might be undertaken.

Those invited from Scripps to attend, in addition to Dr. Ewing, are: Dr. Victor C. Anderson, Dr. Robert S. Arthur, Dr. Brian P. Boden, Dr. Elizabeth Boden, Dr. Charles Cox, Dr. Joseph R. Curray, Dr. S. Q. Duntley, Dr. Carl Hubbs, Mir. John Isaacs, Dr. D. L. Inman, and Dr. Leonard Liebermann.

Also Dr. Edward McAlister, Dr. William L. McLreish, Dr. Walter Ylunk, Mr. Garth I. Murphy, Dr. Fred B Phleger, Mr. Joseph L. Reid, Dr. Roger Revelle, Mrs. Margaret Robinson, Dr. Milner B. Schaefer, Dr. F. N. Spiess, Mr. John Tyler, Dr. William Van Dorn, Dr. Theodore Walker, and Dr. Warren S. Wooster.