

Dr. Roger Revelle has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, during commencement ceremonies

May 9, 1983

Dr. Roger Revelle, professor of science and public policy and director emeritus of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

The degree was awarded Friday, May 6, during university commencement exercises. Audrey Finkelstein, a member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees, presented the degree to Revelle "in recognition of his achievements in oceanography and use of science and technology to aid developing countries."

Revelle received his Ph.D. in 1936 from the University of California. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Naval Reserve and later helped establish the Office of Naval Research, heading its geophysics branch.

From 1950 to 1964, Revelle was director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography. During that period, he guided the growing institution to the forefront of international oceanic exploration and led a number of multi-disciplinary expeditions. His work helped provide a fundamental understanding of oceanographic processes, the geologic history of the ocean basins, and the origin of the Earth. In 1963, he was awarded the National Academy of Sciences Agassiz Medal for "outstanding achievement in oceanography."

Long a proponent of international scientific cooperation, Revelle helped organize and was president of the first International Oceanographic Congress at the United Nations in 1959. He was founder of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and was chairman of the U.S. National Committee for the International Biological Program, which directed comprehensive studies of interactions between human populations and their environments.

Revelle began to study problems of developing nations while serving as science advisor to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall from 1961 to 1963. He was recognized by the government of Pakistan in 1964 for his contribution to a plan to improve the region's agricultural productivity, and he was appointed by the parliament of India to a committee which assessed all aspects of the nation's educational system. From 1964 to 1975, Revelle was director of the Harvard Center for Population Studies, and there focused his research efforts on environmental and resource management as related to population growth in the countries of east and south Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Revelle returned to the University of California in 1975. During that year, he was also elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1979, he was a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development. Revelle currently serves on two U.N. delegations where he chairs two ocean research committees and is active in a number of professional societies.

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