

Dr. Spiess appointed Director of SIO

October 19, 1964

Dr. F. H. Spiess has been named to serve as Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California,, for the remainder of the current academic year, President Clark Kerr of the University and Chancellor Herbert York of the San Diego campus announced Friday following a meeting of The Regents on the Davis campus.

Dr. Spiess succeeds Dr. Roger Revelle, who left the University to take a position at Harvard on October 1.

A member of the staff of the Scripps Institution since 1952, Dr. Spiess, who is 44, served as Acting Director from 1961 to 1963. He has served as Director of the Marine Physical Laboratory of Scripps since 1958. He is a recognized authority on marine physics.

Dr. Spiess was born in Oakland in 1919. He took his A.B. in Physics (honors) from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1944 receiving a Navy commission from NRM at the same time. He attended officer's submarine school, New London in 1941, standing first in the class of 48. He made 13 war patrols an submarines in the Pacific Oceans, and won the Silver Star and Bronze Star. go is at present a Captain in the Naval Reserve (inactive).

After World War III Dr. Spiess went to Harvard, receiving his Master's degree in communication engineering in 1946. He then returned to Berkeley for graduate study in physics for the Ph.D. He conducted "search under Emilio Segre in short-lived alpha decay problems and high energy particle scattering and absorption. Receiving his Ph.D. in 1952, he joined the staff of the Marine Physical Laboratory University of California, San Diego whose Director he became in 1958.

Dr. Spiess spent the years 1961 to 1963 as Acting Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

He has written numerous technical articles on subjects in marine physics. He is widely known to the public an one of the designers of the Floating Instrument Platform (FLIP) the unique search craft of the Universitys, which "flips" to a vertical position to conduct research at sea.

Dr. Spiess In a member of a number of governmental committees working on oceanographic problems. He is a member of the American Physical Society, the Acoustical Society of America, and the American Geophysical Union. His special fields of scientific interest are underwater acoustics, marine geophysics, and sigma processing.

Dr. Spiess and his wife, the former Sarah Scott Whitton and their five children live at 9450 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla.

"I am delighted that Dr. Spiess has accepted this appointment," stated Dr. Herbert York. "As associate director, he has made an important contribution to the life of Scripps. His assumption of leadership this year assures the continuation of the activities of the institution at the same high level."