

# IUGG TSUNAMI COMMITTEE

## TSUNAMI COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of 28 August 1961

University of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Doak C. Cox, Secretary

### Call to order; attendance:

The first meeting of the Tsunami Committee was called to order at 14:00 by Dr. Ryutaro Takahasi, Chairman. Also present were: Doak C. Cox, Cinna Lomnitz, L. M. Murphy, Walter Munk, W. G. Van Dorn, Kiyoo Wadati, Bernard D. Zetler (substituting for L. P. Disney), and J. W. Brodie (a new member), as well as a number of guests. E. F. Savarensky was absent.

Background and purpose: The Secretary reviewed the steps leading to the establishment of the Committee by the IUGG and read the resolution on tsunamis adopted at the Helsinki meetings.

Committee membership: The Chairman proposed formally the substitution of Mr. Zetler for Mr. Disney, whose services on the Committee unfortunately had to be terminated because of illness. The Committee agreed. The Chairman also proposed the addition to the Committee of Dr. J. W. Brodie, Director of the New Zealand Oceanographic Institute, who was nominated by the New Zealand National Committee for IUGG. The Committee welcomed Dr. Brodie to membership.

### Relationship with European Seismological Commission:

Considering the major interest to date of the IUGG Tsunami Committee in the Pacific and the IUGG resolution urging the European Seismological Commission to interest itself in tsunamis, the Secretary proposed that the IUGG Committee seek cross representation with the Commission working group on tsunamis, if and when such a group is established by the Commission.

The Committee agreed, and resolved to urge again, and requested the Pacific Science Congress to urge, that the European Seismological Commission undertake the interest in tsunamis recommended by the IUGG.

### Officers:

The terms to be set for officers of the Committee were discussed. The Committee agreed that the Chairman and Secretary should serve for the three-year terms between general assemblies of the IUGG.

### Consultants and Correspondents:

The Secretary discussed the possibilities indicated to him by the IUGG Secretary General for appointment of consultants and correspondents. Some members of the Committee felt it would be desirable for the Committee to seek correspondents in countries in which there is interest in tsunamis but which are not represented in the membership of the Committee. Prof. Jaegar of Australia and Dr. Kintanar of the Philippines were mentioned as possible correspondents. Other members felt that correspondents were unnecessary. After discussion, a motion was passed unanimously: "That nations which are interested in the tsunami problem of the Pacific and which are not represented by members of the Tsunami Committee be encouraged to recommend correspondents to the Committee, though the Committee should not seek on its own initiative to name correspondents."

### IUGG and UNESCO representation:

There having been an indication from the IUGG Secretary General that representatives from the IUGG Administration or UNESCO might attend the meeting, the Secretary asked whether such representatives were indeed in attendance. There appeared to be none.

Future Meetings:

Plans for future meetings of the Tsunami Committee were discussed. It was agreed that there should be a meeting in California in 1963 in conjunction with the next IUGG General Assembly, and that an intervening meeting could be called by the Chairman if circumstances warrant. A proposal to plan definitely a meeting in 1962 was defeated.

Publication of Proceedings:

The Secretary reviewed the possibilities for having the proceedings of the various tsunami meetings at the Tenth Pacific Science Congress published by the IUGG, American Geophysical Union, Pacific Science Congress, or University of Hawaii. It was voted that the IUGG be requested to publish the entire proceedings, in accordance with an oral proposal by the Secretary General. It was voted that Mr. Cox serve as editor.

Bibliography:

The Chairman discussed the tsunami bibliography that the IUGG resolution on tsunamis, adopted at Helsinki, proposed be compiled by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Mr. Murphy reviewed the progress to date at the C. and G. S. He indicated that the IUGG would be the publisher and that assistance was being sought from representatives in different parts of the world, for example, Dr. Takahasi in Japan, Dr. Lomnitz in Chile, and Dr. Galanopoulos in Greece. Several oceanographic institutes and universities in the United States may be contacted. Previously compiled bibliographies would be circulated to the several representatives to avoid duplication of effort. Annotation was being considered, but its feasibility is uncertain.

Mr. Cox urged that annotation of the bibliography be attempted, and suggested that the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii might be able to assist with the translation of abstracts into English.

Tsunami Data Collection:

The Secretary reviewed the IUGG resolution that tsunami data be collected at World Data Centers A and B for seismology and indicated that specification of the data to be collected should be major concern of the meeting. Dr. Van Dorn suggested that the most valuable data would be simply information from all research centers as to what data they had available. Dr. Takahasi recommended the collection of actual records from a number of tide stations if the motion at any one station exceeded a certain magnitude. Mr. Cox discussed the problems of identifying in advance what records other than tide gage records would be worth collecting. After further discussion, it was voted to have collected and catalogued at the World Data Centers, for the present, only information as to the records of tsunamis obtained by and available at all agencies.

Adjournment:

After a review of the resolutions adopted and a call for other business, without response, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at about 17:00.