

distribution). The Secretary stated that the full texts of these reports will be available, on request, from the IOC Secretariat. The Group regretted that, due to absence of members from Latin America, no national reports from this region had been received, particularly as developments in Latin America are of great importance and interest to the Group.

5. International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) - Developments

The Director of ITIC reported on the latest developments and activities of the Center; his report is contained in document IOC/ITSU-IV/3 Addendum. In the discussion, the Chairman of the IUGG-Tsunami Committee and the delegate of the USSR expressed their appreciation of the work accomplished by the Center but also felt that the collection and distribution of information material on tsunami still needs further improvement. In their opinion, ITIC should not only serve as an information and referral centre but also as a data centre. The delegate of Canada proposed that a new post of Associate Director of ITIC be established and that he be selected from a Member State (of ITSU) other than the United States, in order to make the Center more international in character. The Director of the Center and the delegate of the U.S.A. welcomed this suggestion and pointed out that a real need exists for additional assistance, because of the increasing workload. The delegate of the U.S.A. suggested that the Group should elaborate those functions of ITIC to which the rôle of the Associate Director would be related. The Secretary then informed the Group that funds were available to send two scientists, preferably from developing countries to the Center, for a period of about 6 weeks. The Group expressed its appreciation for this and suggested that the Director of ITIC should contact institutes and individual scientists, drawing their attention to the availability of funds for visiting ITIC (cf. IOC resolution VIII-24-Annex V). It was agreed that the selection of candidates be made jointly by the Chairman of ITSU and the Director of ITIC, in consultation with the Secretary of IOC. The Director of the Center also agreed to assist with the exchange of scientists between different regions. Because of the importance of the matters discussed, the Group adopted recommendation 4, (cf. Annex II), covering the most important aspects of the work of ITIC.

6. Consideration of IOC Resolution VIII-24* concerning ITSU Adopted by the Eighth Session of the IOC Assembly, Paris, 5 - 17 November 1973

The Secretary introduced IOC resolution VIII-24. Discussion of several paragraphs was deferred until the relevant agenda items were taken.

A lengthy discussion however took place on the second half of the penultimate paragraph, which requests Unesco and UNDP to provide support and assistance to the developing countries in order to enable them to set up their own national warning systems.

The delegate of the U.S.A. suggested that the Group should assist developing countries by providing an action plan, not only on how to set up a national warning system, and on how to participate in the international system, but also on how to obtain the necessary financial support. The observer of Fiji pointed out that the travel of ITIC staff members to different developing countries would facilitate the evaluation of the real needs of these countries. Governments may then be able to decide whether they should set up tide and seismic stations reporting to ITIC and/or a national warning system. The Director of ITIC will be able to advise governments on sources of international funds for such stations.

* (cf. Annex V)

ANNEX II

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATION
GROUP FOR THE TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM IN THE PACIFIC
AT ITS FOURTH SESSION

Wellington, New Zealand, 4-7 February 1974

Recommendation 1 - The International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)

The ICG for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific:

Considering that the ITIC has provided an effective means for co-ordinating the activities of the Tsunami Warning System and for supporting related research efforts,

Expresses its appreciation to the U.S.A. for operating the ITIC and the continued support to be provided, particularly in view of the expanded activities envisaged for the ITIC,

Noting IOC Resolution VIII-24 which invites Member States to provide all possible co-operation with the ITIC in implementing its major international tasks,

Noting also the Canadian proposal that it would be advantageous to the international community and to ITIC to select among the other participating Member States an Associate Director who would work in close co-operation with the U.S. Director in the operation of the Tsunami Warning System and the ITIC,

Endorses the view of the Tsunami Committee of IUGG that visits of scientists, particularly from countries whose Tsunami Observing and Warning Systems are still developing, to institutions of other countries are an effective way of improving experience and facilitating intercommunication of ideas for the better understanding of all aspects of tsunami research,

Recommends that the functions of the ITIC, as outlined in the Annex to this recommendation, be endorsed,

Recommends further that an Associate Director of the ITIC be selected to work with the Director at the Center.

Annex to Recommendation I

FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER

To give technical advice on all the equipment required for an effective warning system and to provide assistance in the establishment of national warning systems.

Periodic study and assessment visits should be made to developing countries in order to evaluate their instrumentation requirements, assess their performance, offer advice as appropriate, and suggest avenues for assistance.

To evaluate the performance of the Tsunami Warning System with regard to communications, data networks, the Warning Center and dissemination.

To continue the development of a co-ordinated observing system which will provide the information necessary for the issuance of effective tsunami warning to those nations wishing to receive such messages.

To maintain a data acquisition, storage and retrieval system as described below:

The ITIC is charged with acquiring and maintaining the most complete data set possible with regard to tsunamis. World Data Centre A (tsunamis) provided marigrams and seismograms for a limited set of input stations.

In order to avoid duplication of effort the ITIC should look to WDC-A (tsunamis) as a source for a subset of its data. In addition, ITIC should acquire copies of the greatest number of marigrams possible. Data records of microbarograms relating to large shallow focus earthquakes should also be collected (both for tsunamigenic and non-tsunamigenic earthquakes). T-phase data related to tsunamigenic earthquakes should be archived.

In general, seismic data should not be collected and archived except for those data utilized in actual real-time operations of the Tsunami Warning System. Requests for seismic data would be handled by referral to the appropriate World Data Centre for seismology.

A system for the cataloguing and storing of non-standard data (as for example, from a scientific experiment of short duration) should be developed and maintained.

A data storage and retrieval system should be established which includes not only the above mentioned raw and processed data but also information on the library and all other available data.

To encourage a visiting scientist programme by providing facilities at ITIC and arranging for exchange of scientists among countries.

To publish a Newsletter on a regular basis and distribute it to interested individuals and institutions.

To publish and disseminate appropriate compilations of tsunami information or data. Such publications may include regional tsunami catalogues and yearly summaries of tsunamis.

To maintain a library of publications related to tsunamis.

Recommendation 2 - Expansion of the Tsunami Warning System

The ICG for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific:

Recognizing that additional seismograph and tide stations are needed to provide better geographical coverage for earlier detection of tsunamis, including their magnitude and propagation rates and more accurate earthquake epicentre determinations,

Having considered the lists of seismograph and tide stations submitted by the ITIC and Member States,

Provides the priority lists of seismograph and tide stations contained in the Annex to this recommendation for consideration for establishment by Member States;