

---

JAPANWMO Co-operation in International Seismic Data Exchange

The Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to consider international co-operative measures to detect and identify seismic events, in its report to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament dated 9 March, 1978 (CCD/558), recommended use of the global telecommunications system (GTS) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for the global transmission of Level I seismic data, "because of the global availability, proven operation and low cost" of the GTS. Accordingly, after informal contacts between representatives of the Ad Hoc Group and WMO officials, the Secretary-General of WMO submitted to the Eighth WMO Congress held in Geneva in May 1979 a proposal for the use of the GTS in accordance with the Ad Hoc Group's recommendation.

The Ad Hoc Group obtained preliminary acceptance of its proposal by the Eighth WMO Congress and has since had the benefit of close co-operation with WMO officials in working out details. The Ad Hoc Group understands that the excess capacity of the GTS is sufficient to handle the expected load from the proposed global exchange of Level I data. It should be pointed out, however, that the WMO Congress was assuming that, prior to its Ninth Congress in 1983, there would be another request to the WMO to co-operate formally or informally in the international exchange.

On this basis, the trial exchanges conducted by the Ad Hoc Group in 1980 and 1981 were conducted only under provisional arrangements with the WMO.

The Ad Hoc Group stated in its 1978 report (CCD/558) as follows: "In Order to use the WMO/GTS for data exchange within the global network it will be necessary to obtain an official agreement through the appropriate international organizations". In its second report, this time to the Committee on Disarmament, dated 25 July 1979 (CD/43), the Ad Hoc Group stated as follows: "In order to ensure the reliability of seismic data transmission on the GTS, formal arrangements similar to those now in effect for meteorological data will be needed. The lack of such arrangements is the main reason why significant data loss now occurs when transmitting seismic data on the GTS".

In the 14th Progress Report of the Ad Hoc Group, it is stated that "The Group noted the advice of the WMO that significant improvements in transmission could be expected only if the Ad Hoc Group were to use the GTS on a regular basis".

It would appear to be advisable that the continued co-operation of the WMO in the exchange of seismic data through the WMO/GTS be formalized by means of an official request to the WMO before its 1983 Congress (scheduled to be held from 2 to 27 May, 1983). From the WMO point of view it would presumably be desirable if such a request be communicated to it before the meeting of its Commission for Basic Systems scheduled to meet from 30 January to 11 February, 1983. The request could be addressed to the Secretary-General of the WMO from the CD's chairman representing the Committee on Disarmament.