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Mr. Graham E. Holmes, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is liaison officer for this office. He may be reached at code 183, extension 5706.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT G. HART, *General Manager.*

REPLY FROM INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON OCEANOGRAPHY
OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, D.C., March 18, 1965.

Hon. JOHN E. MOSS,
Chairman, Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, House of Representatives.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MOSS: This is in reply to your letter of February 12, 1965, inquiring about the public information policy of the Interagency Committee on Oceanography and its compliance with section 3 of the Administrative Procedure Act of 1946 (5 U.S.C. 1002).

The answers to your questions are as follows:

1. The function of the Interagency Committee on Oceanography (ICO) is to coordinate the participation of the various Federal agencies in the national oceanographic program. In doing so, the ICO prepares the national program and plans the program budget. Although the ICO does not deal directly with the general public in any business capacity, it does, in compliance with 5 U.S.C. 1002, provide information about its activities, and those of all of its panels or subdivisions, to individuals or organizations requesting it.

2(a). The organization of the ICO is described in the following publications:

A. The National Oceanographic program, fiscal year 1966, ICO Pamphlet No. 17, p. — v. —. A copy of this pamphlet is forwarded herewith as enclosure (1). A similar description will be published in subsequent annual program documents.

B. National Oceanographic Program, 1965, Hearings Before the Subcommittee on Oceanography of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the 88th Congress, serial No. 88-23, GPO, p. 23 ff. —. A copy is attached as enclosure (2).

C. The Interagency Committee on Oceanography Roster. This unofficial publication contains an organizational grouping of the names of ICO members, observers, and panel representatives. A copy is attached as enclosure (3).

2(b). The means by which the ICO carries out its functions is delineated in the foreword to the National Oceanographic Program, fiscal year 1966, ICO Pamphlet No. 17 (see enclosure (1)).

2(c), (d), (e). The Interagency Committee on Oceanography is subordinate to the Federal Council for Science and Technology. The Council was established by Executive Order 10807 of March 13, 1959. A copy of this order is attached as enclosure (4). Accordingly, statements of rules and policies are the prerogative of the parent organization.

3, 4, 5. Not applicable. The Interagency Committee on Oceanography would not conventionally become involved in legal matters or, for that matter, in any situation requiring opinions, orders, citations, or interpretations, etc.

6. Records and files are made available to the general public upon informal request.

7. The ICO is not normally concerned with classified material. Accordingly, records of its activities are available to the general public. Exceptions might include, for instance:

(a) Records of executive sessions.

(b) Privileged material received from industrial organizations.

(c) Intrabureau for official use only material.

8. Private parties normally deal directly with the ICO either by correspondence, telephone, or personal visit. Matters discussed involve only information about the progress of the national oceanographic program. The ICO commits neither agencies or persons in the Federal Government to dealings of any kind.