

"* * * the resources, facilities, and staff of the Federal agencies must be involved in this program if it is to be a success." He further encouraged the exploration of "* * * the optimum nature and extent of Federal agencies involvement with this program."

In order to carry out this responsibility, the Foundation established the Inter-agency Coordinating Committee for the International Biological Program (ICC) with Dr. Harve J. Carlson as Chairman. The ten Federal agencies who have appointed representatives to this Committee are: Atomic Energy Commission, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Department of Interior, Department of State, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Smithsonian Institution and the National Science Foundation.

The interagency committee has met a number of times in Fiscal Years 1966 and 1967 and accomplished several important tasks. First, it has reviewed requests from the National Academy of Sciences U.S. National Committee for the IBP (USNC) for the support of the costs of planning and development of the U.S. component of the International Biological Program, and has worked out multiple agency funding for these Academy activities. Second, it has inaugurated a survey of research within the various Federal agencies that might be congruent with IBP objectives, and encouraged the U.S. National Committee to consider whether the Federal agencies activities might contribute to a stronger U.S. participation in the IBP. In addition, discussions have been held to explore mechanisms whereby several of the pertinent Federal agencies may participate in the support of the actual research projects that will make up the U.S. program.

It is generally agreed both by the ICC and many of the USNC members that the U.S. program can be handled best by multiple agency involvement rather than centralizing support in a single Federal agency. Thus, IBP is not visualized as solely an NSF program although it is the responsible coordinating agency and will continue to play a strong role. Specifically, the arguments for encouraging multiple agency involvement are: 1) some projects will be best performed at existing major facilities of such agencies as: Atomic Energy Commission, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Water Pollution Control Administration, Public Health Service, etc.; 2) scientific talent is scarce, and in many cases a current research project can, by adding international components, be effectively incorporated into the IBP to the benefit of both the overall IBP Program and the ongoing research project; 3) the skill of Federal agencies in international collaboration will be a useful asset; and 4) the coupling of fundamental and applied research in some cases can work to their mutual advantage. Where the world food supply and human adaptability are the underlying themes, it seems particularly important to have close communication between specialists representing the basic sciences and those concerned with the application of science and technology to specific problems.

Representatives of participating agencies in ICC have expressed interest in IBP, are aware of the potential role of their agencies in IBP, and are making efforts to insure that a strong U.S. program will be developed. The interest of Federal agencies in the IBP has been expressed by the submission to the USNC of lists of current intra-mural research activities for review and possible inclusion in the U.S. program. A soon-to-be-released report of USNC will be devoted largely to the listings of IBP-approved on-going projects in Federal laboratories.

A report by the USNC on the proposed plan of the U.S. IBP program, has been released to some 50,000 U.S. biologists. The dissemination of information on IBP on such a wide scale has brought notice of this activity to the attention of a number of U.S. scientists who, heretofore, have had little knowledge of its aims or objectives. That U.S. scientists are responding favorably to the U.S. concept of IBP is evidenced by the number of research proposals now being received by not only the Foundation, but a number of other granting agencies as well.

A joint attack on specific major problems by the Federal agencies and the U.S. scientific community at large warrants serious consideration. For example, we all recognize that one of the most pressing problems facing man today is the undernourished condition of large segments of the world's population. Foremost among the objectives of the IBP is the consideration of the biological basis of world productivity. This includes the study of "* * * organic production on the land, in fresh waters, and in the seas, so that adequate estimates may be made of the potential yield of new as well as existing natural resources * * *."