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The United States Program for the International Geophysical Year

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PROGRESS has been made in developing the program of geophysical observations to be carried out during the years 1957-58 as part of the many-nation cooperative undertaking known as the International Geophysical Year (IGY). A Coordinating Group, appointed by the United States National Committee last November (*See NEWS REPORT*, Vol. III, No. 6), convened on January 14 and 15 and prepared drafts of the various programs that might be undertaken by the United States.

Based on these drafts, a tentative program-budget document was prepared and submitted to the National Science Board on January 19 in the hope that the National Science Foundation would undertake the securing of funds. Since then the Coordinating Group, members of the Committee, the Administrative Secretary, and various scientific colleagues have been engaged in the revision of this provisional document, which is essentially fiscal. The meeting of the Committee on April 8 and 9 was devoted to a review of these drafts and the preparation of the United States

program document to be submitted by May 15 to the Secretary-General of the Special Committee set up by the International Council of Scientific Unions. This Special Committee will meet in Rome, October 1-4, to consider all the national proposals.

It is apparent at this time that an appreciable and significant United States program is fast taking shape. Ten fields of activity have been chosen for the IGY: 1) meteorology, 2) latitude and longitude determinations, 3) geomagnetism, 4) the ionosphere, 5) aurora and airglow, 6) solar activity, 7) cosmic rays, 8) glaciology, 9) oceanography, and 10) rocket exploration of the upper atmosphere. The general nature of the proposed activities in each of these fields is suggested by the following summaries.

1) *Meteorology*. The meteorological program is designed to produce significant data in three areas—the lower atmosphere in the Northern Hemisphere, where existing stations will provide data in their normal course of operation; the lower at-