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BY SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

To more fully inform the public about the International Geophysical Year, the Senate Committee on Appropriations is publishing a report summarizing its progress and objectives according to a joint announcement today by Senator Carl Hayden, Chairman of both the Congressional Joint Committee on Printing and the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Senator Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Office Appropriations. Senator Hayden pointed out that it is unusual for the Senate Committee to publish a scientific document of this length and that it is doing so now because of the dramatic scope of the International Geophysical Year program and its importance to the people of the United States.

"This unparalleled scientific effort known as the International Geophysical Year is very much in the national interest," Senator Magnuson asserted. "It will, for example, give us vital information on natural events that exert a controlling influence on our daily lives, on commerce, industry, transportation, and on the range and reliability of radio, television, and navigation systems. From the scientific standpoint these studies will produce needed information, for example, about cosmic rays, the ionosphere, particles from the sun, the weather, the relationship between the sun and the earth, and other important aspects of the physics of the earth and its atmosphere."

Senator Magnuson described the scope of the U. S. program for the International Geophysical Year. "It will," he explained "include scientific studies in the Antarctic, the Arctic, the Continental Americas, the Atlantic and Pacific, and even high in the atmosphere above us. To learn all these things," said Senator Magnuson, "the scientists will use the most up-to-date methods available, including elaborate expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic, oceanographic vessels making long sea voyages, rockets, and earth-circling satellites."

Senator Magnuson explained that "Observations in many cases will be taken on agreed-upon 'world days' when the geophysicists of the forty six participating nations, located at pre-arranged points about the globe, will simultaneously and on a completely coordinated basis make their observations of particular natural phenomena. The period 1957-58 has been chosen because it will be a time of exceptional solar activity. Never before has such a comprehensive world-wide scientific endeavor been undertaken."

Senator Magnuson indicated that each nation is planning and conducting its own program, but that all national programs are technically coordinated. He said that the program of the U. S. had been planned by the nation's leading geophysicists, gathered together by the National Academy of Sciences.

Publication of the report will serve the important purpose of providing comprehensive and lucid information on this unprecedented international scientific effort to members of Congress, Government agencies interested in the program, scientists, and the general public.