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General Conference

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CO-ORDINATION OF ABSTRACTING SERVICES IN NUCLEAR SCIENCES

Note by the Director General

1. At its seventh regular session the General Conference adopted a Resolution [1] requesting the Director General to collaborate closely with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in establishing and developing co-operation and co-ordination among the different abstracting services in the sphere of nuclear sciences, and inviting the Governments of Member States to offer him suggestions as to appropriate ways and means of achieving these objectives.
2. During the past year collaboration between the Agency and UNESCO has taken two principal forms: (a) participation by the Agency in the three working parties held by UNESCO on scientific documentation, and (b) discussion on nuclear science documentation held during the first meeting of the UNESCO/Agency inter-secretariat working group.
3. The working parties examined problems and made recommendations concerning Scientific Publications [2], Automatic Documentation - Storage and Retrieval [3], and Scientific Translation and Terminology [4]. The Agency also took part in the Final Technical Working Group on Scientific Documentation [5] held in March of this year to co-ordinate the work of these working parties.
4. In the discussion of the inter-secretariat working group it was agreed that the UNESCO publication "A Code of Good Practice for Scientific Publications" [6] was a useful means of promoting uniformity in the presentation of abstracts.
5. Under cover of a multiple letter dated 10 February 1964 the Director General transmitted copies of UNESCO documents "A Code of Good Practice for Scientific Publications" and "Guide for the Preparation and Publication of Synopses" [7], together with copies of an Agency paper entitled "Co-ordination of Abstracting Services in Nuclear Sciences". The Director General also invited comments and proposals from Member States regarding the improvement of abstracting services and proposals for establishing regional documentation centres. In response to this invitation a number of Member States have sent their comments.

[1] Resolution GC(VII)/RES/150.

[2] UNESCO/NS/184.

[3] UNESCO/NS/185.

[4] UNESCO/NS/187.

[5] UNESCO/NS/Doc. TWG. 2(Rev.).

[6] UNESCO/NS/177.

[7] UNESCO/NS/51D.10aA.

6. A further step, taken by the Secretariat with the object of promoting and improving, on an international level, the exchange and publication of abstracts of scientific papers in the nuclear sciences, has been to approach the Abstracting Board of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) with a proposal that the ICSU Abstracting Board apply to the nuclear sciences its procedures, which are already established in such scientific disciplines as physics and chemistry, of consultation for extending and improving the presentation of technical and abstracting journals.

7. The ICSU Abstracting Board reacted favourably to this proposal and in July of this year its Executive Committee considered and approved a final draft contract, prepared by the Secretariat, under the terms of which the Agency would furnish the Abstracting Board with lists of technical journals and abstracting periodicals in the nuclear sciences and would contribute US \$1500 to the Abstracting Board, to be used for expenses connected with the implementation of the contract.