Noticeboard

Diary

☞ Further dates for your diary

1991

22–30 April	**Special Antarctic Treaty Meeting**, Madrid.
15–19 April	☞**Preliminary Meeting for XVI Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting**, Bonn, Germany Contact: Dr K. Messer, Auswärtiges Amt (Foreign Affairs), AS 504, Postfach 11 48, D-5300 Bonn 1, Germany.
29 April–1 May	**Workshop on Cold Region Mechanical Weathering.** Centre de Geomorphologie du CNRS, Caen, France. Details from: Dr J.P. Lautridou, Centre de Geomorphologie du CNRS, Rue des Tilleuls, 14000 Caen, France.
3–6 May	**Symposium on Periglacial Environments in Relation to Climatic Change.** Maastricht, Amsterdam, Netherlands. IGU Commission on Frost Action Environments. Organizer: Professor J. Vandeberghe, Institute of Earth Sciences, Free University, De Boelelan 1085, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
3–6 June	**Symposium on the Tropospheric Chemistry of the Antarctic Region.** Boulder, Colorado. Contact: Dr B. Bodhaine, Antarctic Symposium, NOAA/CMDL-R/E/CG1, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80303-3328, USA.
16–21 June	**International Symposium on Cold Region Development.** Edmonton Convention Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Contact: Shirley Kwan ISCORD 91, P.O. Box 8330. Postal Station 'F', Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6H 5X2.
24–28 June	☞**Gondwana VIII.** Hobart, Tasmania. (Delegates should note that dates have been changed) Convener: Dr R.H. Findlay, Department of Resources and Energy, Box 56, Tasmania 7018, Australia.
7–12 July	☞**CRYO 1991.** Society for Cryobiology. University of Leuven, Belgium. Contact: Professor Dr W. De Loecker, Afd. Biochemie, Campus Gasthuisberg, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.
2–9 August	**XIII INQUA Congress.** Beijing, China. Details from: Secretariat, XIII INQUA Congress, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 52 Sanlike, Beijing 100864, China.
4–10 August	**Fourth International Phycological Congress.** Duke University, North Carolina. Details from: Congress Secretariat, Department of Botany, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706, USA.
5–9 August	**6th Chilean Geological Congress,** Viña del Mar, Chile. Contact Dr J. Corvalan, Servicio Nacional de Geologia y Mineria-Chile, Avenida Santa Maria 0104, Casilla 1347, Santiago, Chile.
11–15 August	**First International Offshore and Polar Engineering Conference.** Secretariat Address: ISOPE–91 Edinburgh, 4 Frederick Sanger Road, Surrey Research Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5YJ, UK.
11–24 August	**XX IUGG General Assembly.** Vienna, Austria. Details from: IUGG 91 Organizing Committee, c/o ZAMG, Hohe Warte 38, A-1190 Vienna, Austria.
26–30 August	☞**Glaciology Relating to Human Activities**, Lanzhou, China. Contact: Secretary General, International Glaciological Society, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER, UK.
1–6 September	**Symposium on the Physics and Chemistry of Ice.** Sapporo, Japan. Details from: Norikazu Maeno, Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060, Japan.
10–13 September	**Second WMO Operational Ice Remote Sensing Workshop.** Ottowa, Ontario, Canada. Contact: D. Mudry, Ice Centre Environment Canada, 373 Sussex Drive, LaSalle Academy Block E, Ottowa, Canada.
9–13 September	**Sixth International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences.** Ranzan-Machi, Saitama, Japan. Convener: Prof. Y. Yoshida, National Institute of Polar Research, Kaga 1-9-10, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 173, Japan.

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18–21 September ☞ **SCAR IGBP Global Change Research in Antarctica: Strategy Planning Workshop.** Bremerhaven, Germany. Convenor: G Weller, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska.

18–21 September ☞**SCAR–SCOR BIOMASS Colloquium**. Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Bremerhaven, Germany. Contact: Mrs Dr S. Schiel, Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Postfach 120161, Columbusstraße, D-2850 Bremerhaven, Germany.

22–27 September ☞**XII International Congress of Carboniferous and Permian Stratigraphy and Geology.** Buenos Aires, Argentina. Contact: XII ICC-P, Division of Paleobotanica, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales 'B. Rivadavia', Av. Angel Gallardo 470, 1405 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

23–28 September **SCAR Antarctic Science Conference**. Bremen, Germany. Contact: Dr H. Kohnen, Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Postfach 120161, Columbusstraße, D-2850 Bremerhaven, Germany.

September ☞ **Sixth International Symposium on Ground Freezing.** Beijing, China. Details from: Hans Jessberger, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, PO Box 102148, D-4630 Bochum 1, Germany.

30 September–2 October ☞**Antarctic Challenge IV Conference.** Bremen, Federal Republic of Germany. Details from: Prof. Dr R. Wolfrum, Institut für Internationales Recht, Olshausenstraße 40, D-2300 Kiel 1, Germany.

3–4 October **Magmatism and the Causes of Continental Break-up**. Geological Society, Burlington House, London. Contact: Dr Bryan C. Storey, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road Cambridge, CB3 0ET, UK.

7–18 October ☞ **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting – XVI**. Bonn, Germany. Contact: Dr K. Messer, Auswärtiges Amt (Foreign Affairs), AS 504, Postfach 11 48, D-5300 Bonn 1, Germany.

11–15 November ☞ **V International Circum-Pacific Terrane Conference.** Santiago, Chile. Convener: Francisco Herve Departamento de Geogía y Geofísica, Universidad de Chile, Casilla 13518 Corro 21, Santiago, Chile

12–15 November ☞**International Design for Extreme Environments Assembly.** University of Houston. Contact: Larry Bell, Sasakawa International College of Architecture, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun, Houston, Texas 72004, USA.

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24 August–3 September ☞**International Geological Congress**. Kyoto, Japan. Contact: Secretary General IGC–92 Office, PO Box 65, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan

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5–9 July ☞ **International Symposium on Biology and Ecology of Southern Ocean Cephalopods.** Kings College Cambridge, UK. Convenor: Dr Paul Rodhouse, British Antarctic Survey.

23–29 August ☞ **Third International Conference on Geomorphology**, McMaster University Ontario. Contact: Derek Ford or Brian McCann, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4K1

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News

World Heritage listing for Heard Island and the McDonald Islands.
The Australian Government applied during October 1990 for World Heritage listing for its subantarctic territory of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands (53°05'S 73°30'E; 400 km^2). The international polar consultancy, Poles Apart, was invited to referee the Australian submission, and to provide source material, including photographs. The application, which is being circulated internationally for comment, seeks international recognition of the territory because of its special value for climatological and biological studies. World Heritage listing of these islands would be the first of its kind in Antarctic regions.

Japanese whaling
Japan sent a factory ship, *Nissan Maru No. 3*, with three catchers to hunt 300 minke whales. The expedition is being conducted under a clause allowing scientific whaling despite the present ban on commercial whaling.

Hydrocarbons in marine samples
Details of procedures used in the Antarctic programme to evaluate aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons are described in a manual entitled ''The Extraction and Analysis of Hydrocarbons in Marine Samples'' by G.C. Cripps. Copies are obtainable from British Antarctic Survey.

New research ship launched
The *RRS James Clark Ross* was launched by Her Majesty the Queen at Newcastle on Tyne on 1 December. The 99.04m diesel electric ship has 340 sq m of wet, dry and environmentally controlled laboratories, workshops, cool and cold rooms, computer suite and underway instrumentation and control room. The ice-strengthened research and supply vessel will enter service with British Antarctic Survey in summer 1991, and will replace the 35 year old *RRS John Biscoe*.

New Antarctic Ships
The United States National Science Foundation has ordered a new research vessel with ice breaking capability. The ship, to be called the *Nathaniel B Palmer*, is being built by Edison Chouest Offshore Inc, Larouse, Louisiana and on completion will be operated by NSF on a ten year charter. The contract, including the charter, is for US S83.8 with an option for purchase at S55 at the end of the charter period.
The *Nathaniel B Palmer* will be 99m long with a displacement of 6500 tons. Diesel engines generating 12 720 shaft horsepower will power twin screws, giving the ship the ability to break a metre of ice at 3 knots. There will be a crew of 26 plus 37 scientific berths. The ship will have a helicopter landing deck and housing for two 4-passenger helicopters. Mission duration will be up to 75 days and is expected to include a wide range of scientific cruises in both summer and winter.
The National Antarctic Programme of the Comision Interministerial de Ciencia y Tecnologia in Spain has an 82m Antarctic research vessel called *Hesperides* at present under construction. The vessel will perform both logistic and scientific roles, and the latter is expected to include both marine biology and marine geophysics.

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