Southampton Oceanography Centre

Tuesday 15 June 1993

The Natural Environment Research Council, the University of Southampton and Wimpey Construction UK are pleased to welcome their guests to the time capsule laying ceremony for the Southampton Oceanography Centre.

The centre-piece of today's events will be the placing of the time capsule by the Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Minister of Public Service and Science. The time capsule is a model of the DOLPHIN instrument, currently under development, which will range the oceans in the twenty-first century gathering data for climate research. It contains a representative collection of items intended to reflect the academic, scientific, and wider communities in June 1993.

Programme

11.00 **Arrival of guests at Ocean Gate, offices of Associated British Ports**

11.30 **The Southampton Oceanography Centre — briefing:**
Professor John Knill, Chairman, Natural Environment Research Council
Dr John Woods, Director of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Natural Environment Research Council
David Natas, Project Manager, Culpin Partnership

11.45 Transfer to the site of Southampton Oceanography Centre

12.00 **Time Capsule Laying Ceremony:**
Roy Mundy, Project Manager, Wimpey Construction UK
Sir Gordon Higginson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Southampton
The Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister of Public Service and Science

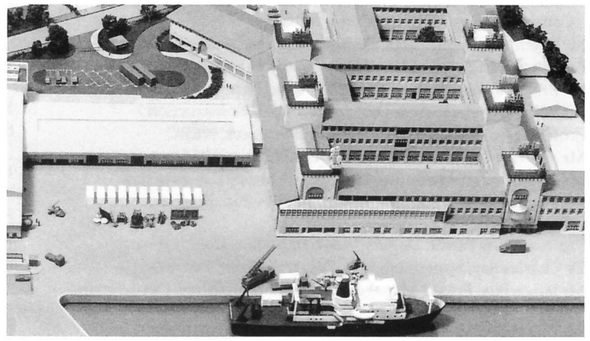
12.30 Transfer by coach to the Sail Training Association ship, Sir Winston Churchill

12.45 **Reception and Lunch**

1.45 The Rt Hon William Waldegrave to depart.

A centre for the 21st century

Yesterday



Tomorrow

The Southampton Oceanography Centre is set to play a pivotal role in marine sciences, earth sciences and marine technology throughout the next century. This exciting and ambitious project will see the transformation of 13 acres of dockland adjoining Empress Dock into a centre of international scientific excellence.

Due to open in 1995, the Centre has its origins in the recommendations of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology published in December 1985. The report called in general for strengthening of contacts and collaboration between research institutes and higher education, and in particular for strengthening of the links between the University of Southampton and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Institute of Oceanographic Sciences Deacon Laboratory. A successful bid for funding to construct the new Centre was made by NERC to the Advisory Board for the Research Councils and announced by the Minister of Education and Science in February 1989. Subsequently the Universities Funding Council announced funding for the University part of the Centre.

A joint development

The new Centre is a joint development between NERC and the University of Southampton. The Centre will bring three elements together on the same site. First, the NERC's Institute of Oceanographic Sciences Deacon Laboratory (IOSDL) will move to Southampton from Wormley in Surrey to be joined at the Oceanography Centre by the IOSDL James Rennell Centre from the University of Southampton's Chilworth Science Park. Secondly, NERC's Research Vessel Services (RVS) presently based at Barry in South Wales will be relocated to the new Centre, which will become the home base for the fleet of Royal Research Ships. The third element are groups from the University of Southampton including the Departments of Geology and Oceanography and activities from the underwater acoustics group of the University's Institute of Sound and Vibration Research. In addition, it is hoped to establish a Marine Science and Technology Park adjacent to the Centre to facilitate links with industry.

Maximizing investment in marine research

The Centre will provide a national focus for all aspects of research, training, undergraduate teaching, technology and support services in marine and earth sciences. Bringing together a large number of individuals with wide-ranging but complementary skills will create a community with such a breadth of expertise that the Centre will be able not only to conduct research and teaching at the highest level but also have the flexibility to respond to changing national interests. The development of the Centre will help to maximize the benefits of government investment in basic and strategic marine research at a time when investment in such areas as climate research is seen to be of crucial national interest. Existing science will be stimulated and there will be opportunities to host novel, large and exciting research programmes which are currently beyond the capabilities of single institutes or universities. Teaching and training will benefit; there will be increased opportunities for technology transfer; and the logistics and efficiency of sea-going and technical support will be enhanced.

An aerial view of the site — Autumn 1992

The Centre will be an integrated development, based upon common interests, activities and services. Intellectual interactions will be maximized, and capital investment optimized. The Centre will have a mix of laboratories and work areas, bringing together the same disciplines from NERC and the University. Expensive facilities, such as sophisticated chemistry laboratories, will be shared and a range of common services provided for the benefit of all staff. To maximize opportunities for interdisciplinary communications, there will be as many opportunities as possible for staff and students to meet and mix—either formally via shared laboratories and meeting rooms or informally via attractive restaurant facilities and pleasant corners. Ship operations and student activities will be integrated with other Centre activities.

Integration

Such an integration will break down the divisions between the different components. There will not be separate buildings for IOSDL, RVS and the University departments. Instead there will be a mix of components appropriate to particular activities.

The Centre will be a visible demonstration of scientific excellence and technological know-how both now and into the next century. Visitors will be encouraged and it is hoped to develop a Visitors Centre linked by a footbridge to Ocean Village.

Building work in progress — Spring 1993

The buildings

The Centre will be housed in a new custom-built complex sited on 13 acres of land adjacent to Empress Dock. The site includes 200 metres of quay for the sole use of the Centre. The complex will have science and teaching activities contained within a block of three quadrangles with adjoining workshops, stores and open areas.

Each quadrangle will be three storeys high; the block will face the quay and be accessed from European Way, which forms the northern boundary of the Centre and leads to the Sealink terminal. The workshops and the stores complex will be linked to each other and to the quadrangles, forming a single community with continuous internal access. Specialized facilities will include a research aquarium, temperature controlled areas, pressure calibration, test tanks and a wide range of different laboratory areas. The National Oceanographic Library will be housed on the site as will biological and geological collections of international importance.

The Centre will form an important landmark for the City of Southampton and will have a major impact on the waterfront. It will be an accessible and exciting place to work and to visit—visually striking and attractive to staff, students and visitors but at the same time practical, cost-effective and efficient. The development will be a major milestone for marine sciences, earth sciences and marine technology and for the City of Southampton.

Main building work commenced in January 1993, with Wimpey Construction UK the main contractor. Completion is scheduled for February 1995 and it is hoped the Centre will be fully operational by the start of the 1995/96 academic year. When complete, the Centre will house around 450 research scientists, lecturing staff and support staff together with 480 undergraduate and postgraduate students. Total budget for the project is about £48 million.

Guest of honour

The Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister of Public Service and Science

Guests

Mr David Anderson, Managing Director, Wimpey Construction
Councillor John Arnold, Chair of Strategy and Development Committee, Southampton City Council
Mr Jeremy Baldwin, Public Communications Manager, NERC
Professor Ken Barnes, Dean of the Faculty of Science, UoS
Mr Brian Bartram, Senior Project Manager, Wimpey Construction
Mr Bob Baveystock, Area Director, Wimpey Construction
Professor Jim Briden, Director of Earth Sciences, NERC
Mr Andrew Cahn, Private Secretary to William Waldegrave.
Mr Brian Dodge, Marketing Manager, Wimpey Construction
Mr Rodney Ewers, Building Design Partnership, Mechanical Engineers
Professor Roy Farrar, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UoS
Dr Charles Fay, Superintendent, Research Vessel Services
Mr James Fox, Project Manager, Estates and Buildings Department, UoS
Mr David Griffiths, Establishment Officer Division, NERC
Mr Allan Haigh, Executive Director, Wimpey Construction
Professor Norman Hamilton, Head of Department of Geology, UoS
Sir Gordon Higginson, Vice-Chancellor, UoS
Mr David Hill, Senior Buildings Officer, NERC
Mr Brian Hinde, Director of NERC Scientific Services
Mr Mark Holden, EC Harris, Quantity Surveyors
Mr Stuart Hollyer, NERC Staff Representative, British Geological Survey
Professor Tim Holt, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UoS
Mr David Horner, Marketing Director, Wimpey Construction
Mr Nigel James, Gifford and Partners, Structural Engineers
The Rt Hon The Earl Jellicoe, Chancellor, UoS
Mr Andrew Kent, Port Manager, Associated British Ports, Southampton
Mrs Kathleen Klett, Head of Building Services, NERC
Professor John Knill, Chairman, NERC
Mr John Lauwerys, Secretary and Registrar, UoS
Mr Christopher Lowe, Director, Rose Project Services
Ms D Melville-Riddell, Press Office, OPSS
Mr Roy Mundy, Senior Project Manager, Wimpey Construction
Mr David Natas, Project Manager, Culpin Partnership
Dr Philip Nelson, Chairman of the Fluid Dynamics and Acoustics Group, Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, UoS
Professor Robert Nesbitt, previously Head of Department of Geology, UoS
Miss Dee O'Neill, Marketing Assistant, Wimpey Construction
Sir David Phillips, Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils
Dr Raymond Pollard, Director, James Rennell Centre for Ocean Circulation
Professor Geraint Price, Head of Department of Ship Science, UoS
Mr Colin Read, Finance Officer, NERC
Mr Peter Reader, Public Relations Officer, UoS
Professor Chris Rice, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
Dr Ian Robinson, Head of Department of Oceanography, UoS
Mr Howard Roe, Project Coordinator, Institute of Oceanographic Sciences Deacon Laboratory
Mr Derek Schofield, previously Secretary and Registrar, UoS
Professor Ian Shanks, Chairman of the Inter-Agency Committee on Marine Science and Technology
Dr Colin Summerhayes, Director, Institute of Oceanographic Sciences Deacon Laboratory
Professor Steve Thorpe, previously Head of Department of Oceanography, UoS
Mr John Tomkins, Area Commercial Manager, Wimpey Construction
Mr Peter Townsend, Project Commercial Manager, Wimpey Construction
Mr Donald Wark, Director of Strategy and Development, Southampton City Council
Mr David Wilkinson, Head of Science Base Group, Office of Science and Technology
Mr Kingsley Williams, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council, UoS
Dr John Woods, Director of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, NERC

The Time Capsule

DOLPHIN (Deep Ocean Long Path Hydrographic Instrument) is one of a family of instruments designed to gather large amounts of oceanographic data quickly and economically. Complex research programmes such as climate prediction create increasing demands for the collection of physical, chemical and biological data to model the Earth's processes.

The seven metre long DOLPHIN vehicles are being developed at NERC's Institute of Oceanographic Sciences Deacon Laboratory. Next century, DOLPHINs will travel across the ocean on an undulating profile roughly 30 kilometres long, moving from surface to the seabed and taking measurements throughout the water column.

It is estimated that ten routine DOLPHIN surveys a year could monitor and perhaps predict the flow from the North Atlantic of the sun's heat which maintains the mild climate of Britain and Europe.

The time capsule is a model of DOLPHIN, approximately one metre long. It contains the following items:

History of the NERC
NERC Annual Report 1991/92
Atlas of the Fine Resolution Antarctic Model
CD Rom of North Sea data
Brochure and screen 'dumps' of NERC's digital marine atlas
Manganese nodule from the ocean floor
Government White Paper *Realising our Potential: A Strategy for Science, Engineering and Technology*
Brochures from the Hadley Centre— *Transient Climate Change Experiment; and A Review of the Science Base Underpinning Climate Prediction*
A £5 coin commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Queen's reign
Postage stamps on the theme of marine timepieces
Brochure of Research Vessel Services, including postcards of royal research vessels, ship specifications and organizational chart of RVS Staff
Programme for the Opening of RVS Barry in 1972
Medallion commemorating Centenary of Port of Barry 1889-1989
UK Research Vessels Cruise Programme 1992
Video tape (25 minutes) 'Rebirth of Discovery' — The conversion of the 30 year old RRS Discovery into a modern research ship
Front panel of the first RVS designed ' ABC Shipborne Computer System and a specification of the 'ABC' Shipborne Computer currently installed on all NERC research ships
Slice of Deep Tow Conducting Cable used both for deep-towing marine instruments and supplying electric power and data communication
Expendable Bathy-thermograph Probe for measuring vertical temperature profiles of the ocean
Part of Towing Cable Fairing used to reduce turbulence and drag of cables which tow instruments through the sea
University of Southampton Undergraduate Prospectus
University of Southampton Annual Report
University of Southampton Research Report
Departmental and postgraduate brochures — Departments of Geology and Oceanography
New Reporter (University house newsletter) — edition of 2 June 1993
Wessex News (student newspaper) — May 1993 edition
University paperweight, in Dartington box, engraved with Arms of the University
Southampton City Plan Summary
Southampton Local Plan Deposit Draft
The Echo newspaper, edition of Friday 4 June 1993