

Ag scientist plans to study ice layers

An oil rig may begin drilling in the Antarctic within two years, but drillers won't be looking for oil. They will be seeking knowledge of the history of ice layers, geologic sediments and untouched deep ocean marine life.

Plans for drilling through the Antarctic's Ross Ice Shelf in preparation for international research were initiated by a National Academy of Sciences ad hoc group convened by Dr. Sayed Z. El-Sayed.

The Ross Shelf drilling project, expected to break ice in the Austral summer of 1971, will go through the 200 to 1,400-meter thick shelf. Holes will provide oceanographers, glaciologists and geologists access for examining sediments and marine organisms under the ice.

"The area has been undisturbed since the Pleistocene," commented El-Sayed, appointed last November to convene the Academy-National Research Council ad hoc planning group.

"This may turn out to be one of the most significant scientific projects yet undertaken in the Antarctic, from the point of view of uncovering new knowledge about a part of the ocean never before penetrated directly by a scientific instrument," stated Dr. J. H. Zumberge, NAS Glaciology Panel member of Arizona.

The 11-member ad hoc group including Dr. Louis J. Thompson, director of Terramechanics Laboratory, met in Washington in late March. It made recommendations for a broad research program and considered engineering problems and logistics-engineering management of the drilling project.

Recommendations are being reviewed this week in Tucson by an NAS Panel on Glaciology. The plan will be presented at the 11th Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) meetings in Oslo next August and later at the International Oceanographic Assembly in Tokyo.

On the ad hoc group with El-Sayed and Thompson were representatives of Wisconsin, Ohio State, Stanford, Rockefeller and Arizona Universities, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the Army's Cold Research and Engineering Lab and U. S. Geological Survey.

El-Sayed, veteran in Antarctic oceanographic research, was asked to convene the panel by Dr. Laurence M. Gould, chairman of the NAS Polar Research Committee.

A three-dimensional model of the shelf constructed here by former architecture graduate student Fred Wallis was used at the March meeting.

El-Sayed said a nine-inch diameter pilot hole will probably be drilled near McMurdo Station, at about 80 degrees south latitude and several hundred kilometers from the edge of the ice shelf.

"Three holes are being considered," he noted. "One to be used by biologists requires extreme care to prevent contamination of the water under the shelf. Glaciologists would obtain ice cores from another hole, which would penetrate only partially into the shelf."

The third drilling is proposed to pass through the shelf, water and into the bottom, providing for examination of a sedimentary environment succeeding the period of ice maximum when ice was aground at the point of exploration.

Biologists' interest will be in the organic world beneath the shelf. The project could lead to discovery of organisms and processes surviving—perhaps flourishing—in a region from which upper level marine life has been excluded.

Dr. Willis E. Pequenat and Dr. William M. Sackett provided ideas for biological and chemical aspects of the project. Other studies including measurement of water properties, stratigraphical and chronological studies and investigation of heat flow through the ocean floor are being considered.

The Terramechanics Lab headed by Thompson has made ice penetration studies. The civil engineering professor conferred with Dr. John R. Pedigo in petroleum engineering and officials of a Houston drilling firm about the project.

"From the standpoint of current drilling technology and state of the art from experiences on Alaska's North Slope, the Ross Ice Shelf drilling project should not meet any insurmountable problems," Thompson said.

Killeen, San Marcos have anti-war protests Monday

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two anti-war incidents occurred in Central Texas Monday night.

At Killeen, near Ft. Hood, more than 350 persons cheered when the City Council unanimously denied anti-war protesters a parade permit for Saturday, to coincide with Armed Forces Day at Ft. Hood.

Some 50 persons from the Oleo Strutt coffee house protested the council's quick action. One said they had been told the matter would be discussed.

Some protesters chanted "oink, oink" at police at City Hall, where the council met. One person, wearing a T-shirt stenciled with a red clenched fist, said, "We will hold our parades anyway, capitalists."

About 75 students walked with lighted candles at Southwest Texas State University at San Marcos, and 75 more joined them in a walk to President B. M. Jones' house.

There they asked that May 13 be declared "a day of mourning for all people who have died by violence, especially those at Kent State and in Vietnam."

"Please remember," Jones said, "that any decisions I make must be made in the light of what is

best for 9,300 students, not just the 150 or so here tonight."

"This campus pulls more on a panty raid than on a peace march," said protest leader Mike Holman, "so we have more work to do. The next time we come we will bring 9,300."

Soil judging team wins second place in national

The soil judging team won second in the National Soil Judging Contest May 8 in Michigan.

Team members were Roger Blackwelder of Pilot Point; Darrell Engel, Rosebud; Michael Hoch, Garden City; Fred Minzenmayer, Winters; and Danny Barrett, Pampa. Professor J. F. Mills is coach.

Minzenmayer was third high point individual, and Hoch was eighth high.

Purdue University won and Oklahoma University took third place.

The contest consisted of identifying and classifying soil profiles and characteristics within the profile. Contestants then determined how the soil would react under different environmental conditions.

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