

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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P+P
Weather + Climate

FROM: RWR

DATE: February 19, 1976

TO:

SW		
EJ		
JS		
GHT		
RWR		
2W		

COMMENTS:

SUBJECT: CLIMATE RELATED PROPOSALS

Following recent discussions between EJ, JS, GHT and RWR, it was agreed that we would summarize for further discussion with officers, our thoughts regarding RF support of climate-related proposals. We are all aware of several recent actions which have been taken by CIR, QE and jointly between CIR and QE in this general field.

RWR has recently chaired a committee panel of National Research Council's project on climate fluctuation and agricultural production. A considerable body of recent summary literature has been arriving at the Foundation including (1) an MIT report on a "Meeting on Weather-Food Interactions", (2) the FAO interim report on "Climatic Variability and Its Implications for Agricultural Planning", (3) the Charles F. Kettering supported conference on "World Food Supply in a Changing Climate", which was held at Sterling Forest and (4) the Colorado State University "Workshop for an Assessment of the Present and Potential Role of Weather Modification in Agricultural Production." These are all substantial publications, mostly very general in nature, but do summarize in a new form, available research and subjective opinions. In addition, we are all receiving more frequent inquiries for support of weather and climate-related projects.

There is nothing specific in the guidelines of the QE program which would clearly authorize us to recommend climate projects. At the same time, it is recognized by all of us that weather and climate change do directly effect the natural environment and food production and can relate to serious international conflict. This latter is obviously of particular importance with regard to any attempts at weather modification.

Memo:

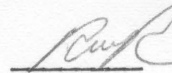
To: SW,EJ,JS,GHT

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We note a very substantial increase in the number of individuals without previous experience in weather or climate, now turning their attention to a field which is being funded at the federal level rather substantially through NSF and NOAA. I believe it is certain that fundable projects will come to the attention of QE Committee, probably most closely associated with the effects of weather and climate such as acid rain, flood plain management, soil conservation and erosion types of projects.

It is my opinion at this point, that our staff capability is inadequate to probe the fundamentals of weather prediction and climate variability. Further, such fundamental research should come clearly within the responsibilities of federal funding agencies. I am thus disinclined to urge that we consider any major modification of QE guidelines to accommodate expanded work in this field. This is not to close the door to either further discussions and considerations as our capabilities evolve and as needs change, nor do I suggest that we close the door entirely to projects which are obviously directly related to multiple program objectives particularly those between COH, CIR and QE.


R.W.R.