

CANADA Centre for Inland Waters  
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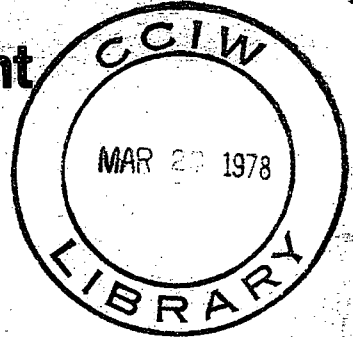
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DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW, USSR AND  
WARSAW, POLAND ON GEMS/WATER

by

Silvio Barabas

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## INTRODUCTION

During the period 1-9 December, 1977, the writer paid visits to a number of Soviet and Polish institutes responsible for water quality monitoring. The purpose of the visits in Moscow and Warsaw was to enlist the cooperation of such organizations in the development and implementation of the United Nations-sponsored program known as the Global Water Quality Monitoring, or GEMS/WATER.

The visit to the Soviet Union was arranged under the terms of the Canada/USSR Scientific Exchange Agreement between the National Research Council (of Canada) and the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The appropriate contacts in Poland were made through the courtesy of Dr. (Prof.) Jan R. Dojlido, Head, Department of Chemistry and Biology, Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Warsaw.

The following is a brief outline of the discussions held and the contacts established. It should be noted that the discussions consisted by and large in this writer's outlining to his hosts the purpose, objectives and the operational details of the GEMS/WATER program and answering pertinent questions.

## MOSCOW, USSR

### 1. Hydrometeorological Service

In the USSR, the responsibility for the national ("All-Union") water quality monitoring rests with the USSR Hydrometeorological Service ("HYDROMET").

Through the kind intercession of the USSR Academy of Sciences, I paid a visit to the Main Administration of the USSR Hydrometeorological Service. I was expected there by the following HYDROMET officials: Dr. Nina K. Gasilina, Chief, Environmental Pollution Studies and Control Department; Vadim G. Novozhilov, Assistant Chief; Yury E. Kazakov, Counselor, the USSR-US Joint Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection; Eugene A. Konygin and Gennady M. Turov, Senior Officers, International Relations Department, USSR Hydrometeorological Services (Complete addresses are shown in Appendix I).

First the writer explained the GWQM program and then answered numerous questions as to the purpose and operating details of the program. Subsequently, Dr. Gasilina outlined the water quality monitoring program in force in the USSR. Apparently, there is presently in the USSR a monitoring network of over 3000 stations monitoring the quality of some 1000 distinct water bodies. The data obtained, comprising by and large the determinands listed in the GWQM project are forwarded for computer storage to the Hydrochemical Institute at Novocherkask. This institute should be moving shortly to Rostov-on-Don. A national (within the USSR) and international (with the COMECON group of countries) inter-calibration and data quality assurance program is in effect.

The overall responsibility for water quality monitoring in the USSR rests with Dr. Gasilina's department and it is she who should be addressed with the official invitation to the USSR to participate in the GEMS/WATER program.

I should add that Dr. Gasilina has been receiving our Water Quality Bulletin for some time and in this manner has been familiar with the activities of our WHO Centre and the GWQM program.

2. Other Contacts in Moscow

While in Moscow, I met with Dr. V.A. Vavilin of the Institute of Water Problems, USSR Academy of Sciences and Dr. (Prof.) M.G. Valyashko of the Lomonosov State University, Faculty of Geochemistry. Dr. Vavilin had spend some 6 weeks at CCIW last summer. Dr. Valyashko, who is the Chairman of the International Committee for Water Quality of the International Union of Hydrological Sciences (IUHS), is this writer's old acquaintance. Both have agreed to prepare articles for the Water Quality Bulletin in their respective fields of interest.

3. Institute of Botany, Vilnius

At the invitation of Dr. D. Marchiulioniene, Senior Scientist and Chief Radio-ecological Section, Institute of Botany, Academy of Sciences, Vilnius, Lithuanian SSR, the writer stopped briefly over the weekend in this Baltic City. Dr. Marchiulioniene had contributed earlier this year an article for the Water Quality Bulletin. Continued cooperation has been assured.

WARSAW, POLAND

The writer was received by Dr. (Prof.) Jan R. Dojlido, Head, Department of Water Chemistry and Biology of the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management. Dr. Dojlido had paid a visit to CCIW in June 1977 and had acted this time as the writer's main liaison in organizing visits to different institutes and ministries in Warsaw.

In Poland, different aspects of environmental management are managed by different departments (ministries). Thus the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the management of all water resources; the Ministry of Administration, Local Economy and Environment Protection

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is responsible for the control of environmental pollution and the operation of a national network of water quality monitoring stations; the Department of Geological Surveys is responsible for groundwater resources, and the Ministry of Health for drinking water quality and the toxicity of environmental pollutants.

In addition, each of the 49 regions (voyvodships) into which Poland is administratively divided is vested with the operational responsibility over the water resources on its territory.

#### Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMWM)

Dr. Dojlido's Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMWM) is under the Ministry of Agriculture. At IMWM, the writer held discussions with Dr. Dojlido and his staff: Andrzej Stoyda, Barbara Taboryska and Jolanta Woyciechowska.

IMWM consists of three departments: Meteorology, Hydrology and Water Management. About 2500 people work in the Hydrology Department of which 1000 are in Warsaw. In the Water Management Department work about 800 people of which 200 are in Warsaw.

#### Department of Environment Protection (DEP)

DEP is under the Ministry of Administration, Local Economy and Environment Protection. Accompanied by Dr. Dojlido, I met Dr. Jan Sibiga, DEP Director; Ms. Teresa Tomasziewicz-Tarnawa, Chief, Division of Atmospheric and Soil Protection and Ing. Wacław Jedliński, Deputy Director, Sanitary Inspection, Ministry of Health.

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DEP is responsible for the "control of environmental quality". It operates a network of regional laboratories and maintains an "integrated observation and information system". In addition, DEP is responsible for the activities of the large Research Institute for Environmental Development (RIFED) in Warsaw.

#### RIFED

I met Ms. Danuta Kudelska, Head, Water Research Laboratory (RIFED); Ms. Ewa Lachert, Head, Chemistry Laboratory and Mr. Zbigniew Smal, Chemist. I was advised that Dr. Ing. J. Jablonski (not present) has the overall responsibility for water quality monitoring and is the one to whom one should write on GEMS/WATER programs. Dr. Irena Kulisz (also not present) has the delegated authority (under Dr. Jablonski) on monitoring programs in Poland.

RIFED is a large research institute with affiliated laboratories across the country. Some 2000 scientists and supporting staff are employed by RIFED of which 700 are in Warsaw. RIFED's broad interests will become obvious from the listing of its departments (divisions): Ecology, Urban Planning, Environmental Legislation, Control of Atmospheric Pollution, Water and Sewage Technology, Soil Degradation, Noise Protection, Standardization, Computer Sciences (the listing is not necessarily complete).

## CONCLUSIONS

Interest has been expressed by all organizations visited in (1) cooperating with our WHO Collaborating Centre; (2) receiving our Water Quality Bulletin, and (3) participating in some manner in the Global Water Quality Monitoring program.

Since the activity under item (3) involves transfer of national water quality data to an international organization for general distribution, official approach is required to secure the participation of the USSR and Poland in the GEMS/WATER program.

Given the fact that the USSR and all of the Eastern-European countries make part of the WHO European Region with headquarters in Copenhagen, the official invitation to such countries should come from either the WHO/EURO headquarters, or from WHO/Geneva. To this end, copies of this report are being forwarded to both WHO/EURO and WHO/Geneva for appropriate action.



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