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Adam Dziewonski, Roy H. Wilkens, John V. Firth, D. James Baker, Jr., James C. Briden,
Bobb Carson, John A. Collins, Eric H. De Carlo, Frederick K. Duennebier,
Hans-J. Dümbaum, Timothy J.G. Francis, Michael O. Garcia, David Goldberg,
Grant Gross, Wei He, Charles E. Helsley, Donna Hull, Randy Jacobson,
Thomas R. Janecek, Toshihiko Kanazawa, Ellen Kappel, Jean-François Karczewski,
Ulisses Mello, Marvin Moss, Jiro Naka, Jane S. Tribble, Guy Waggoner
Shipboard Scientists

John V. Firth
Shipboard Staff Scientist

Prepared by the
OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

William Winkler
Volume Editor

in cooperation with the
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Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Federal Republic of Germany)
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Institut Français de Recherche pour l’Exploitation de la Mer (France)
National Science Foundation (United States)
Natural Environment Research Council (United Kingdom)
University of Tokyo, Ocean Research Institute (Japan)

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Foreword

By the National Science Foundation

The Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) is a major component of the National Science Foundation's continuing commitment to the study of the geologic processes that have shaped our planet and modified its environment. The scientific problems being addressed range from the geologic history and structure of continental margins to the processes responsible for the formation and alteration of the ocean's crust. In a time of enhanced public and scientific interest in problems of global change, ODP provides critical data on changes in ocean circulation, chemistry, and biologic productivity and their relation to changes in atmospheric circulation and glacial conditions. The Ocean Drilling Program has a unique role in addressing these problems, since it is the only facility for continuously sampling the geologic record of the ocean basins, which cover 70% of our planet.

The ODP is the successor to the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP), which was a global reconnaissance of the ocean basins. DSDP began operations in 1968 at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, using a 400-foot drillship, the Glomar Challenger. DSDP was supported initially by only the National Science Foundation, with extensive involvement of international scientists who were invited to participate on drilling cruises. As this international interest continued to grow in the early 1970's, formal participation in the project was offered to the international geoscience community. In 1975, five nations (France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union) accepted this commitment to joint planning and conduct of the project, as well as to financial support for operations. This International Phase of Ocean Drilling (IPOD) continued to 1983. Although the Challenger had reached the limits of her capabilities, the remarkable scientific success of the DSDP and the new questions it had generated demanded a continuing capability for drilling in the oceans.

The Ocean Drilling Program was organized, international participation was coordinated, a new drillship (the JOIDES Resolution) was contracted and outfitted, and her first cruise sailed in early 1985, within 18 months of the retirement of the Challenger. This is a remarkable accomplishment that reflects the efforts and excellence of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc. (prime contractor for ODP), Texas A&M University (science and ship operator), Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory (logging operator), and the international science community in organizing and planning the new program. It was argued in planning for the ODP that a larger drillship was required to provide space for the increasing U.S. and international demand for shipboard participation, improved and expanded laboratory capabilities, and improvements in coring and logging systems. A larger and better equipped vessel would also provide better stability and working conditions in high-latitude regions of the oceans. The success of the JOIDES Resolution has proven the wisdom of these early arguments.

ODP now has operated in all oceans except the ice-covered Arctic. We have drilled above the Arctic circle and within sight of the Antarctic continent. Over 1000 scientists from 25 nations have participated in the initial ODP cruises. The larger scientific parties have allowed an increased emphasis on student participation and training aboard ship. The state-of-the-art laboratories support rapid and complete initial analyses of samples that provide both scientific results and guide subsequent shore-based studies. Nearly 1000 additional scientists have used these data and requested samples from the program's core and data archives for continuing study. The geochemical and geophysical logging capability is unsurpassed in either academia or industry and has provided remarkable new data with which to study the Earth. New experiments to measure and monitor geologic processes have been deployed in ODP boreholes.

The international commitment to ocean drilling has increased in the ODP. In addition to our five partners in IPOD—France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom—two consortia have joined ODP: Canada-Australia and the European Science Foundation (representing Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey). The 20 countries of the ODP represent the community of nations that have a global interest in the geosciences and oceanography. This global scientific participation has assured the program's scientific excel-
lence by focusing and integrating the combined scientific knowledge and capabilities of the program’s 20 nations. It has allowed problems of a global nature to be addressed by providing databases and background studies which are openly shared for planning and interpreting drilling results. It has eased problems of access to territorial waters, allowing comparative studies to be done among oceans. Finally, the international sharing of program costs has allowed this important and large program to proceed without detrimental impact to the research budgets of any one nation.

The Ocean Drilling Program, like its predecessor, DSDP, serves as a model for planning, conducting, and financing research to address problems of global importance. The National Science Foundation is proud to have a leading role in this unique international program, and we look forward to its continuing success.

Washington, D.C.
This volume presents results from the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP), where scientists use a specially equipped ocean drilling ship to sample and measure the properties of the submerged part of the Earth's crust. These data are then synthesized with other information to yield new insights into earth processes.

These results address the scientific goals of the program, which include providing a global description of geological and geophysical structures and materials, studying in detail areas of major geophysical activity such as mid-ocean ridges and the associated hydrothermal circulations, and studying passive and active continental margins. In addition, the ODP data support the study of sea-level and ocean-circulation changes, the effects of the Earth's orbital variations on climate, and the study of processes and mechanisms of evolution from the biological records in the cores which are recovered from drilling.

The Ocean Drilling Program is a partnership of scientists and governments. Overall scientific policy and management guidance is provided by Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES), which consists of committees and panels made up of representatives of the participating institutions and other scientific and engineering experts. The JOIDES Executive Committee (EXCOM) provides general oversight; the JOIDES Planning Committee (PCOM) is the focal point for all scientific planning for the ODP and is key to the scientific success of the program.

The PCOM has a network of panels and working groups which screen drilling proposals, evaluate instrumentation and measurement techniques, and assess geophysical survey data and other safety and siting information. PCOM uses the recommendations of these panels and committees to select drilling targets, to specify the major scientific objectives of each two-month drilling segment or leg, and to provide the science operator with nominations for co-chief scientists. The science operator, Texas A&M University, in turn is responsible for planning the detailed ship's operations, actual drilling schedules, and final scientific rosters, which are developed in close cooperation with PCOM and the cognizant panels.

Many of the scientific goals can be met only with new technology. Thus the program has identified engineering goals, which include the ability to start a hole and to core on bare rock at mid-ocean-ridge sites, to drill in high-temperature and corrosive regions typical of hydrothermal areas, and to core in high latitudes with minimum interference from high seas and sea ice. To meet these needs, the program operates a specially equipped drillship, the JOIDES Resolution, which contains laboratories and equipment that are state-of-the-art, and carries a major new logging program.

The ship, registered as SEDCO/BP 471 after her owners and her length in feet (144 meters), is 70 feet (21 meters) wide, and has a displacement of 16,595 long tons. Her derrick towers 200 feet (61 meters) above the waterline, and a computer-controlled dynamic-positioning system stabilizes the ship over a specific location while drilling in water depths up to 27,000 feet (8230 meters). The drilling system collects cores from beneath the seafloor with a derrick and drawworks that can handle 30,000 feet (9144 meters) of drill pipe. More than 12,000 square feet (1115 square meters) of space distributed throughout the ship is devoted to scientific laboratories and equipment. The ship sails with a scientific and technical crew of 50 and a ship's crew of 65.

Logging is a major part of the overall operation. The program provides a full suite of geochemical and geophysical measurements for every hole deeper than 1300 feet (400 meters). For each such hole, there are lowerings of basic oil-industry tools: nuclear, sonic, and electrical. In addition, a borehole televiewer is available for imaging the well-bore wall, a 12-channel logging tool provides accurate velocity and elastic property measurements as well as sonic waveforms for spectral analysis of energy propagation near the well bore, and a vertical seismic profiler records reflectors from below the total depth of the hole.

Texas A&M University serves as science operator for the Ocean Drilling Program. In this capacity, they operate and staff the drillship to collect cores from JOIDES-designated sites from around the world. The science operator also ensures that adequate scientific analyses are performed on the cores by maintaining the shipboard scientific laboratories and by providing
logistical and technical support for shipboard scientific teams. Onshore, Texas A&M manages scientific activities after each leg, is curator for the cores, distributes samples, and coordinates the editing and publication of the scientific results. Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory (LDGO) of Columbia University manages the program's logging operations, which include processing the data and provision of assistance to scientists in data analysis. The ODP Data Bank, a repository for geophysical data, is also managed by LDGO. Core samples from ODP and the previous Deep Sea Drilling Project are stored for future investigation at three sites: ODP Pacific and Indian Ocean cores at Texas A&M University, ODP and DSDP Atlantic and Antarctic cores at Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, and DSDP Pacific and Indian Ocean cores at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

International oversight and coordination are provided by the ODP Council, a governmental consultative body of partner country representatives, chaired by the United States, which periodically reviews the general progress of the program and discusses financial plans and other management issues. Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc., a nonprofit consortium of U.S. oceanographic institutions, serves as the National Science Foundation's prime contractor and manages the ODP. JOI is responsible for seeing that the scientific objectives and plans are translated into scientific operations consistent with JOIDES recommendations and budgetary constraints.

Scientific achievements of the ODP already include new data on early seafloor spreading and how continents separate and their margins evolve. We have new insight into glacial cycles and the fluctuations of currents throughout geological time. Technical achievements include the first bare-rock coring, and logging data more accurate and complete than ever before. JOI is pleased to have played a facilitating role in the Ocean Drilling Program.

D. James Baker
President
Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.

Washington, D.C.
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE JOINT OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTIONS FOR DEEP EARTH SAMPLING (JOIDES):
University of California at San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Columbia University, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory
University of Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Geophysics
University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
Oregon State University, College of Oceanography
University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography
Texas A&M University, College of Geosciences
University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Geophysics
University of Washington, College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Canada/Australia Consortium for the Ocean Drilling Program, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (Canada) and Department of Primary Industries and Energy (Australia)
European Science Foundation Consortium for Ocean Drilling, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey
Federal Republic of Germany, Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe
France, Institut Français de Recherche pour l’Exploitation de la Mer
Japan, University of Tokyo, Ocean Research Institute
United Kingdom, Natural Environment Research Council
U.S.S.R., Academy of Sciences

PRIME CONTRACTOR
Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.
Washington, D.C.
Thomas E. Pyle
Director, Ocean Drilling Programs

OPERATING INSTITUTION
College of Geosciences
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas
Melvin Friedman
Principal Investigator

OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM
Philip D. Rabinowitz
Director
Timothy J.G. Francis
Deputy Director
Richard G. McPherson
Administrator
Audrey W. Meyer, Manager
Science Operations
Barry W. Harding, Manager
Engineering and Drilling Operations
Russell B. Merrill, Curator and Manager
Science Services
Robert E. Olivas, Manager
Technical and Logistics Support

LOGGING OPERATOR
Borehole Research Group
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory
Columbia University
Palisades, New York
Roger N. Anderson, Head
PARTICIPANTS ABOARD THE JOIDES RESOLUTION FOR LEG 136*

SCIENCE PARTICIPANTS

Adam Dziewonski
Co-Chief Scientist
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Harvard University
20 Oxford Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Roy H. Wilkens
Co-Chief Scientist
Hawaii Institute of Geophysics
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
University of Hawaii
2525 Correia Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

John V. Firth
ODP Staff Scientist/Paleontologist
Ocean Drilling Program
Texas A&M University
1000 Discovery Drive
College Station, Texas 77845-9547

D. James Baker, Jr.
JOI Observer

Frederick K. Duennheier
Seismologist Observer
Hawaii Institute of Geophysics
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
University of Hawaii
2525 Correia Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Hans-J. Dürbaum
JOIDES Executive Committee Observer
Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe
Postfach 510153
D-3000 Hannover 51
Federal Republic of Germany

Timothy J.G. Francis
Geophysicist
Ocean Drilling Program
Texas A&M University
1000 Discovery Drive
College Station, Texas 77845-9547

Michael O. García
Igneous Petrologist
Department of Geology and Geophysics
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
University of Hawaii
2525 Correia Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

John A. Collins
Geophysicist/Physical Properties Specialist
Department of Geology and Geophysics
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
University of Hawaii
1000 Pope Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Eric H. De Carlo
Sedimentologist/Inorganic Geochemist
Department of Oceanography
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
University of Hawaii
1000 Pope Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

* Addresses at time of cruise.
Donna Hull  
Paleontologist  
Department of Geosciences  
University of Texas at Dallas  
P.O. Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

Randy Jacobson  
Seismologist Observer  
Marine Geology and Geophysics  
Office of Naval Research (U.S.)  
800 North Quincy Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22217

Thomas R. Janecek  
Sedimentologist  
Ocean Drilling Program  
Texas A&M University  
1000 Discovery Drive  
College Station, Texas 77845-9547

Toshihiko Kanazawa  
Seismologist Observer  
Laboratory for Earthquake Chemistry  
Faculty of Science  
University of Tokyo  
2-11-16 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku  
Tokyo 113  
Japan

Ellen Kappel  
JOI Observer  
Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.  
1755 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036-2102

Jean-François Karczewski  
Seismologist Observer  
INSU  
DT-CNRS  
4 Avenue de Neptune  
94107 St. Maur des Fossés Cedex  
France

Ulisses Mello  
LDGO Logging Trainee  
Borehole Research Group  
Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory  
Columbia University  
Palisades, New York 10964

Marvin Moss  
SIO Observer  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
University of California, San Diego  
9500 Gilman Drive  
La Jolla, California 92037-0210

Jiro Naka  
Sedimentologist  
Department of Deep Sea Research  
Japan Marine Science and Technology Center  
2-15, Natsushima-cho  
Yokosuka 237  
Japan

Jane S. Tribble  
Sedimentologist  
Department of Oceanography  
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology  
University of Hawaii  
1000 Pope Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Guy Waggoner  
Igneous Petrologist  
Hawaii Institute of Geophysics  
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology  
University of Hawaii  
2525 Correa Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

ENGINEERING PARTICIPANTS

Luc Floury  
IFREMER Observer  
IFREMER  
BP 70  
29280 Plouzane  
France

Merrilee C. Gordon  
Amoco Observer  
Amoco Production Company  
P.O. Box 3092  
Houston, Texas 77253

Barry W. Harding  
Operations Superintendent  
Ocean Drilling Program  
Texas A&M University  
1000 Discovery Drive  
College Station, Texas 77845-9547

Roland Lawrence  
DOSECC Observer  
Ocean Drilling Program  
Texas A&M University  
1000 Discovery Drive  
College Station, Texas 77845-9547

Thomas L. Pettigrew  
Development Engineer  
Ocean Drilling Program  
Texas A&M University  
1000 Discovery Drive  
College Station, Texas 77845-9547
SEDCO OFFICIALS

Edwin G. Oonk
Master of the Drilling Vessel
Underseas Drilling, Inc.
707 Texas Avenue South
Suite 103D
College Station, Texas 77840-1917

Kenneth D. Horne
Drilling Superintendent
Underseas Drilling, Inc.
707 Texas Avenue South
Suite 103D
College Station, Texas 77840-1917

ODP TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICS PERSONNEL

Wendy J. Autio
John W. Beck
Mimi S. Bowman
Valerie Clark
MaryAnn Cusimano
Edwin Garrett
Jenny Granger
Ted ("Gus") Gustafson
Burney Hamlin
Michiko Hitchcox
Robert Kemp
Alan King
Matt Mefferd
Shan Pehlman
Chieh Peng
Joan Perry
William Stevens
Mark Watson
Barry Weber

Marine Scientist
Marine Scientist
Marine Scientist
Chemistry Technician
Chemistry Technician
Computer Systems Manager
Marine Scientist
Marine Scientist
Laboratory Officer
Yoperson
Curatorial Representative
Marine Scientist
Assistant Laboratory Officer
Photographer
Chemistry Technician
Marine Scientist
Marine Engineer
Marine Engineer
Marine Engineer
Ocean Drilling Program Publications Staff

Publications Supervisor
William D. Rose

Chief Editor
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Editors
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Sondra K. Stewart
William R. Winkler

Bibliographer
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Garret D. Gaither
Cynthia M. Mullican
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