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No. 37.298/H/WCP-Water(A.5)

GENEVA, 18 May 1990

Annexes: 2

Subject: Surface Water Runoff Data for the WMO Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC)

Dear Sir/Madam,

In 1982 and again in 1984 letters were sent to Members of WMO requesting them to provide the WMO Secretariat with daily surface runoff data for selected hydrometric stations in their countries. A copy of both of these letters is enclosed, together with their annexes which present details on the criteria for selection of stations and instruction for data preparation, sample formats and quality control procedures.

To date, some 67 Members have supplied daily flow data and catchment maps for selected hydrometric stations in their countries.

I am pleased to inform you that on 1 May 1987, a permanent Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC) was established at the Federal Institute of Hydrology in Koblenz, Federal Republic of Germany, under the auspices of WMO. The GRDC has entered daily flow data and digitized catchment maps for the six-year period 1978-1983 received from Member countries in reply to the above letters. The GRDC operates for the benefit of WMO Members and the international scientific community. It provides a mechanism for the international exchange of data pertaining to river flows on a continuous long-term basis. All data archived by the GRDC are available to users upon written request or personal visit. I am pleased to enclose, for your information, a brochure on the GRDC which includes a description of its responsibilities and functions.

These surface water runoff data are being used in studies relating to global atmospheric circulation modelling and global climate modelling. The compilation of these data sets will benefit the entire international meteorological and hydrological community and is vital to studies aimed at increasing our understanding of the atmosphere-land surface interface and improving the performance of GCMs. We do hope very much, therefore, that you will be able to assist us by filling the gap as regards your country in this important global exercise.

To Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives )  
Prof. H. Liebscher, GRDC, Koblenz, Federal ) (for information)  
Republic of Germany )

*VII 11.5.1986. Seite 12.6.  
1) Karin Schöder vol. 2. lie 7. lie  
2) 26.10.1984  
29.6.1990*

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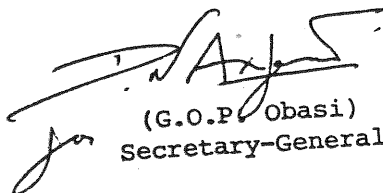
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The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to request you to kindly arrange for the following tasks to be carried out by the national service(s) in your country in charge of data relating to river flows and surface water runoff:

- (a) Select a number of hydrometric stations in your country in accordance with the enclosed criteria and guidelines for inclusion in the GRDC register of hydrometric stations;
- (b) Supply the WMO Secretariat with daily flow data for the selected stations for the period 1 January 1978 to 31 December 1988;
- (c) Supply the WMO Secretariat with catchment maps for the selected stations in accordance with the criteria indicated in the circular letter of 13 June 1984.

We would be grateful if the response to this request could reach the WMO Secretariat by 31 October 1990.

Yours faithfully,

  
(G.O.P. Obasi)  
Secretary-General