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Our ref.: H/GRDC

GENEVA, 22 July 1996

Annexes: 2

Subject: Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC)

Action required: Support to GRDC

Dear Sir/Madam,

In the early 1980s, WMO received from Member countries a set of runoff data for the years 1978-1980 as a contribution to the set of data being assembled for the First Global Experiment of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. These data were compiled into a formal data-set at the University of Munich, Germany, and were transferred, in 1987, to the Federal Institute of Hydrology in Koblenz, where they formed the basis of the Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC). Formally established under the auspices of WMO, the GRDC was officially opened on 14 November 1988.

A Steering Committee for the GRDC was established in 1993 to provide advice to the Centre and review its activities. Its composition includes senior German experts and representatives of WMO, UNEP, WHO, UNESCO, the World Bank and ICSU. Thus it recognizes the contribution that Germany makes to the running of the Centre, whilst at the same time ensures that the latter responds to the needs of the international community for hydrological data.

In June last year, Twelfth WMO Congress noted that the GRDC was being recognized increasingly as an important global source of data on river flow. It expressed its appreciation of the generous support provided to the GRDC by Germany and adopted Resolution 21 (Cg-XII) - Global Runoff Data Centre, a copy of which is attached for your information.

GRDC has recently issued the enclosed brochure, which is currently available in English only. I am enclosing two copies for your information and for onward transmission to other national and regional agencies which you consider might be interested in making use of the Centre and, in particular, working to support it. If you can make use of additional copies of the brochure, please write to the WMO Secretariat or directly to GRDC in Koblenz and we will try to arrange for you to receive the number you require.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-5270)
Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

cc: Members of the WMO Commission for Hydrology (for information)

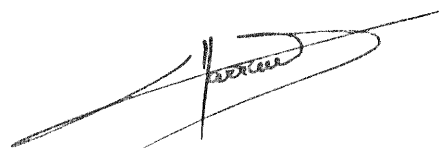
In this regard, it is relevant to note that the tenth session of the Commission for Hydrology will be held in Koblenz from 2 to 12 December 1996 and all delegates to the session will be able to obtain first-hand experience of the work of the Centre.

The value of the GRDC is directly dependent on the data that it holds and for that it relies on those national and regional agencies which collect and compile sets of runoff data to make them available to the Centre. GRDC regularly sends out requests for such data and, on occasion, I also issue such requests. To quote the words of Resolution 21 (Cg-XII), I would strongly "encourage Members to support the GRDC through the provision of the hydrological data and related information that it needs."

The Centre also relies on the resources that Germany has so generously provided, augmented by a limited amount of funds that WMO and WHO have been able to make available. It is clear that, with more staff and more resources in general, GRDC could greatly enhance the services that it provides. It is worth mentioning that the secondment of a staff member with supporting finance for a few months would also provide the person concerned with valuable experience. To quote Resolution 21 (Cg-XII) again, Members are encouraged "to consider also providing support to the Centre in the form of staff, funding, and other resources".

I would urge you to respond positively to this call by Congress for support to the Global Runoff Data Centre.

Yours faithfully,



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

RESOLUTION 21 (Cg-XII)
GLOBAL RUNOFF DATA CENTRE (GRDC)

THE CONGRESS,

NOTING:

- (1) That the GRDC has its origins in support to the WCRP and to studies of large-scale hydrological processes,
- (2) The generous support that has been provided by Germany over many years for the establishment and maintenance of the Centre,
- (3) That the GRDC is now widely-recognized as the principal source of global data on river flows, providing an effective service to an increasing range of users,
- (4) That the Centre already cooperates in a number of major international projects,
- (5) That through its Resolution 11 (EC-XLV) — Report of the ninth session of the Commission for Hydrology, the Executive Council had approved Recommendation 2 (CHy-IX) — Support to global data centres,

CONSIDERING:

- (1) That new and increased demands are now being put on the Centre, in particular in relation to the global assessment of the world's water resources requested by the second session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (1994), the need for a global data centre in relation to WHYCOS, and for various climate studies,

- (2) That the Centre will need considerably more resources if it is to meet these new demands effectively,

RECOGNIZING that the GRDC is a major component of WMO's IHWRP, serving also the WCRP and other programmes of the Organization,

ENCOURAGES Members:

- (1) To support the GRDC through the provision of the hydrological data and related information that it needs, including through the regional components of WHYCOS;
- (2) To consider also providing support to the Centre in the form of staff, funding, and other resources;

REQUESTS the president of the Commission for Hydrology to ensure that the Commission provides the GRDC with the scientific and technical advice that it requires;

REQUESTS the Secretary-General:

- (1) To invite other international organizations to cooperate with the GRDC, to make use of the services that it offers and to contribute both data and other resources in support of its operations;
- (2) To provide all possible support to the GRDC from available resources and to seek additional resources for this purpose from external sources.