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FOREWORD

These International Conferences on Coastal Engineering have grown over the years since 1950 in attendance, in the number of papers presented, and in scope of engineering and scientific content There has been an even greater increase in the work of arranging for a conference--a task which, if well done, gives the erroneous impression of requiring little effort The physical arrangements and the social events of this conference have been superbly done and the Coastal Engineering Research Council and the other sponsoring organizations are most grateful to Chairman Sørensen, Professor Lundgren and the Copenhagen Organizing Committee.

As these conferences have grown in international standing, the number of interesting papers by qualified authors submitted for consideration has increased so greatly as to preclude scheduling all of them in a full week of parallel sessions. The onerous task of selection from among papers of high quality was carried out by the Papers Committee and the Council as equitably as they knew how to do--but, under the circumstances, there may have been some inequities in the choices made--and to those authors so affected the Council is sincerely apologetic.

A topic of considerable professional importance to engineers engaged in coastal work is the scarcity of statistical data on wave action--and the incompleteness of much of the data available This situation becomes both surprising and disturbing, in view of the fact that the effect of ocean waves is a unique characteristic of coastal engineering and that the solution of almost every coastal problem involves consideration of the incident wave climate. There are many natural phenomena for which long-time records and extensive geographical coverage are readily available--rainfall, stream flow, solar radiation, wind velocity, cloud cover and many more, but--the climatology of ocean waves, a phenomenon of overriding importance to coastal engineers and scientists, is fragmentary and much of it is of questionable validity Space does not permit a full discussion of this serious deficiency in the basis for sound planning and design. Providing these data will require national or international programs of observation and analysis Where such programs are inadequate, or lacking entirely, coastal engineers should exert their influence to bring them about under the auspices of a permanent public agency and to put the data in form for engineering and scientific application

Morrough P O'Brien, Chairman
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