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IN CONFIDENCE: NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

CRUISE REPORT

FRS "EXPLORER"

12-20 March 1974 (Part I)

OBJECTIVES:

1. To recover the two current meter moorings laid by "Scotia" in January.
2. To make a (limited) routine environmental survey of the Clyde.
3. To make detailed hydrographic observations on the Clyde sill.

NARRATIVE:

Explorer left Aberdeen at noon on 12 March and made an uninterrupted passage to the Clyde where she arrived during the morning of 14 March. After confirming the security of the two moorings work proceeded on the environmental survey. Close study was made of several marked surface fronts between the Cumbræes and the North Channel, the latter forming part of the observations of the salt wedge on the Clyde sill. The moorings were recovered on 18 March, slightly earlier than planned, because of adverse weather forecasts. All current meters functioned satisfactorily but had suffered quite considerable corrosion damage. In addition one vane assembly had been broken apparently because of interference from a fishing vessel.

Explorer docked at Greenock at 11.00 pm on 19 March.

H D DOOLEY
28 March 1974