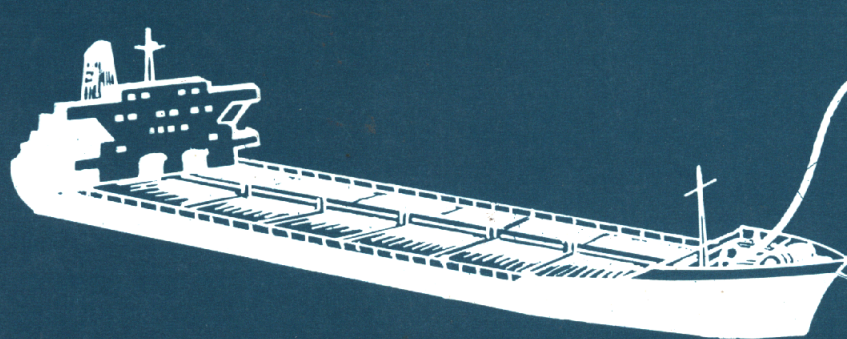
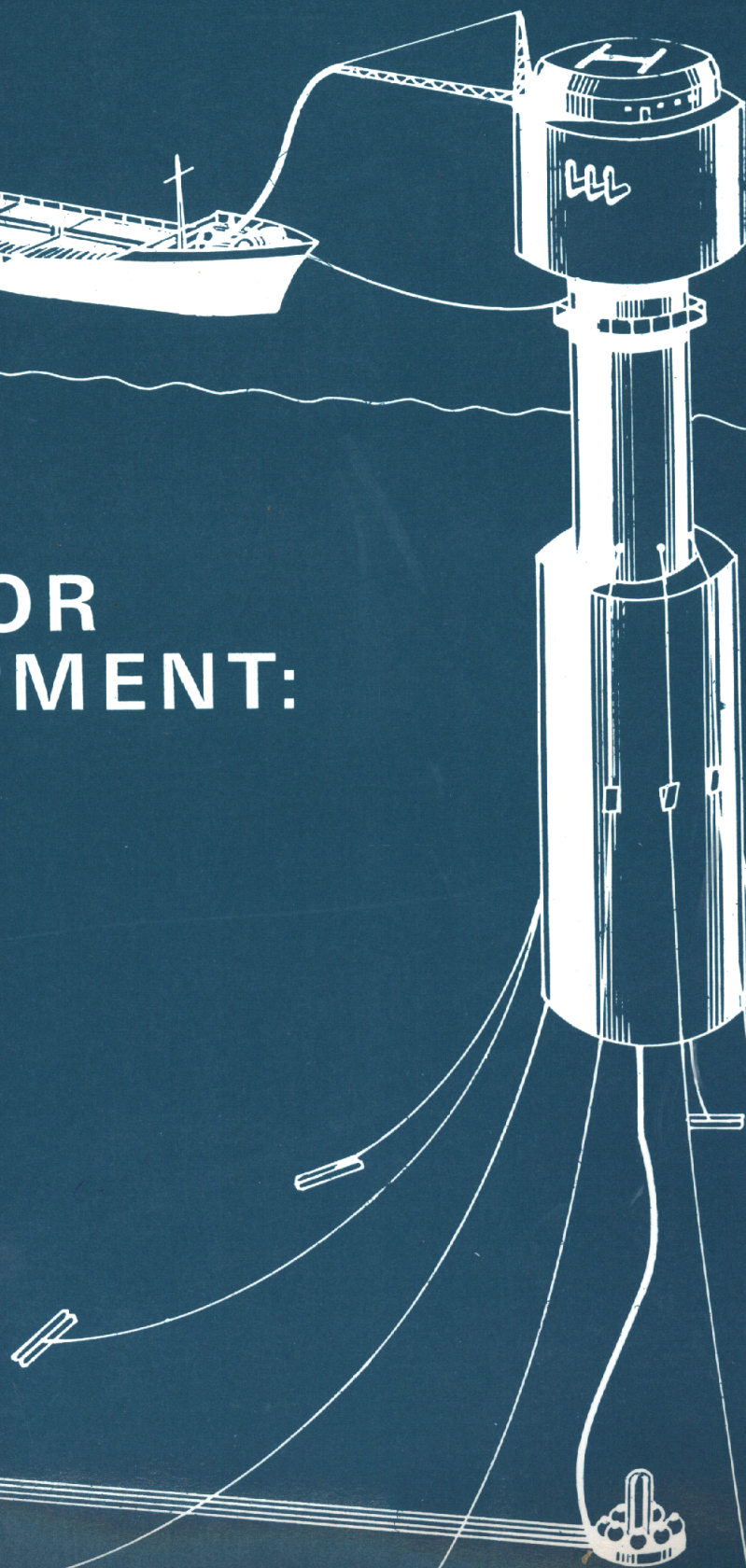


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INTO  
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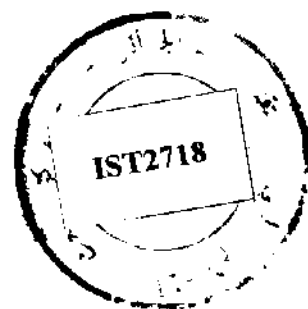




SEA FLOOR DEVELOPMENT:  
MOVING INTO DEEP WATER



# SEA FLOOR DEVELOPMENT: MOVING INTO DEEP WATER



A ROYAL SOCIETY DISCUSSION  
ORGANIZED BY  
SIR ANGUS PATON, F.R.S., SIR PETER KENT, F.R.S.,  
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SIR KENNETH HUTCHISON, F.R.S.  
AND M. B. F. RANKEN  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE BRITISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON  
OCEAN ENGINEERING OF THE COUNCIL OF  
ENGINEERING INSTITUTIONS  
HELD ON 1 AND 2 JUNE 1977

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## PREFACE

All great engineering ventures need scientific data on which to base decisions. Too often such decisions have to be made in situations where the data are lacking or incomplete; this causes uncertainties and delays.

The Council of the Royal Society submitted in April 1974 a memorandum on seabed engineering to the subcommittee of the Select Committee on Science and Technology dealing with that subject. This memorandum stressed the need for continued and increased support for basic studies of the natural forces of the seabed to back up the technical advances being made in deep-sea exploration and exploitation, and the value of close cooperation between scientists and technologists.

The subject was considered by the Industrial Activities Committee, which decided that a discussion meeting covering the problems connected with sea floor development would be appropriate as it would provide an opportunity to bring together the technologists and scientists and offer an opportunity to demonstrate the interactions between engineering and science in the exploitation of the seabed.

The British National Committee on Ocean Engineering of the Council of Engineering Institutions was known to have considerable interest in this subject and consultations were held with this Committee and other interested bodies.

As it was believed that most of the important problems in engineering had been solved for depths down to about 300 m it was decided that the most useful subject for a meeting would be 'Sea floor development: moving into deep water', the term 'deep water' being used broadly to cover problems connected with a depth range of 300-2000 m.

This gave an opportunity of demonstrating British initiative and competence in deep water activities, in particular covering the morphology and currents of the continental margins, subsea engineering, hydrocarbon potential, the geochemistry of ferromanganese deposits, environmental aspects, as well as the up-to-date position on the law of the sea and the ownership of the ocean floor.

The papers submitted at the two-day meeting held on 1 and 2 June 1977 are reproduced in this volume together with a record of the discussion.

*March 1978*

ANGUS PATON





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