COMMISSION FOR SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY
ABRIDGED FINAL REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION
New-Delhi, 21 January – 15 February 1958
WMO – No. 74.RP.30

GENERAL SUMMARY

8.7

Code form for supplementary reports from ocean weather stations (Agenda item 8.7)

It was agreed that the code form FM 26.A was not completely adequate for transmission of special reports from ships and a new form FM 26.B was developed, with instructions for its use (see Recommendation 2 (CSM-II)).

Extensive discussions took place with regard to the telecommunication aspects of the onward relay of unscheduled reports. Reference is made to the remarks to this subject under agenda item 7.7

Rec. 2 (CSM-II) – CODE FORM FOR SPECIAL REPORTS FROM SHIPS

THE COMMISSION FOR SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY,

NOTING,

(1) Recommendation 1 and 2 (Third NAT/RAN Meeting ICAO);

(2) The general need for special or more frequent surface reports from ocean weather stations;

RECOMMENDS:

(1) That code form FM 26.A be deleted and replaced by FM 26.B :

SPESH GGggw_2
$YQL_aL_aL_a$ $L_oL_oL_o$ Nddff VVwwW
$8N_sCh_sh_s$ ($0TTT_dT_d$)

(2) That the following notes be added to the code form FM 26.B :

(i) SPESH is a symbolic prefix, indicating a special report from a ship;

(ii) The criteria for the taking of a special report follow hereunder. They should be applied Regionally with a view to transmitting messages of interest to synopticians in order to avoid the transmission of a large number of reports. The criteria are:

(a) When a marked and sustained change in mean wind speed has occurred (of the order of 20 knots or more sustained for 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the observaion). Identified by code figure for $w_2 = 1$;

(b) When a marked and sustained change in mean wind direction has occurred (of the order of 30^o or more sustained for 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the observation) the mean wind speed having been 15 knots or more before or after the change. Identified by code figure for $w_2 = 1$;

(c) When fog has begun or ended. Identified by code figure for $w_2 = 2$;

(d) When precipitation has begun or ended (excepting individual showers in case of showery precipitation). Identified by code figure for $w_2 = 4$;

(e) When pressure has risen or fallen by 2 mb or more in the preceding hour. The sign of the pressure change will be reported by appending the words PLUS and MINUS to the message to indicate rising and falling pressure. Identified by code figure for $w_2 = 5$;

(f) When one or more of the following phenomena has occurred :

Hail Heavy snow Freezing precipitation	Identified by code figure $w_2 = 4$;
Thunderstorm	Identified by code figure $w_2 = 8$;
Squall Water spout	Identified by code figure $w_2 = 9$;

(iii) When more than one criterion exists simultaneously w2 will be the higher number;

(iv) When a combination of these criteria occurs in such a manner as to indicate the likelihood of a frontal passage this may be indicated by appending the word front or the words cold front, warm front, etc., as appropriate;

(v) The 90-99 decade in the codes for VV and $h_s h_s$ should not be used;

(vi) See Note (3) under AERO FM 15.A;

(vii) See present Note (6) under FM 26.A;

(viii) See Note (5)(ii) under AERO FM 15.A;

(3) That Code 93 (w_2) be expanded by the addition of the specification : 5 = Pressure;

(4) That the attention of Members be drawn to the importance of the special reports from ocean weather stations, the difficulty of handling these reports on scheduled meteorological telecommunication circuits, the high rate of loss in the past and, consequently, to the advisability of introducing special procedures to accomplish as closely as possible speedy but schedules transmission.