SUBJECT: SUNGLASSES FOR ANTARCTIC USE

It is necessary for all individuals participating in the U.S. Antarctic Research Program to have good quality sunglasses for their personal protection in Antarctica. It will be the responsibility of each individual to make his own arrangements for sunglasses and the responsibility of each individual project leader or principal investigator to insure that the glasses have been obtained prior to departure for Antarctica. Personnel who have not obtained glasses will be required to get these in New Zealand before flying to Antarctica. Failure to arrive in New Zealand or Ushuaia properly equipped with glasses will cause delays to the initiation of the individual research programs. It is allowable to budget for the cost of the special sunglasses in the research proposal.

Requirements for sunglasses vary a good deal from person to person depending on the length of time he will be in the antarctic, whether or not his work will involve continuous field activity in ice covered areas or whether he will be largely within other station complexes and whether or not a prescription is required. In addition to the sunglasses described here, participants are advised to carry an extra pair of inexpensive sunglasses, purchased at their own expense, in event of loss or breakage of the basic pair.

The information provided herein is for your guidance in the procurement of glasses and additionally it is for the guidance of the dispersing optician. Most opticians will be able to provide the products which are suggested here. If you are unable to find an optician capable of providing glasses in accordance with the specifications suggested here, this office will endeavor to provide you with the name of a suitable optician near you.

Generally, adherence to the specifications listed is recommended in order to insure that an optically sound product is obtained.

Materials Recommended: Gold filled frames are required to provide safety and stability. The lenses may be of the following: (1) American Optical Company (True Color), (2) Titmus Optical Company (T.O. 20), or (3) Bausch and Lomb (G-15 or G-31). The minimum center thickness of all minus lenses will be 2.2 mm for hardening. Plus lenses will be the minimum edge thickness to cut down on weight. Each scientist will have a knowledge of his outside work to help guide the optician in selecting the best density of lenses for him. Commercial temple covering is to be used the full length of either type of temple to keep all metal off the skin.

Fitting Instructions: To insure nasal clearance, fit the bridge wide. In cases where it is not possible to keep the bottom rim from touching the high full cheek bones, a plastic sweat bar should be soldered on each bottom eye wire. For powers of prescriptions over plus or minus 3.00 diaptors, use small eye sizes to cut down on weight. All lenses must be Tempross or Industrial hardened.

Time Schedule: A very definite departure date is established for the individuals participating in the U.S. Antarctic Research Program 1975-76 season; therefore, sufficient time should be allowed for delivery and necessary adjustments. All sunglasses should be in the hands of the recipients prior to their departure from the United States. Upon delivery of the sunglasses, your company's name, address and recipient's name plus his prescription should be made a permanent record at your own institution.