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News Release

GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST  
SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

P.O. Box 30365, Dallas, Texas 75230

AD1-1471



Al Mitchell  
Director of Information

RELEASE (Immediate)

ADDITIONAL NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FUNDS TO FURTHER GRCSW STUDY OF  
GEOLOGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANTARCTICA AND SOUTH AMERICA'S SOUTH TIP  
DALLAS--

Cooperative studies by Chile and the United States to determine the geologic kinship between Antarctica and South America will continue at the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest as the result of an additional \$26,100 grant to the Center by the National Science Foundation. These funds are in addition to a grant of \$31,200 for the project made by the Foundation in 1964.

The two grants are helping to finance a geochronologic study of igneous and metamorphic rocks in Antarctica's Ellsworth Land and the Southern Cordillera of Tierra del Fuego in Chile. Scientists have a unique opportunity of being able to study both old and youthful (in a geologic sense) mountain systems in the same region.

The history of the region's geology is written in the rocks themselves. But this history has to be deciphered in the laboratory. That is what scientists are doing at the Center. Their principal tools are in a laboratory where they prepare radioactive trace elements for analyzing in the Center's mass spectrometers that can transform mineral samples into electrically charged particles, then separate them into streams according to their mass weights.

The principal investigators are Research Associate Martin Halpern and Prof. Henry Faul of the Center's Geosciences Division.

The Tierra del Fuego studies are a joint enterprise by Chile and the United States. The Chilean Navy has provided transportation and logistic support for the United States scientists. The University of Chile at Santiago has cooperated in several research programs, according to Dr. Halpern, who has made two

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field trips to the area.

Dr. Halpern made field studies at four Chilean bases in the South Shetland Islands and on the northern Antarctic Peninsula in 1960-1962. During the Southern Hemisphere's summer of 1963-1964, he was in Tierra del Fuego.

Dr. Halpern plans to return to Antarctica in October. He will go to eastern Ellsworth Land for three and a half months to collect additional rock samples.

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