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Rama Expedition Leg 06
Aug. 22 – Sept. 29, 1980

Weekly Reports
SIO

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Thomas Washington Rama Expedition 071215Z October '80. Departed Padang 30 September after fast fueling and resupply plus miraculous last minute release of spare parts sent to ship. Sukardjono and suparka departed, Curray, Kieckhefer, Benaron, and Comer transferred to R/V Samudera, Shor, Shor, Wahyu, and Hardi joined. Since then have carried out three expanding spread refraction profiles in Nias Basin and one constant offset refraction station across the basin. Refraction records from the multi-channel streamer good quality but precision of results degraded by inoperative scientific radar which had hoped to use for precision ranging with expanded scale converter. Hope we can recover the ranging data for stacking using water wave times. Have made multi-channel runs between refraction stations, surveyed large faults north and south of Nias and tracked interesting deep reflections across basin from Sumatra slope to Nias

Thomas Washington 141225Z October '80. Completed refraction program in Nias Basin and slope for total of 4 expanding spread and two constant offset multi-channel refraction lines. Met Samudera at Teluk Dalam on 9 October and got our people and things back in exchange for Wilson, Hubenka, M. Moore, Hardi, and Wahyu. Did additional multi-channel work east and north of Nias, and then returned to Teluk Dalam 12 October in a rainstorm and found Karig, Bray, and Haeck. Weather has stayed rough as we have carried out shallow reflection work on trench slope west of Nias. Have taken a few neuston tows near Nias, XBT at each refraction station, and have commenced scattering layer recording on 12 kHz. Have obtained one gravity core, lost one piston core. Shor/Moore/Karig/Curray

Thomas Washington RAMA Expedition October '80. Not a great week for science. Lost the second piston core weight stand. Continued work with large gravity cores, a few of which were successful, but not long enough to be very useful. Detailed air-gun and echo sounder studies of trench slope and interesting fan complex in trench axis more productive. Carried out first attenuation station in trench with some instrumental problems, some useable data. Finally initiated 14 pollywogs into the mysteries of the deep following our 8th crossing of the Equator this cruise. Heading west in calm seas to Nicobar Fan for second attenuation station, will then head to Singapore, ETA 27 October. Shore/Moore

Thomas Washington RAMA Expedition October '80. Completed attenuation station on Nicobar Fan with good data from two seafloor hydrophones and moored buoy, took successful mid-water trawl, and several neuston tows. Air-gun runs zigzagged up coast and across north of Sumatra show two possible southward continuations of faults from the Andaman Sea rift/transform system. Let off our Indonesian observer Major Utomo at Lhokseumawe morning of 25 October, ETA Singapore 0800 27 October. (Shor/Moore) 260930Z