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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Professor Norman A. Phillips has been appointed head of the Department of Meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, effective July 1, 1970, upon the retirement of Professor Henry G. Houghton.

Announcement of the appointment was made by Dean Robert A. Albery of the School of Science. Professor Houghton, who lives in Wellesley Hills, has been head of the department for nearly 25 years and is one of the pioneers of modern meteorology.

Professor Phillips, who lives in Lexington, was born in Chicago in 1923 and served as weather forecaster in the Azores while a first lieutenant in the Air Corps from 1943 to 1946. Returning to the University of Chicago, where his education had been interrupted, he received the B.S. degree in 1947, M.S. in 1948 and Ph.D. in 1951. He spent the next five years at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J., as a staff member of the Theoretical Meteorology Project, in which the late Dr. John von Neumann was seeking for the first time to apply computers to numerical weather prediction.

Coming to M.I.T. as a research associate in 1956, Dr. Phillips was appointed associate professor and associate supervisor of the Dynamical Weather Prediction Project in 1957 and professor in 1966. His research has centered on the theory of atmospheric and oceanic motions.

Professor Phillips received the Napier Shaw Prize of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1956, the Meisinger Award of the American Meteorological Society in 1960 and the Editor's Award of the AMS in 1969. He was co-editor of the "Journal of Atmospheric Sciences" from 1962 to 1965 and is associate editor of "Tellus" and "Journal of Geophysical Fluid Dynamics." He is chairman of the International Commission on Dynamical Meteorology (I.U.G.G.) and scientific and technological activities commissioner of the AMS. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the AMS and the RMS.

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Professor N. A. Phillips--2

Professor Houghton was born in New York in 1905, was graduated from Drexel Institute of Technology in 1926 and received the S. M. degree in electrical engineering from M.I.T. in 1927. He became interested in meteorology through research at Round Hill, Mass., from 1928 to 1938 on the physical properties of fog and on methods of fog dissipation. He was director of the Round Hill Field Station from the time it was acquired by M.I.T. in 1948 until it was sold in 1964.

In 1939 Professor Houghton was appointed assistant professor of meteorology. He became associate professor and executive officer of the Department of Meteorology in 1942 and professor and head of the department in 1945.

During World War II Professor Houghton was primarily engaged in the training of Army and Navy weather personnel. He was a member of the National Defense Research Committee's section on infrared and heat radiation and the subcommittees on meteorological and de-icing problems for the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. He was a member of the University Meteorological Committee which coordinated military training programs. He has served as chairman of the Panel on Meteorology of the Joint Research and Development Board, chairman of the Panel for Weather and Upper Air Research of the Scientific Advisory Board to the Commanding General of the Air Force, and as a member of the Army Scientific Advisory Panel.

Professor Houghton received the first Robert M. Losey Award, in 1940, from the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences for his contributions to the science of meteorology as applied to aeronautics and, in 1958, the Charles F. Brooks Award of the AMS. He was given an honorary Sc.D. by Drexel Institute in 1947. He is former president and secretary of the AMS, former president of the Section on Meteorology of the American Geophysical Union, an honorary member of RMS, a fellow of the AAAS, the American Geophysical Union and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi.

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