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Mr. Minister of State,

On behalf of the member states of IUCN and of the national and international organisations represented here and on behalf of the Board of IUCN, I wish to convey to yourself and to the Government of Kenya our sincerest appreciation for the invitation to convene the 8th General Assembly in Nairobi.

Three years ago in Cracow, Poland, the General Assembly agreed unanimously to launch the African Special Project which aims to save the remaining wildlife of Africa, an important natural resource, and to integrate it into the economy of the modern African states. The Arusha Conference representing the second stage of this project has already made history and one of the immediate results has been the worldwide diffusion of the Arusha Manifesto drawn up by the Prime Minister of Tanganyika and his colleagues. It is therefore particularly appropriate that as the end of the third stage of the African Special Project looms ahead, the General Assembly of IUCN has been convened in Kenya, a country that still enjoys a great variety of wildlife thanks to its National and local Parks and that together with many other African states has supported the Arusha Manifesto of which I wish to cite in extenso the closing paragraph since it is so closely linked with the policy of IUCN on this Continent: "The conservation of wildlife and wild places calls for specialist knowledge, trained manpower and money and we look to other nations to cooperate in this important task - the success or failure of which not only affects the Continent of Africa but the rest of the world as well."

It is most encouraging to find that conservation of wildlife and wild places is considered for the first time in a panafrican perspective and that the solidarity of the African Continent with the rest of the world is also recognized. Have not all the African states a common natural heritage of which they are responsible both to their own peoples and to humanity as a whole as stated in the preamble to the African Charter for the Protection and Conservation of Nature adopted recently by the 18th Session of CCTA at Dar-es-Salaam?

International solidarity as we interpret it is not only a moral attitude that looks upon the African fauna and flora for its esthetical value nor is it the attitude of the scientist solely interested in preserving for future reference and research outstanding examples of wildlife and habitat. IUCN is fully aware that international cooperation must also include the conservation of mankind and the betterment of human welfare. Man cannot be divorced from nature even though as his numbers multiplied he has shamelessly mishandled her, believing that his higher intelligence will finally allow him to sever the remaining links so as to leave him completely free.

Within less than 200 miles from here, in between two of Eastern Africa's most extraordinary National Parks, lies the river bed where man lived over one million years ago. In selecting for the guiding theme of the ninth Technical Meeting "The Impact of Man on the tropical Environment", IUCN has envisaged the three

principal phases of the biological history of mankind that can be summarized by the words past, present and future or, as a biologist would see it: man in balance with his environment, man the destroyer of his environment and man aware of his inability to survive outside his environment.

Pre-industrial man practically never passed beyond the first stage as it is still found even today among certain primitive tribes both in the Old and the New worlds. But as higher forms of culture evolved they caused more extensive and more durable encroachments upon the environment thus unwittingly man has started an irreversible process that has, especially in the past, caused entire civilisations to be wiped out since the habitat became unfit for human survival. Such man-made scars that are found in nearly all parts of the Earth will never be healed completely because of the far-reaching consequences that followed their making, but now that we have learned from comparative ecological studies how they originated, we also know in which way their appearance may be prevented by wise land use and rational management of natural resources.

Modern man is the only species to have created its own habitat, adapted to its needs and that together with certain insects has concentrated so great numbers of individuals on so small a surface, but such a habitat is artificial from an ecological standpoint and obviously man can only survive by producing the large amounts of food necessary for his sustenance. In this way, he has created an entirely artificial form of ecology without always being aware that he still remains dependant on natural resources, climate, soil, water and air even though all these factors are deeply influenced by his activities in one form or another.

Aristotle distinguished man by his higher intelligence and, subsequently, Linnaeus named him Homo sapiens. Yet intelligence is unable to evolve from within alone when not provided with a suitable environment upon which it can be exercised. It is his intelligence that enabled pre-industrial man to survive on a regional level, but as his numbers multiplied and mankind spread throughout the world acquiring different social structures, man became less dependant on his immediate environment. His capacity for adapting himself to almost every type of ecological niche, enabled him to multiply beyond the rate of any other species of animal. Famine, disease and wars have taken their toll but they have slowed down only temporarily the ever increasing population pressure. It is not yet too late to take action and to make man aware that conservation does not only imply wise land use for crop production but also the setting aside of recreational areas of particular beauty or scientific interest for his enjoyment and education. National Parks established throughout the world have been recognized by the United Nations Organisation as of particular importance and interest, a form of recognition that was constantly apparent during the First World Congress of National Parks in Seattle last year sponsored by IUCN and the U.S. National Parks Service together with Unesco and FAO. It was encouraging to all to see among the sixty-two countries represented, delegates from twenty-five African states.

At the end of last year, the General Conference of Unesco



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adopted a Resolution calling upon the Director General and upon the competent international organisations to give their fullest support and to provide technical assistance to the developing countries in the conservation of their natural resources, including flora and fauna. The General Conference was of the opinion in particular that to be effective, measures to preserve natural resources, flora and fauna, should be taken at the earliest possible moment simultaneously with economic development, including industrialization and urbanization.

This important Resolution calling upon all member countries to support IUCN was later endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its 17th Session in December 1962. The latter calls upon the Secretary General, the specialized agencies and other interested international and national organisations in support of the above-mentioned United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation resolution, to continue to give their fullest cooperation and provide technical assistance to the developing countries at their request in the conservation and restoration of their natural resources and flora and fauna.

That IUCN is specifically recognized by the foremost world organisation is a tribute to its activities but it also implies greater responsibilities that we are willing to assume provided we are given the fullest cooperation and financial support by our members and donors. Among the latter we have to be particularly grateful to the World Wildlife Fund under the leadership of H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, that has enabled IUCN to assume important tasks that would otherwise have had to be neglected.

Among international organisations recognized by the United Nations special Agencies, IUCN enjoys complete independence of all forms of political influences and its activities are therefore directed by men chosen for their scientific standing, outstanding contributions to conservation and a willingness to cooperate regardless of other considerations.

It is therefore most regrettable that for extraneous reasons these meetings have been deprived of the presence and experience of several participants among whom a member of the Executive Board who over the past six years has given constant and ample proof of his support to conservation on a worldwide scale. The National Parks Board of South Africa represents one of the pioneer organisations that more than any other has opened new roads and introduced new methods that are today the scientific basis for conservation in Africa. In scientific circles any form of discrimination is contrary to the true spirit of international cooperation especially when it applies to those who have proved through their activities that they can contribute most to the problems of conservation in the form of technical assistance to developing countries and thus help them to attain a higher standard of living.

IUCN has been recognized as technical advisor to the Committee of Experts for the Conservation of Nature and Landscape established last year by the Council of Europe. We are consulted regularly and are invited to send observers to the meetings but we cannot become

members of this Committee for reasons of our non-political structure. We have the advantage however of being able to propose solutions adopted in countries outside the Council of Europe and thus lead towards a broader concept of Conservation throughout the whole of Europe. Moreover, IUCN's activity in Europe has also been underscored by the Conference on Conservation and Protection of temperate Marshes and Wetlands, held in the Camargue, France.

In collaboration with other international Agencies, IUCN will plan further projects along the lines that have led to the success of the African Special Project, in other parts of the world. It is however undesirable to undertake too many tasks at the same time and an order of emergency will have to be established and the projects initiated on the basis that IUCN act as catalyser, furnish consultants and evaluate the field of research but allow other better equipped agencies to assume the administrative and financial problems of such enterprises.

The attendance of members and friends at this General Assembly is considerably higher than might have been expected. On behalf of the Executive Board, I particularly wish to extend to you our warmest feelings. The decision taken in Warsaw to hold a General Assembly only every three years, has relieved the Secretariat of much time that has been devoted to other tasks of which you have been kept informed through the regular publication of the Bulletin. The members of the Board and myself are looking forward to enjoying personal contacts with you, hoping for suggestions, advice and constructive criticisms.

Je voudrais également saluer de façon toute particulière les membres et participants francophones et leur dire combien leur présence parmi nous nous est sensible. Nos consultants du Projet Spécial Africain ont visité les pays francophones où ils ont constaté avec satisfaction tous les efforts consacrés à la Protection et à la conservation de la Nature. Je vous souhaite très sincèrement que, durant ces quelques jours que nous serons réunis ici, des contacts personnels puissent se nouer et que nous pourrions trouver ensemble des solutions aux problèmes qui nous préoccupent tous.

Mr. Minister of State,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In declaring open the 8th General Assembly of IUCN, I cannot help experiencing a feeling both of pride and gratitude. Pride because IUCN has successfully weathered stormy waters and can once more go ahead with a full spread of sail and gratitude to all members, friends and donors whose aid and encouragements have enabled us to keep the ship afloat and whose advice has helped to put the helm over and to steer a straight course towards the future.



(b) ARTICLE V A., Sous-section 3, Substituer le paragraphe suivant :  
Sub-section 3, Substitute the following :

3. Les membres du Conseil Exécutif sont élus pour six ans à chaque session ordinaire de l'Assemblée Générale. Afin qu'un tiers des membres soit remplacé tous les deux ans, certains membres n'assumeront leur mandat qu'un ou deux ans plus tard en date du premier juillet de chaque année. A l'exception du Président, les membres sortants ne sont pas immédiatement rééligibles.

The members of the Executive Board shall be elected for a period of six years at each ordinary session of the General Assembly. In order to ensure that one third of the members shall become due to retire every two years, a proportion of the members will not take office until the first and second year after election, as the case may be, assumption of office commencing on the first day of July. With the exception of the President, no retiring member shall be eligible for immediate reelection.

*Hugh F.I. Elliott*

Hugh F.I. Elliott,  
Acting Secretary-General.  
I.U.C.N. Morges,

7 March 1963.

PROPOSITION D'AMENDEMENTS AUX STATUTSPROPOSED AMENDMENT OF STATUTES

A V I S - Indépendamment des modifications apportées aux Statuts en conformité à la Loi suisse comme suite au transfert du siège de l'UICN autorisé par l'Assemblée Générale en sa séance tenue à Cracovie en juin 1960 (des exemplaires des Statuts seront communiqués pour information aux Membres en temps voulu), les AMENDEMENTS suivants seront soumis pour approbation à l'Assemblée Générale au moment de sa réunion qui commencera à Nairobi le 16 septembre 1963 :

N O T I C E is hereby given that apart from the alignment of the Statutes to Swiss Law arising from the transfer of the headquarters of IUCN authorised by the General Assembly at its meeting in Cracow in June, 1960 (copies of the Statutes will be circulated to members for information in due course), the following AMENDMENTS will be submitted for the approval of the General Assembly at its meeting in Nairobi beginning 16 September 1963 :

(a) ARTICLE IV C. - Ajouter les paragraphes suivants :  
Add the following paragraphs :

En cas de décision prise lorsque 50% des voix n'étaient pas représentées ou sur les matières qui ne figuraient pas à l'ordre du jour, au moins 20% des membres peuvent dans les trois mois après réception du procès-verbal demander la suspension d'une telle décision jusqu'à une résolution circulaire parmi tous les membres ou jusqu'à la prochaine Assemblée Générale.

If a decision is made when less than 50% of the potential votes are cast, or is made upon a proposal which has not been placed on the agenda, such decision shall, at the request of not less than 20% of the members submitted within three months of the receipt of the minutes recording such decision, be suspended pending confirmation by resolution circulated to all members or pending the next General Assembly, whichever is requested.

Des décisions peuvent aussi être prises par résolution circulaire à la majorité des deux-tiers, sauf si 20% des membres demandent une discussion en Assemblée.

Decisions may be made by resolution circulated to all members, which receives the support of a majority of not less than two-thirds, provided that, if so requested by not less than 20% of the members, the resolution shall be deferred for discussion by the Assembly.