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F. CARLOS LERMA
DELEGATE OF COLOMBIA and member
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NATIONAL PARKS

1. The main problem in Latin America is the rapid destruction of habitat or its total transformation and lack of proper hunting regulations. This is due mainly to the lack of knowledge by Government officials of the conservation problems. Therefore, it is urgent to set aside areas immediately that can be later developed into National Parks and natural reserves before they are destroyed forever. *

2. I also consider it very important that Alliance for Progress take an active action, probably by sending technical advisers in the conservation field to the Latin American Countries as part of its technical assistance service. Also, it is very important that some financial help is given for this specific purpose. This probably could be handled through an agency like A.I.D. and organizations like F.A.O. O.A.S. UNESCO.

3. With the limited time remaining to set aside natural areas, we must work fast, and one of the best ways to accomplish this, necessarily, is to start at the top. At the same time we can also educate the medium and lower levels by using the same audio-visual aids that show the local situation concerning natural resources--resources that are rapidly disappearing everywhere. I have personally proved this to be successful from my personal experience. I have done this in my country on a small scale with good results.

However, we must have help for travel abroad; and locally in the form of a vehicle, preferably furnished through diplomatic channels to avoid heavy duties and taxes or very high prices if bought locally, this vehicle to be adequately equipped with the necessary cameras, film, and projector to record and show the documentaries which will be used to prove to Government officials, universities, schools, and people generally the value of our natural resources, spectacular scenery, typical fauna and flora, and archeological sites. This also helps in channeling the local and out-of-country tourists to these areas. It is my personal experience through showing my small pictures and films of interesting sites of Western Colombia that has aroused the interest of many groups of tourists and they have visited the areas shown after seeing them at lectures I have presented in several cities in western Colombia and Bogota.

It will be very helpful also to have those movies on conservation and national parks which are distributed by the Conservation Foundation of New York, some of which I have had the privilege of using with excellent success. I would like to be able to obtain some of this material on a permanent basis in order to show it everywhere and through the medium of TV.

4. A team, composed of Mr. Hart, Dr. Budowski, and perhaps a local interested individual, to visit the countries of Latin America and confer with Government officials and scientists in each country might be one of the best ways to get this program on the road. This group could observe the actual problems confronting the individual countries on conservation; development, and establishment of national parks and reserves in relation to local political situations of each area. This group could prepare an impartial report on the present existing conditions in each country; could suggest solutions to present problems; and make recommendations for implementing the study and selections of proper areas, for developing and maintaining of such areas. Such a report covering all the Latin American countries would make a

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strong appeal to F.A.O. and Alliance For Progress for the necessary technical and financial assistance needed now so that these precious and fast-disappearing natural and irreplaceable treasures will be preserved, and also the Latin American Committee on National Parks could be the body to achieve this goal.

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* Much has been ~~has~~ achieved in Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, and Venezuela in the last years, although it represents a small amount of the needs of those countries. Small Puerto Rico has done a remarkable job in setting up National Parks and Reserves. For most other countries, however, everything remains to be done. True enough for such countries, legislation provides for areas to be protected or at least to remain intact, such as high peaks, coastal strips, etc., but this is only on paper-- there is no thorough understanding of enforcement.