



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NATIONAL PARKS

2000 P Street, N.W.

Washington, D. C. (U.S.A.) 20036

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Dr. F. C. Lehmann
Apartado Nacional 680
Cali, Colombia

VIA AIR MAIL_{3/}

CORREO AERO

International Union for Conservation of Nature

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TWO NEW U.S. LAWS

The President of the United States recently signed into law a wilderness preservation system and a land and water conservation fund act. Both have far-reaching implications for park systems planners.

A wilderness system in effect gives Congressional recognition of wilderness as a special kind of wild land use. Wilderness areas, as defined in the act, are largely within U.S. National Forests administered by the Department of Agriculture. Certain other roadless, wilderness areas in the national parks and wildlife reserves will also be recognized as parts of the system. Thus, several agencies in two departments of the national government are charged with wilderness administration and segregating wilderness as a land use distinguished from national parks per se. One of the next major challenges will be the recognition of nature reserves dedicated to scientific research as a legitimate form of land use.

The land and Water Conservation Fund Act dedicates special sources of revenue to the acquisition, planning and development of park and recreation areas at all levels of government. Major criterion is human use. A great deal of emphasis will be placed on planning--in the sense of locating areas to meet specific demands for recreation service. These are the sorts of issues that a park systems planning program has attempted to deal with during its first one and one half years.

From a planning standpoint, passage of these acts and the several varieties of national riverways, recreation areas, seashore bills and so on, enacted by the Congress of the United States this year, shift many of the conservation controversies from the public discussion stage into the more technical administrative planning sphere. Rules and regulations, guidelines for development, and so on, will have to be watched very carefully before it will be possible to judge whether balance in the many parts of the inter-related park systems emerges.

(Inquiries concerning the Land and Water Conservation Act, guidelines for the preparation of a national recreation plan--which will hinge largely on plans made by the states, and thus, depend on political regions rather than resource regions--should be addressed to Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.)

JORDANIAN MONUMENT SYSTEM TO BEGIN

A British expedition visited the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1963. The expedition report recommended a beginning on a system of national parks and monuments in several locations in the nation. The U.S. Agency for International Development received clearance to send a technical advisor to the Assistant Director of the Tourist Authority to advise on the protection, display, and maintenance of prehistoric and historic monuments.

USAID's action was based on a request for assistance initiated by the Government of Jordan. It is integrated with a grant in the amount of \$350,000 already made to the School for Oriental Research (a composite of archeological departments at Harvard University, Cornell University, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University) to do excavations and preparatory work in order to make selective archeological sites accessible for visitation. These actions are in accord with the Jordanian seven-year development plan, and bear a striking resemblance to several of the recommendations made by the British expedition.

Joseph Jaeger, young, vigorous director of the State Parks Board, State of Missouri, USA, has been selected and approved by the Jordanian Government for the difficult task of organizing a monument system in Jordan. IUCN will play a material role in the orientation sessions for Mr. Jaeger. It is hoped that the Jordanian effort will lead to a contractual relationship between IUCN and USAID for the recruitment and oversight of technical missions dealing with park and conservation matters. Hopefully, it presages a new and important phase of IUCN activity.