

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NATIONAL PARKS

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PARK SYSTEM PLANNING PROJECT

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KOREA TO BEGIN PLANNING NATURAL PARKS

Dr. Shim, Chong Supp, Chief, Division of Forestry, welcomed park planning consultant, William Hart, to the Republic of Korea on 24 October 1963. Dr. Shim, a graduate of Yale University, said that it was time for Korea to begin the work of establishing parks and equivalent reserves. Although Shim had been instrumental in securing the invitation from the Supreme Council which led to the Park Planning Project, he made it clear that the planning study should not be limited to the Bureau of Forestry. It was possible, he said, that some other Ministry of the Government should be assigned the major responsibility for park planning and administration.

It was found that the Ministry of Education and Culture was charged with responsibility for "national parks", but the areas under its purview were limited to Buddhist temples and the associated temple forests; the Ministry of Construction was charged with coordinating the planning of physical development schemes; the Ministry of Transportation was charged with the operation of tourist facilities (including lodges to serve the "parks"); and the National Reconstruction Movement was interested in schemes for improving rural regions by installing "parks" complete with aerial tramways and road to the tops of mountains. From the three week examination, it seemed that the Bureau was the only agency with personnel trained to recognize park and wildlife values.

Mr. Hart found his time too limited to confer with responsible officials and see more than a smattering of the landscape too. He was able, however, to spend several days walking in the undisturbed vegetation of the Demilitarized Zone which separates North Korea from South Korea. He also made field visits to Sorak Mountain (on the east shore) and Chiry Mountain (in the south central part of the country).

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His visit has produced a proposal to UNESCO to conduct ecological research in the Demilitarized Zone, where unique opportunities exist to study vegetal succession, and support for a national park program in the Bureau of Forestry which will include 400 additional forest guards to begin enforcing the new wildlife law and providing protection to the best of the mountain forests and several marshes which are to be designated as natural parks.

ULUDAG PROJECT FINALLY READY TO GO

The Government of Turkey has formally requested the International Commission on National Parks to provide a skilled physical planner for a sufficient period to prepare a master development plan for Uludag National Park above the ancient city of Bursa. The Government of Canada is making the Chief Planner for the National Parks Division, Mr. Lloyd Brooks, available for sixty days to meet the request. The Park Systems Planning Project is contributing the cost of travel between Ottawa and Istanbul while the Government of Turkey will pay all expenses for the planner while he is in Turkey. A vote of thanks to Mr. J. R. B. Coleman, Director of National Parks, and member of the Project Advisory Committee as well as the Commission on National Parks, for his splendid help in arranging the mission.

Mr. Hart is expected to visit Mr. Brooks in Ottawa during the week of 28th January to brief Mr. Brooks on the Uludag project. Mr. Brooks is scheduled to arrive in Istanbul on 16th March after stops at Brussels and IUCN headquarters at Morges.

INTEREST IN PLANNING PROJECT INCREASES

The range of activity now open to the Park Systems Planning Project is limited only by the inability of one man to do field work, lobby through programs, and write reports at the same time. Mr. Max Nicholson (UK) has generously expressed his desire that the Project consultant accompany projects to Latin America and Jordan. Project Advisory Committee member E.O.A. Asibey has requested guide material as part of a major reworking of wildlife policy for Ghana. Six projects are being considered by the Government of East Pakistan ranging from botanical gardens and zoos to national parks and exploratory discussions have begun to determine how the Project consultant can best meet the Pakistani request.