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NEWS RELEASE by International Commission on National Parks,  
2000 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

#### INTERNATIONAL PARK PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

A unique project to develop ways and means of offering skilled technical assistance in park and reserve planning was announced today by Harold J. Coolidge, Chairman of the International Commission on National Parks. The project is staffed and will commence at once.

The First World Conference on National Parks held last July in Seattle clearly indicated the need for technical assistance in the field of Park Systems Planning. A resolution was adopted there urging the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources to undertake a pilot study to determine if a worldwide consulting service, drawing on the experience of all interested nations, can be established and begin research by collecting park planning data to guide national studies of national park system needs.

Mr. Coolidge said that his Commission on National Parks was gratified that funds had been provided by Resources for The Future for the first year of such a study. He said he was appointing an advisory committee on park system planning to assist the work and that its membership would include several of those who were members of the Seattle Committee. In addition, an ad hoc advisory committee will be set up in Washington to work with the project.

Mr. Coolidge went on to announce the appointment of William J. Hart, a vigorous park administrator from the State of Nevada, as the Commission's specialist to implement this project. Coolidge said that the job Hart had to do was unique as well as most challenging, because he will be engaged in a pioneer effort that could have far reaching results. The progress of his work will be reviewed at the meeting of the International Commission on National Parks, which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, next September in connection with the General Assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Coolidge said that he was sure that conservationists not only in this country but the world over will give Mr. Hart their full cooperation in helping him to develop a workable program of park systems planning, which could be adapted to varying needs and supply a new international service in this field.