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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON NATIONAL PARKS

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PARK SYSTEM PLANNING PROJECT

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March 23, 1963

F. Carlos Lehmann
Apartado Nacional, 680 Cali
International Forum
Colombia

Dear Dr. Lehmann:

The implementation of Recommendation 12 of the Seattle Conference is being well received by most conservationists. This is most gratifying since the successful continuation of a park system planning effort will be dependent on popular acceptance by the many workers in the international conservation field.

Dr. Coolidge feels very strongly that I should visit Colombia as part of my one year park planning evaluation. I do not come with solutions. I will be able to view the development problems of Parque Nacional de Los Farallones de Cali, and make suggestions for possible solutions. More important, I am interested in seeing your problems in establishing a systematic array of parks, natural reserves and recreation areas. The end result is to be a continuing program which will provide specific technical assistance which Colombia will need as it progresses technologically. In the process it is hoped that many useful suggestions concerning a national system of park and recreation areas will be developed.

If this method of approach seems to you worthwhile, and in Colombia's best interest, I would propose to visit Colombia during the last two weeks of May. Then, building on the knowledge and experience gained in your country and in Turkey, I would make proposals to the meeting of the National Park Commission in Nairobi in September, depending upon the course of action the Commission feels best to a successful continuing program. I would then return to Colombia during late November to prepare a preliminary national park program along the lines approved by the Commission and seek its implementation.

F. Carlos Lehmann

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I would appreciate greatly having you express your views upon this method of approach. I am sure that I will benefit greatly from your insight and experience in pioneering national park programs in South America. We all hope that we can build upon the foundation you have laid--not only in Colombia, but in all South American countries.

Respectfully yours,

William J. Hart

William J. Hart
Park Planning Specialist