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### Introduction of Antarctica Protection Bill

The Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs, Congressman Phillip Burton, recently introduced a bill addressing itself to the protection of Antarctica from exploitation by creating an Historic and Natural Preserve. The bill proposes that Congress recognize the Antarctic Continent as the last region on Earth to remain generally unaffected by Man's activities, and that its valuable historic, cultural, and natural, values are in danger of impairment or destruction as a result of increased exploitation of natural resources.

The bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan for the establishment of

an Historic and Natural Preserve, engage in such discussions as may be necessary with other interested nations concerning the development and ratification of such a plan, and commit funds for the protection of the preserve.

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### Portuguese Government Consults IUCN/WWF over National Plan for Conservation

A delegation from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), consisting of Mr John Loudon, President of WWF, Vice-President Dr Luc Hoffmann, and Mr Fergus O'Gorman, United Nations consultant, has visited Portugal to discuss conservation matters with Prime Minister Prof. Mota Pinto, with the Minister of Public Works (Coronel Almeida Pina), with the Secretary of State for the Environment (Coronel Morais Barroco), and with the President of the Gulbenkian Foundation, Dr Azerdo Perdigao. In the centre of discussion was a plan for the establishment of a network of protected areas, proposed by the Secretaria de Estado do Ambiente as part of a national plan for conservation.

IUCN and WWF have long emphasized that conservation can and must play an important part in development. By watching that vital ecological processes remain undisturbed, that genetic resources are preserved, and that the resources of Nature are used in a way which they can sustain in the long term, conservationists can minimize undesirable consequences of development and ensure better long-term economic and social benefits. In order to implement these principles, IUCN and WWF

have, in common with the United Nations Environment Programme, developed a World Conservation Strategy which will be submitted throughout the world to decision-makers, press, and public, in 1980.

Conservation of the environment is a global responsibility. What one country does affects others. In this context, Portugal holds a key position in Western European conservation, with her profusion of natural areas and migratory flyways. Her long and beautiful coastline depends especially on maintaining a clean and productive coastal zone for, *inter alia*, both the fishing and the tourist industries.

Portugal has made a good start by implementing a national park system. The Secretaria de Estado do Ambiente, by developing now a national plan for conservation, is undertaking an important contribution to the common effort that is under way in an increasing number of European countries.

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