

## CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

MEETING OF 'ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS' FROM EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA HELD AT THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, NEAR BRIGHTON, ENGLAND, 1-3 FEBRUARY 1974

This meeting brought together members of non-governmental organizations which, as that 'non-positive' and bleak term implies, have less constraints than national governments in responding to the full international significance of the United Nations Stockholm Conference slogan 'Only One Earth'. The principal purpose of the meeting was to have an informal exchange of information and views on how NGOs concerned could better help one another and themselves to inform the public on major environmental problems and issues, and to attract more attention and resources to effective ways of dealing with these problems and issues.

There were forty-five participants, mostly from national groups in the United States, Canada, and nine western European countries; in addition to several journalists, the remaining participants were from three international NGOs (the Club of Rome, the International Institute of Environment and Development, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources), from the Commission of the European Communities, from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and from the United Nations Environment Programme.

Following a general and admirably short opening session, workshops were held to discuss 'Patterns of Land-use Legislation and the Role of Citizen Organizations' and 'Environmental Assessment and the Role of Citizen Organizations'. In subsequent sessions, the role of citizen organizations remained the common and practical concern for discussions on: the protection of the marine environment, and especially the environmental issues to be considered at the Law of the Sea Conference (Caracas, June-August 1974); the environmental problems of energy production and uses, with particular emphasis on the importance of shifting the basis of national discussion in industrialized countries away from the question of the supply of energy to the problems of the demand for energy; and the recent Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, together with the need to press governments to sign, ratify, and implement it. For each of these subjects, background papers were prepared and circulated in advance.

Among the many useful results of the discussions during and between the sessions were the following: an agreement among several groups to form an international coalition to exchange information on the environmental problems and issues to be considered at the Law of the Sea Conference, and to attempt to synchronize efforts to influence delegates to the Conference; an agreement to establish a liaison committee for maintaining regular contacts between citizen groups and the Environment and Consumer Protection Service of the European Economic Community; an agreement among several British and French participants to coordinate efforts concerning the proposed Channel Tunnel; an undertaking by the International Institute of Environment and Development to conduct a feasibility study on improving ways of exchanging information among national and international NGOs; and a consolidated list of practical suggestions concerning financing (Italia

Nostra, for example, obtains considerable revenue through the ingenious device of selling membership at fifteen dollars each to foreign tourists who thereby gain free access to museums and historic sites and monuments in Italy), public information programmes, the recruitment and use of experts, and campaign tactics.

The meeting was sponsored by the Sierra Club in co-operation with the International Institute of Environment and Development, and with partial support from the Ford Foundation. A concise report of the meeting can be obtained for the price of US\$1 from the Sierra Club's Office of International Environmental Affairs, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10017, U.S.A.

ROBERT D. MUNRO  
*Environment and Housing Division  
Economic Commission for Europe  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.*

SCOPE/UNEP SYMPOSIUM 'ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES', HELD IN THE KENYATTA CONFERENCE CENTRE, NAIROBI, KENYA, 11-23 FEBRUARY 1974

A pioneering 'think tank' of some 100 environmental scientists and others coming from the less developed countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, was organized for the first time in history under the joint auspices of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE, a branch of the International Council of Scientific Unions, ICSU), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It took place at the Kenyatta Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, during 11 to 23 February 1974. These scientists and others met to discuss environmental problems associated with development, and to play their role in harmonizing the inevitable development programmes with environmental necessities. They had been organized for the first 'Workshop' week into a series of working groups, each dealing with one of the following twelve major topics:

- Environmental aspects of agricultural development;
- Environmental aspects of land-use in semi-arid and sub-humid regions;
- Integrated pest-control;
- Integrated river-basin development;
- National parks and nature reserves;
- Environmentally oriented industrial planning;
- Environmentally oriented planning for human settlements;
- Population and demographic problems;
- Environmental education and training;
- National institutional arrangement;
- Regional and international coordination; and
- Eco-development and alternative patterns of development.

Each working group was composed mainly of three scientists, one from each of the continents mainly involved, who had prepared a paper on the topic concerned, describing the situation in his own continent and the envisaged precautions and solutions. The rest of the group comprised attending members from both developing and developed countries. Participants also included representatives of