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WORK OF THE COUNCIL IN 1959

Establishment by the Secretary-General of the
United Nations of a list of national parks and
equivalent reserves

The Secretary-General has received from the representative of the United States of America to the United Nations the attached explanatory memorandum relating to the United States proposal (E/3188) for the inclusion in the provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the item: "Establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a list of national parks and equivalent reserves".

ESTABLISHMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
OF A LIST OF NATIONAL PARKS AND EQUIVALENT RESERVES

Under Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the United States of America on 24 October 1958 requested the Secretary-General to include an item in the provisional agenda of the 27th session of the Economic and Social Council entitled "Establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a list of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves". This proposal was made in recognition on the part of the Government and the people of the United States of the importance of national parks or equivalent reserves for cultural, scientific, educational, economic and recreational purposes and their contribution to the inspiration and welfare of mankind.

The United States believes that an appropriate international recognition of the importance of such areas would assist in the promotion of the establishment of additional parks and reserves and help safeguard the continued preservation of those already established. One method of providing such international recognition would be for the Economic and Social Council to request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of Member Governments, and interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status, to establish a list of national parks and reserves, such list to be kept up-to-date and made available to all Member Governments of the United Nations and the public.

In this context, special account should be taken of the work of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature which held its Sixth General Assembly in Athens in September of 1958. At that time the Union urged that appropriate international recognition be given to the establishment and maintenance of national parks and established a provisional "International Committee on National Parks". The Union transmitted a resume of these actions to the Secretary-General.

In order to assist the Economic and Social Council in the consideration of the proposed item, a draft resolution defining the action which the Council might take is hereby attached.

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that National Parks and Equivalent Reserves have been established in most countries that are Members of the United Nations, the specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency and that they contribute to the inspiration, culture and welfare of mankind;

Believing that these National Parks are valuable for economic, recreational and scientific reasons and also as areas for the future preservation of fauna and flora and geological structures in their natural state;

1. Requests the Secretary-General to establish a list of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves, with a brief description of each, for consideration by the Council at its 29th session, together with his recommendations for maintaining the list on a current basis and for its distribution;

2. Invites States Members of the United Nations, the specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency to transmit to the Secretary-General a description of the areas they desire to have internationally recognized as National Parks and Reserves; and

3. Furthermore invites interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status to assist the Secretary-General, upon his request, in the preparation of the proposed list.
