

associated with uranium-bearing minerals.

The Board plans to complete its survey over the next two years and test a range of remedial and preventive actions.

References

NRPB-R152 *Human Exposure to Radon Decay Products Inside Dwellings in the United Kingdom*. A Memorandum of Evidence to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. M. C. O'Riordan *et al.*, HMSO, £3.00. (ISBN 0-85951-205-3.)

UN Calls on World Industry to Help Solve Environmental Problems*

For the first time, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has called on world industry to help solve environmental problems by using its technological and scientific expertise.

The Governing Council of UNEP, meeting in Nairobi recently, approved a resolution urging industry to convene an international conference to examine ways in which this expertise can be applied. The conference is planned for late 1984. The resolution received unusually wide support in the Governing Council, which represents 58 governments.

At a news briefing held at United Nations headquarters, Dr Mostafa K. Tolba, executive director to UNEP, announced the appointment of an American industry executive, Dr Casey E. Westell, Jr., as his senior advisor in charge of conference preparations. Dr Westell, a distinguished scientist, is director of industrial ecology for Tenneco Inc., a multi-industry company with headquarters in Houston.

The conference will be funded largely by industry. It will be convened by a Committee of Convenors composed of industry leaders from around the world, and other eminent persons. The World Environment Center, a not-for-profit, non-advocacy environmental organization, is providing professional and administrative services for the conference.

According to the Council resolution, the conference is designed "to promote a broad exchange of information and experience on technologies and institutional approaches to industrial development including industrial pollution control, recycling of wastes, and low waste and non-waste technologies". It will also "consider ways in which the extensive technical resources of industry both in the developed and developing countries can be mobilized and applied more effectively to environmental management in the developing countries including identification of constraints and opportunities".

In describing the aims of the conference, Dr Westell said, "We are trying to establish a dialogue between governments and industry worldwide in order to attack environmental problems in a systematic and efficient way. Industry has the know-how. The conference provides an opportunity to find acceptable ways to use this capability."

The conference has the full support of the United States government, according to Mary Rose Hughes, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Environment, Health and Resources. "If properly designed and orchestrated, it could be a milestone in industry-government cooperation in the environmental field and go a long way toward mitigating the suspicions and (often) hostility that has characterized this relationship at the international level in the past".

Some 250-300 participants from industry, governments, international organizations, financial institutions, and science-related non-governmental organizations are expected to attend. The site of the conference will be decided by the Convenors, but under consideration are Geneva, London, Paris and New York.

For further information, contact

World Environment Center
605 Third Avenue, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10158
Tel: 212 / 986-7200

*Courtesy World Environment Centre.

Letters

Conservation Education Programme

Dear Mr Hughes-Evans: I have come across your name in the course of a literature search I conducted recently to collect background information in the field of environmental education. I am very interested to learn more about your conservation education work because I am begin-

ning a project involving similar activities in Brazil.

The Department of Zoological Research of the US National Zoological Park will work with the Brazilian Forest Service to develop and carry out the first long-term systematic conservation education program to

be conducted in rural Brazil. Our efforts will be concentrated on reaching the rural people who live in the area surrounding a federal biological reserve in the fast-disappearing Brazilian Atlantic coastal forest. This reserve was recently established as the only protected site for the preservation of a highly endangered species of monkey, the golden lion tamarin. This disappearing tropical forest ecosystem is

also the home of 93 other threatened species (44 are endemic) of birds, mammals, and reptiles. We will inform the local people of the critically endangered status of this forest and enlist their active support for conservation measures to save it. We hope to involve local teachers, schoolchildren, landowners, subsistence farmers, civic groups, and local businesses. Important aims are to develop educational materials which will later be distributed in the entire Atlantic coastal forest region and to train Reserve guards in conservation methods. We are also working to develop methods to evaluate the effect of our program on the knowledge, attitudes, and

behavior of these local people.

We are greatly interested in collecting information and resource materials concerning similar conservation education programs in various parts of the world. This information will help us in planning our program, and the materials will later become the beginning of a conservation education resource library to be made available to interested Brazilian educators and conservationists. Do you have any advice or information you could send us? Examples or descriptions of educational materials and activities you have found to be effective in your programs would be especially helpful. Also, could you suggest any other individuals or

organizations active in conservation education which you think we should contact for other information?

Any information you can share with us will be greatly appreciated. Please mail it to the following address:

*American Consulate-Rio de Janeiro
A.P.O., Miami 34030-USA
Attn: Administrative Officer
For: SI-GLT-Dietz*

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Lou Ann Dietz
Education Specialist

Editorial Note: Readers able to assist should contact Dr Dietz directly at the address indicated.

Conference Reports

COE Meetings in Lima, Peru

The Commission on Ecology (COE) met from 6–9 April 1983 in Lima, Peru, where it was hosted by the Universidad Nacional Agraria.

Symposium on Arid Lands of the America's

In the framework of this meeting a symposium was organised jointly with the Universidad Nacional Agraria on Arid Lands in the America's on 7th April 1983. Eleven scientists from North, Central and South America and members of the Commission contributed. Dr C. E. Lopez Ocana, Director of the Center for Research of Arid Zones, Lima, Peru and member of COE acted as the Moderator of the Symposium.

After the opening addresses by Dr C. E. Lopez Ocana and Ing. M. Zapata T., Rector of the Universidad Nacional Agraria, Dr F. Duhme, Hon. Secretary COE's working group on Arid Lands, gave an introductory contribution on Strategies for Arid Lands Development.

This was followed by a contribution of Ing. R. Braun, Director of the

Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Aridas, Mendoza, Argentina, on Arid Zones of Argentina.

Dr S. Matteucci of the Universidad Nacional Experimental Francisco de Miranda, Coro, Venezuela, spoke about Las Zonas Aridas del Estado de Coro, Venezuela and Prof. D. Contreras, Director of the Centro de Estudios en Zonas Aridas, Universidad de Chile, talked about the Arid Zones of Chile.

They were followed by Dr F. Medellin-Leal, Director of the Instituto de investigación de Zonas Desérticas, Universidad Autonoma de San Luis, Potosi, México, on the Arid Zones of Mexico, Prof. H. E. Dregne, International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies, Texas Tech. University, Lubbock, USA on the Arid Lands in the USA, and Dr P. J. Salinas, member of COE, on Estudios sobre Métodos Biológicos para la Conservación de Suelos en las Tierras Semi-áridas de Venezuela.

The Mangroves of the arid zones was the subject of a contribution by Dr F. Pannier, member of COE and

Dr C. E. Lopez Ocana spoke about the rehabilitation of cloud forests in the coastal desert of Peru.

The closing address was given by Dr M. Dourojeanni, Professor at the Universidad Nacional Agraria and IUCN Regional Consellor for Latin America. The Symposium was followed by a reception given by E. Kwint, Bsc, LL.M., Counsellor of the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

The Spring 1983 Meeting

Held from 5–9 April in Lima, Peru, the Commission on Ecology meeting was opened with addresses from Prof. Dr W. Engelhardt, Deputy Chairman of COE, Ing. M. Zapata T., Rector of the Universidad Nacional Agraria, Dr M. Dourojeanni, IUCN Regional Counsellor and Dr C. E. Lopez Ocana, who, together with Ing. C. Ponce del Prado, was host of the meeting.

The Commission discussed draft IUCN Position Statements on mangrove ecosystems and salt marshes, which had been prepared respectively by the COE working groups on Mangrove Ecosystems and Coastal Ecology.

The report on the Impact of Oil Pollution on Living Natural Resources prepared by Dr J. Baker with