

SECTION I. — *Hydroelectricity and the Protection of Nature.*

*Resolution 1:* The Third General Assembly of the International Union for the Protection of Nature, meeting at Caracas on September 9th, 1952, draws the attention of the Governments concerned to the danger which threatens National Parks and strict nature reserves, as defined by the Conventions of London (1933) and Washington (1940).

As a result of public works, and particularly hydroelectric dams which are capable of seriously altering the integrity of these reserve areas, the Assembly considers itself authorized to remind the Governments of countries concerned that they are pledged to guarantee not only the safekeeping but the inviolability of the areas they have taken the initiative to delimit and to protect.

*Resolution 2:* The Assembly requests that organizations, either governmental or private, which are charged with the construction of public works — particularly those designed to utilize hydroelectric energy — plan either to follow or to instigate research or inquiries for the purpose of specifying the repercussions on the natural equilibrium and on flora and fauna which are caused by such works, and to contribute to such research their financial, technical and moral assistance.

It is requested that the Union shall furnish the necessary directives to ensure that the result of such enterprises will be satisfactory to all concerned.

*Resolution 3:* Whereas the construction of dams for hydroelectric or other projects is often achieved without appropriate scientific study of the effects of such works on other natural resources, and

Whereas: it is possible that the management of one natural resource of any kind can seriously affect other resources of equal or superior value.

Therefore the Assembly recommends: That the International Union for the Protection of Nature should make an insistent appeal that for all new proposed construction careful studies of all the resources should be made — if they do not already exist — before any plans for the construction or execution of such an enterprise shall be decided.

*Resolution 4 :* The Assembly expresses the hope that all countries undertaking large scale public works capable of compromising the natural balance should establish a consulting commission, if such does not already exist, composed of experts, particularly pedologists, ecologists, systematians, phytosociologists, and hydrologists, provided such experts are not personally interested in the achievement of such works. In those countries where such commissions exist, they should be consulted regularly.

