

ADDRESS  
OF  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
STEWART L. UDALL  
AT THE  
FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE  
ON PARKS  
AT  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

*Ethics  
No Force like in  
whose time has  
come.*

JULY 4, 1962



In the final months of his life, as World War II drew to its close, a great President of my country who loved the land, Franklin D. Roosevelt, exchanged letters with his friend, Gifford Pinchot, a pioneer American conservationist. Pinchot urged Roosevelt to strike a positive note at the end of the war by persuading other leaders to join him in convening a World Conference on the conservation of natural resources. But because men were preoccupied at the time in creating international political institutions designed to enhance world order, this splendid idea did not come to fruition.



Yet as each intervening year has  
passed, the peoples of the world have  
become more deeply involved in the common  
cause of conservation of resources. The  
-- despite our pretensions in outer space --  
earth is our home, and we share responsibility  
for the management of our environment and the  
preservation of its values -- this fact must surely  
be the starting point of <sup>this</sup> ~~a~~ conference, ~~of this~~  
~~kind~~. The air that we breathe is common air,  
the seas at our borders are common seas. Even  
as advances in transportation and communication  
have drawn us closer together, our use of  
resources too has tended to unite us as one  
~~world~~ <sup>one world with</sup> Agreements based on the mutual cooperation



and mutual advantage of sovereign nations

already control pollution of the sea, and *the*

*wise* plans under which we harvest most of its

creatures. Minerals and food and fibre are

shipped from this land to that -- one nation's

surplus is another's shortage, and the

inevitable sweep of history is making us

increasingly dependent upon the practices of

stewardship and husbandry which countries and

peoples follow. *In terms of natural resources*  
*We are, willy nilly, our*  
*brothers Keeper -- our neighbors' steward.*

Thus it is most fitting that we have

gathered together in this international

conference to discuss the preservation of national



parks, and nature reserves<sup>^</sup> for these places

of splendor are a precious world resource.

The perspective of space exploration has tended

to unify the geography of the earth, and lends

a new vision as we consider new standards and

new goals for the preservation of nature.

Natural treasures are in reality a heritage

of all mankind. They transcend provincial

boundaries. They are a gift to those who

prize the natural world and its healing

influence.

AXTEAS legend!

I would like to think that this

conference strikes a wholesome note of sanity



in a troubled world. It is a sign that men  
are questioning the false gods of materialism,  
and are coming to realize that the natural world  
lies at the very center of an environment  
that is both life-giving and life-promoting.  
There is hope in this meeting, or so it seems  
to me, that the values of the spirit are  
re-asserting their primacy -- and this in turn  
gives <sup>US</sup> fresh hope in other vital areas of human  
endeavor.

This idea of dedicating choice tracts  
is seemingly as old as civilization itself. It  
was Justinian, the great Roman lawgiver, who  
laid down the principle that the beaches and  
shorelines belonged to all of the people.



Each generation <sup>on this earth</sup> must act anew to  
revise its conservation ethic, and to  
establish new plans for the wise use of its  
resources. The concept of conservation is  
<sup>in one sense,</sup> old, but the problems that we now face are  
more urgent than ever. In our search for  
a higher standard of living, we have developed  
new needs and a dynamic and awesome technology  
to satisfy them. With this technology we are  
daily altering the face of the earth, and in  
the process the intimate relationships between  
men and their land are also being altered --  
often at the sacrifice of paramount human values.



So great is the power of men and  
nations to enlarge the machine-dominated, *MAN-MORRED*  
portion of the world that it is not an  
exaggeration to say that few opportunities  
for conservation projects of grand scope will  
remain by the year 2000. Let me put the case  
even stronger: with few exceptions the places  
of superior scenic beauty, the unspoiled  
landscapes, the spacious refuges for wildlife,  
the nature parks, and nature reserves of  
significant size and grandeur that our generation  
saves will be all that is preserved. We are the  
-- or rather preserve --  
architects who must design the remaining temples;



those who follow will have the mundane tasks  
of management and housekeeping.

The hour is late, the opportunities  
diminish with each passing year, and we must  
establish here a Common Market of conservation  
knowledge which will enable us to achieve our  
highest goals and broadest purposes. With each  
day that passes the natural world shrinks as  
we exert greater artificial control over our  
environment. The lot of many men has been  
improved, but few of us would deny that there  
have been grievous human losses as well.

I daresay all of us gathered here would  
agree that nature-islands of solitude and repose



are an indispensable ingredient of modern civilization. Save for homesites, parkland uses are the highest human uses to which land may be put.

Yet, as we look ahead in this country (and your problems necessarily correspond with our own) we are faced with the fact that during the adult life of our children the demand for municipal parks and playgrounds will increase fourfold. There has been a 290 per cent increase in wilderness recreation over the last decade, and during the 40 years separating us from the 21st Century, the demand for wilderness and



seashore parks will be an estimated 10 times greater than it is today. But as the need increases, land and forest and water are being preempted for other uses.

However, technology is not the only threat -- the only challenge -- that confronts us. It is the uncontrolled growth of population that will surely and finally alter the man-land relationships on all of our continents unless our statecraft takes cognizance of this problem. The demographers now tell us, in measured tones, that the world population will double every thirty-five years -- and double again every



thirty-five thereafter -- unless something intervenes to break their projections.

What is the significance of this staggering statistic for us, the parkmen of the world? I need hardly spell out the consequences for this audience, but we must inform the world that if this occurs congestion -- with all the unlovely overtones of that too-familiar word -- will be the be-all and the end-all of our lives, our nature reserves will be steadily sacrificed to the demands of "progress" -- and park and wilderness experiences will be rationed out among the fortunate few.

RATION  
SOLITUDE - & QUIET ALSO!



At the recent White House Conference on Conservation, called by President Kennedy, Dr. Walter W. Heller, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, asked this rhetorical question: "What good is an increased gross national product if we in the process of producing it chew up, destroy, desecrate so many of the values, so many of the enjoyments which really add up to the improvements in human well-being and in the quality of life that we seek?"

There can be little argument, these days, in highly industrialized countries over the damage to living values as the result of



pollution of air and water, overcrowded housing,  
inadequate places for outdoor recreation, and  
a surfeit of artificial things. It is not  
surprising that some men have a moral and  
spiritual sickness that results from being  
on the earth, yet not a part of it. In an era  
of noise and pollution and jostle and blight,  
it is not hard to predict that our children  
will place as high a value on the right of  
solitude in the out-of-doors, and the right of  
access to places of natural beauty, as they now  
accord to the right of free speech and the right  
to a trial by one's peers.



Yet we have learned in this country  
(as I daresay many other nations have learned  
of late) that the preservation of land and  
wildlife resources is not only a happy ideal,  
but also a highly practical investment. At  
the turn of this century conservation was a  
protest against policies of waste in the  
United States. Now nearly all of our leaders  
of industry take pride in their conservation  
practices. You who are here today are keenly  
aware of the fact that any proposal for expending  
tax monies for park purposes will be weighed on  
a scale of dollars and cents, and parkmen are



constantly on the defensive before the planners of public budgets.

However, in my own country it has become abundantly clear that national parks are not only sound social investments, but sound use of public funds as well. Time and time again citizens adjacent to new parks have bemoaned the loss of revenues from resources "locked up" inside a new reserve -- taxes lost, uncut timber, undiscovered minerals, unharvested game -- only to learn later that the income from providing services to visitor-tourists has equalled or surpassed whatever sums might have been gained by exploiting these park resources.



Travel is one of the wonders of our age,  
and it is easy to foresee that, for example, East  
Africa will be only a day's flight away from New  
York and London and Moscow a few years from now.  
Without straining your credulity in the least, I  
can predict that if Tanganyika and Kenya and Uganda  
maintain their unique game preserves--which are the  
envy of us all--the world's travellers will add far  
more to their economic growth than would any alternate  
use of these lands.

But nature reserves involve far more than  
tourism as an economic potential: the watershed values,  
science laboratory values, and esthetic values must



also be weighed in the scales. The pages of history are littered with wrecks of ships of state which have foundered because natural laws were ignored. The Gobi, Mesopotamia and other areas which were once the cradle of civilization had their fertility reduced to dust because of human improvidence. We know now that upriver forests and downriver cultivation will produce more crops than a land completely cultivated but without water-shed protection. We know also that our wildlands form the only perfect wildlife habitat, and constitute an irreplaceable science laboratory where we can measure the world in its natural balance against the world in its man-made imbalance.



Opening an atlas, one is impressed by the  
magnitude of our opportunity. Mountains, beaches,  
river estuaries, tropical jungle, tundra, coral  
atoll and pampas are a heritage for all men, and  
samples of them merit protection for all time.

Great strides have already been made toward  
preservation of some of these world's wonders, both  
by individual nations and, increasingly, through  
international cooperation. Poland and Czechoslovakia  
have jointly established a national park for the  
benefit of their mutual citizenry. The United States,  
Canada, and Mexico have for years worked together in  
protecting migratory birds on their seasonal routes



from North to South. The United States, Canada,  
and the U.S.S.R. have long cooperated to restore  
the fur seal herds of the Pribilof Islands.

COUNTRIES CO-OP  
UNABLE IN  
OTHER AREAS

This consideration of international protection  
can take ultimate encouragement from what is happening  
in the farthest southern reaches where the twelve  
nations signatory to the Antarctic Treaty have included  
conservation protection of natural species among their  
primary <sup>Goals</sup> ~~areas~~ of mutual consideration.

This initial World Conference on National  
Parks is a meeting ground in which the mutual interests  
of its participants is a reliable bond for strong  
communication and future action. Whatever differences



of ethnology, geography, and traditions are  
represented here, we are bound together by the  
universal challenge to honor, dedicate, and maintain  
significant natural areas around the globe.

No feature of the globe has more cultural  
significance than our great oceans. <sup>Men</sup> ~~Man~~ from every

nation <sup>has</sup> ~~has~~ gone down to the sea in ships to try

<sup>themselves</sup> ~~himself~~ against the elements and to seek not only

adventure but a livelihood. The sea has helped form

our character and it has sustained our lives. Every

sea-touched country has the opportunity to preserve

for its people portions of shoreline with the unique



opportunities which they hold for human refreshment  
and restoration of the soul.

If you have not walked the sands of the  
nearby Olympic National Park Ocean Strip, I commend  
it to you as an experience not to be forgotten.

There one can stand with thundering Pacific rollers  
on the one side, and the impenetrable temperate rain  
forests on the other. In a few hundred yards of  
horizontal distance the greatest contrasts of nature  
provide the excitement characteristic of a frontier  
edge. This is but one of many shoreline areas to be  
found in every part of the globe whose beauty and



wholesome naturalness deserve our best efforts of protection for the years to come.

Another priceless element of <sup>our</sup>~~the~~ outdoor heritage are the great river estuaries which have long been key centers of our civilization. Today, the Lido at Venice in the estuary of the Po provides an outstanding example of the extraordinary beauty of this type of natural setting.

The land as well as the sea has its matchless values in nature's ageless splendors. Today, hundreds of thousands of people climb, ski, and hike across the surface of the great mountains of the earth, and I personally can testify to the soul-satisfying rewards



to be found in these quiet and remote areas. Last autumn I had the rare opportunity of joining members of the Alpine Club of Japan on the pilgrimage to the summit of Mount Fujiyama. <sup>FUJI-SAN</sup> This slender volcanic cone has been a guardian over the affairs of Honshu since before the Ainu crossed to the island shores.

In the snow and wind at the summit I felt for a moment the eternal spirit of the Japanese people. We must <sup>now</sup> act so that our children's children can also enjoy the highest outdoor experiences now available to us.

At the same time, in our search for harmony with the earth, we must give equal thought and consideration to the animals, the birds, and fish which share our planet.



At the recent meeting of the World Wildlife Fund in New York, Prince Philip of the United Kingdom likened our situation today to that of the Great Flood. When it was threatened, Noah, at the Lord's command, constructed an ark of sufficient size to provide protection and survival for all of the animals, two by two. Today the threatening flood has a different guise, but its threat is just as real. If we, too, move in time to take protective action, the conservation leaders of this generation may well become the Noahs of the 20th Century.

Not the least of our tasks is that of creating a new sense of values in the nations which



we represent. Conservation begins with education,  
and past experience makes it plain that public  
men will not lead unless a conservation conscience  
is developed which prizes the choice things of nature.  
In the crowded countries, zoning regulations and  
requirements will be a prime conservation tool, and  
in the time ahead we are certain to hear much more  
about such things as scenic easements and conservation  
zoning.

In other less-crowded countries the  
conservation battle will be won only if men with a  
sense of mission awaken their fellow men to the  
outdoor opportunities which are fast vanishing.



We must, if we are wise, establish an  
exchange program of conservation thinkers and planners.

Nothing gives greater satisfaction to the American  
people than an opportunity to share the knowledge  
of their landscape architects, park interpreters,  
management specialists, biologists, and ecologists.

Economists and planners can forecast the effects of  
park establishment within a regional community. Foresters,  
agriculturists, and hydrologic specialists can study  
and advise on efficient methods of land and water ut  
utilization.

All nations developing park or wildlife  
preserve programs must have staffs of trained scientists



and administrators. Education in school curricula is of first importance, and in this regard I would like also to stress the possibility of technical schools where experts can teach the techniques and rationale of land management to local people for immediate field application.

One measure toward our goal is the fact that we have started a new section within the National Park Service to handle international coordination, and this function will be increasing in responsibility. I envision the day soon when park management personnel will be exchanged between countries of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres in order to assist and learn from each other's busy summer seasons.



In the end, each country must develop the kind of park or nature reserve system that suits the needs and aspirations of its people-- and the economics of its land base. Each nation has pioneering work to do; each has something to teach--and much to learn.

If we are to cope with the enormous problems of the modern societies of which we are a part, we must <sup>*I repeat,*</sup> establish a Common Market of conservation knowledge and endeavor.



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In this regard, I would like to remind the delegates here of this nation's Peace Corps which already represents one of our finest exports of knowledge and good will. The Corps is anxious to serve in conservation and wildlife management capacities, and it is ready to give immediate and sympathetic consideration to proposed projects in these areas.

Actually, many nations in many parts of the world can take pride in the great strides already made toward preservation of unspoiled areas of matchless natural beauty and inspiration -- and of the continuing progress now under way.

MEXICO - 47 areas

OUR PRIDE !



We in this country only last year made another  
significant addition to our National Park System  
with the establishment of a magnificent National  
Seashore Park on the ocean sands of Cape Cod,  
close to the congested population centers of  
our eastern States, ~~representing~~ the first such  
addition in decades.

In Europe, the progress in recent years  
<sup>also</sup> has been most heartening. Before 1945 there  
were no national parks in England; today there  
are ten. In <sup>West</sup> Germany the only park for the  
preservation of nature was the Luneburger <sup>Heath</sup> ~~Heide~~;  
today there are eight parks and in West Germany

End



~~2~~alone twenty-four more are planned.

On another continent -- Africa -- it is interesting to note that the greatest impetus to the creation of fully protected areas came from a gathering not dissimilar to this -- the International Convention on Parks held in London in 1933. The inspired people who attended that conference designed what are still accepted as the basic rules for preservation. However, it was not until after the cruel years of World War II that East Africa could effectively attempt to set aside areas as parks and for the protection of wildlife.

In the intervening years, every endeavor has been made in the British territories of



East Africa to establish national parks;  
there has been marked achievement in the Congo  
toward the establishment of large Strict  
Natural Reserves; and in other countries of  
Africa progress is being made toward setting  
aside portions of national parks as wildlife  
sanctuaries and as undisturbed breeding areas  
for the natural flora and fauna.

In Tanganyika, the Serengeti National  
Park, established in 1948, though subjected to  
certain boundary alterations, remains one of  
the finest game sanctuaries in the world.



Meanwhile, plans have reached a final stage for the transformation of a fascinating crater on the foothills of Tanganyika's Mount Meru into a national park. Here, from the rim, a visitor cannot escape the impression that he is looking into a section of another planet. This crater, fringed with primeval forest, is the natural sanctuary for elephant, rhino and buffalo, and, due to its proximity to the flourishing town of Arusha, will be a great *future* asset, in addition to the famous Serengeti, to the Territory of Tanganyika.

In Australia, the credit for having



pioneered the development of national parks must go to Queensland and Tasmania, two of that nation's least populated states.

Outstanding examples of the accomplishments there are the Lamington National Park, a splendid area of sub-tropical mountain scenery and vegetation near the Queensland-New South Wales border, and the beautiful sub-tropical islands along the unique Great Barrier Reef. The State of Victoria has recently followed the example set by Queensland and Tasmania in establishing a National Parks Authority responsible to the Premier under a new National Parks Act.



The national parks dedicated so far include a fairly wide range of Victorian environments and more are presently under consideration. Probably most widely known of Victoria's existing preserved areas is the Wilson's Promontory National Park, embracing a rugged peninsula at the extreme south of the State.

In Japan, certain localities have long been popular among the people as pleasure resorts, such as the so-called "Three Scenic Spots" - Matsushima, Ama-no-hasidate, and Miyajima. In the Meiji Era, these places for the first time were regarded as "parks" on a



democratic basis.

The concept was placed on a legislative basis in 1873 when a Cabinet ordinance was issued providing for the establishment of parks on state-owned lands. In compliance with the ordinance, local scenic areas were gradually designated as parks, chiefly as prefectural or provincial reservations, and the public began to take a deep interest in them. After the Meiji Era, under the influence of the federal parks in the United States, voices began to be raised calling for the establishment of a Japanese national parks system. After a long



period of investigation and public education,  
the National Parks Law was enacted in 1931.

As a result, ~~nineteen~~ areas have so far  
been designated as national parks where  
natural beauty is preserved and the people are  
offered an opportunity for pleasure and recreation.  
These areas now play an important role in the  
national life and contribute much to international  
tourism.

*V. S. R. areas  
lost, RICH CONTINENT*

I have only begun to touch -- and have  
omitted much -- on an inventory of outstanding  
global achievements in the fast awakening and  
growing movement to keep something of the land



intact in its natural state so that there may  
be refreshment of the soul and spirit for the  
peoples of the world now and in future centuries.

But enough has been mentioned to show both  
progress and beckoning new opportunities awaiting  
all of us.

READ E. M. FORSTER

The objectives are clear -- the air is  
electric with challenge. In the words of  
President Kennedy, "Let us begin."

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