

IUCN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REPRESENTATIVES of 43 nations attended the 9th General Assembly and 10th Technical Meeting of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, held in Lucerne, Switzerland, from June 25th to July 2nd and presided over by Professor François Bourlière. The President of FPS, Lord Willingdon, attended several meetings, and the Society was represented by the Hon. Secretary, Mr Richard Fitter, and the Editor of *ORYX*. Other FPS Council members present were the Chairman, Mr Peter Scott, Lord Hurcomb, Sir Hugh Elliott, and Col. C. L. Boyle.

The discussions in the technical sessions had three main themes: the ecological impact of recreation and tourism on temperate environments; town and country planning problems, and the ecological changes caused by introduced animals and plants, in the last of which Mr Fitter read a paper on introductions in Europe. This session had one of the liveliest discussions of the week, with American and Russian delegates and others from large countries ranged in favour of introductions, and the island dwellers, like the British, and those from small countries like Holland, more concerned with the dangers of such introductions as the mink, coypu and grey squirrel.

At the final session the new President, Dr Harold J. Coolidge of the USA, took over from Professor Boulière, and gave a stimulating address outlining a forward-looking programme for his presidency. Among the three new Vice-Presidents appointed was Dr F. Fraser Darling, a member of the FPS Council, who is also one of the new members of the IUCN Executive Board, along with Mr Russell E. Train of the USA, President of the Conservation Foundation. Professor Bourlière takes over the Chairmanship of the Commission on Ecology in place of the late Dr E. H. Graham, Professor J.-P. Harroy follows Dr Coolidge as Chairman of the National Parks Commission, Mr E. J. H. Berwick succeeds Sir Hugh Elliott as Secretary-General, and Sir Hugh becomes Special Duty Officer in London. Mr Berwick has just retired as Director of Agriculture in Sabah (North Borneo).

The next General Assembly of IUCN is to be held in New Delhi in 1969.

Dr. Edward H. Graham, 1902-1966

By F. Fraser Darling

THE sudden death of Edward Graham on May 16th has been a profound shock to his many friends in five continents, and to the numerous organisations of national and international character concerned with conservation to which he gave so freely of his effort and advice. He was chairman of the Commission on Ecology of IUCN, and had accepted the onerous duty of president of the Union for the coming critical three years. He was also deputy-convenor of the conservation section of the International Biological Programme.

But this note is not to itemise his career in ecology or with the soil conservation side of the US Department of Agriculture, or to emphasise the impact made by his greatest book *Natural Principles of Land Use*, but to say something of the man. He was one of the quietest and most modest of men, of transparently sincere quality; his wisdom seemed natural and built-in, yet we know with what care he examined either an ecological habitat or the aspects of an intricate and difficult international problem. When Ed spoke in his slow fashion his matter had the character of lucid, considered prose which would need no amendment before it appeared in print. Everybody would listen intently because we realised his grasp was wider and more rapid than our own.

Edward Graham's capacity for work and careful appreciation was great, but it was not fulfilled without immense application. When some of us might be sitting around talking after a meeting, Ed would be among us but apart, his work on his knee, writing in the similarly deliberate way in which he talked. Yet he was wonderful company always. Ed and I were together a good deal during a tour to India and South-East Asia in the late fall of 1965. He had already been in Moscow in connection with International Biological Programme affairs and he was going on afterwards to the Philippines and Japan. Ed was tired and ill, but he fulfilled every call on his intellect.

We members of the staff of the Conservation Foundation, who welcomed him so thankfully as a colleague in 1964, are now deprived of his presence, but his inspiration must surely remain with us. All of us who know Mary Graham and her quiet power of complementing Ed will wish unassumingly to give her what we feel in friendship and association in a common loss.

Dr Harold J. Coolidge

HOWEVER deeply we mourn the loss of Edward H. Graham as President-elect of IUCN we can nevertheless be thankful that Harold J. Coolidge has been able to accept nomination for this position. We know him so well wherever natural history is pursued and wherever any species of wild life is in danger of extinction, that we may tend to forget his professional commitment is the Pacific Ocean affairs of the National Research Council of the United States.

Dr Coolidge has a long history of hard work in conservation of animal life. He crossed Africa in 1926-27, nearly all the way on foot, studying the wildlife situation with a Harvard expedition. Shortly afterwards he was in South-East Asia on similar work and literally wore himself to skin and bone. He was closely linked with the establishment of the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection and acted as its Secretary for several years. This body initiated surveys and research in the 1920's when such work was scarcely considered by academic biology in general.

An old friend would like to say that Harold Coolidge is remarkable for his dogged but absolutely selfless persistence. If the kouprey

survives in Cambodia, the rhinoceroses in Indonesia or the lemurs in Madagascar, they will have to thank Dr Coolidge first and foremost. He never gives up or accepts obstacles as being insuperable. His association with IUCN has been constant since the Union's inception. He was one of the big men at Fontainebleau in 1948 and since then, most unassumingly, he has given of his time and treasure and persuaded others to help in all manner of projects in which credit goes to the Union. If at some moments we sympathise with him coming to this new and public task, we rejoice with him unreservedly in the honour which he richly deserves.

F.F.D.

£4,500 FOR THE REVOLVING FUND

THE World Wildlife Fund has paid £4,500 into the joint FPS/WWF Revolving Fund for the three urgent projects on which the Fund's money has been spent so far: the Javan and Sumatran rhinos and the Persian fallow deer. This brings the total payments into the Fund to £7,258 15s, the remainder being donations from FPS members and friends, including an anonymous one of £2,500. A number of new projects are on the stocks.

FPS Annual General Meeting

THE Marquess of Willingdon, the President, took the chair at the annual general meeting of the Society on May 11th, in the new meeting room of the Zoological Society of London. The President explained the amendments to the rules of the Society, proposed by the Council and set out in detail in *ORYX*, April 1966, and these were agreed unanimously.

The officers were elected: President, Lord Willingdon; Chairman of Council, Mr Peter Scott; Vice-Chairman of Council, Sir Terence Morrison-Scott; Hon. Treasurer, Mr I. D. Malcolmson; Hon. Secretary, Mr R. S. R. Fitter. Of the three members of Council due to retire in rotation, two, Sir Terence Morrison-Scott and Mr Peter Scott were elected as officers, and the third, Mrs Spearman, was warmly thanked for her services. Major Bruce Kinloch had tendered his resignation because of his inability to attend. The vacancies on the Council were filled by the Earl of Cranbrook, Mr Marcus Kimball MP, Mr Ian Macphail, Mr G. K. Whitehead and Mr Michael Woodford.

The President spoke of the very auspicious beginnings for the new Revolving Fund started by the Society last year to enable urgent conservation cases to be dealt with quickly. The Society had put up £5000, and had received in gifts over £2,700, and the Hon. Secretary was able to announce that only that day he had received a cheque for £4,500 from the World Wildlife Fund in payment of the sums so far expended. This meant that the Fund had completely "revolved" and further grants could be considered. The Hon. Treasurer spoke of the satisfactory financial position of the Society. He urged members to subscribe to the Revolving Fund and get their friends to subscribe, in the full knowledge that every penny given would go direct to the task of saving wildlife.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Council of the Zoological Society for their generous help in providing the Society with offices and permitting the use of their meeting rooms.

Following the business meeting the Hon. Secretary gave a talk on his work and travels on the Society's behalf during the year, countries visited including Thailand, India, Argentina, Kenya and Tanzania.