

The Commission has a lot of sympathy for the idea of an international monetary conference. But I would insist on a tremendous difference: in 1944 [the year of the Bretton Woods conference], markets were closed, it was a start from scratch. But we won't have a super-crash now. . . . One has to explore carefully the idea a big crash would clear the deck—but it would hardly be wise to perform the experiment. We'll have a lot of smaller reforms. [Ohlin advocated a major effort for raw-material stabilization. His concern with UNCTAD's Common Fund approach was that there "is no world government to run it."—L.M.]

One thing could be misleading, that is, to blame "the system" for weaknesses that have to do with the tremendous inward pull of national governments which makes them so reluctant to submit to international discipline. . . . We don't need the crash, but it heightens the comprehension of the issues involved.

Peter Scott, World Wildlife Fund Vice-President

From an interview with Sir Peter Scott, Vice-President, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International, and head of the World Wildlife Fund, United Kingdom:

If we look at things causally, the biggest problem in the world is population. There are too many people for too few resources. . . .

I would start with this: all development aid should be made dependent on the existence of strong family planning operations in the countries concerned. If they have family planning, we send wheat, food, money. . . .

All the big international population organizations have existed for umpteen years, but they have only barely scratched the surface. We must set population ceilings.

The present financial crisis is a great opportunity. . . . I am not a financial expert, of course, I cannot go into details. I have great admiration for [former Secretary of Defense] Robert McNamara. Of course he could not achieve all he had set out to achieve, especially in the population sphere—there was too much inertia, he was up against too much resistance.

My biggest concern—I am a wild life chap, a naturalist, a biologist. . . . Well, we are destroying the tropical rain forest. That's the most dreadful thing. . . . We should come to growing firewood per se: we should have huge plantations of firewood near the population centers.

A bright spot is that nuclear energy is losing out in the developing countries, even though there are enough countries involved with it. It can be potentially disastrous. These fast-breeder people in France, they're making plutonium all the time. . . .

What is great about Prince Philip [Chairman of the WWF International] is that he can talk to the leading people, to the

rulers of any country, man to man, and they listen. . . . I have known him for a long time—he was the president of my own Waterfowl Association, now the Wildfowl Trust—Prince Charles is now its president, and we have a Wildfowl Trust of North America, too.

When we started the WWF, one of the first people I visited was Prince Philip. . . . We did not want to have a British president at that time, . . . so we had Prince Bernhard. But since [Philip] became president, he has made it a much sharper-edged organization.

At the Commonwealth Secretariat, we do find some echo; Sonny Ramphal [Sridath Ramphal of Guyana, Secretary-General of the British Commonwealth] is very good, very good. I have spent a lot of time trying to convince him to get Commonwealth policies working along these lines. He's very well aware of things. He's good news. He's doing a very good job.

Charles de Haes, WWF Director-General

From an interview with Charles de Haes, Director-General, World Wildlife Fund (WWF):

In the short run, the world economic and financial crisis is not making our job easy because the first thing countries cut in the budgets is conservation. . . . But more conservation, not less, is needed. . . .

Eco-catastrophies will awaken awareness. . . . But until now, governments lack the political will. . . .

If there is depression, if it goes to a financial collapse, developing countries will suffer most. We have some fat we can live off, we can retrench, consume less. But in the developing world, poverty is the biggest threat to conservation. . . . We are working to make sure that the aid agencies directing aid to the real priorities, in which conservation is included from the beginning.

IUCN [International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources] alone, WWF alone, UNDP [United Nations Development Program] alone had not one chance of success. Together, it was another matter, since all three had a common strategy.

We now have a special project for followup on the world conservation strategy, within IUCN: the Conservation for Development Center, headed by Michael Cockerell. He's building up a team here, since many resources are available in aid agencies; it will help developing countries to establish their own national conservation strategies. . . .

We've just had a meeting where we had invited all the U.N. agencies. There was Mustafa Tolba, the head of UNDP, Dr. Lee Talbot of IUCN, and I. We had the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization], UNESCO, UNDP, WHO [World Health Organization], ILO [International Labor Organiza-