

Merricks gave some details of his own operations at Elmley Marshes on the Isle of Sheppey, which delegates were due to visit the next day and where, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy Council, he was managing land positively for conservation.

The theme of working with and through landowners was reinforced by Mr William de Salis (Chief Economist, Country Landowners Association). He felt strongly that it was essential to fit environmental and countryside care objectives firmly into the economic structure of farm businesses. To that end he gave details of the CLA's proposal for 'ELMS' (Environmental Land Management Services) whereby farmers and landowners would manage the countryside, recognizing those elements of land-use, conservation, and recreation, which the public wanted and for which it was prepared to pay.

The 'new discipline of countryside management' to which Professor Green had earlier referred was the focus for Professor Allan Patmore (University of Hull; Vice-Chairman of the Sports Council), who considered the question of training countryside managers. He had recently chaired a committee on training which had been set up by the Countryside Commission, and which had made far-reaching recommendations for future investment in the training of staff.

In the evening nearly one hundred of the delegates sat down to dinner and later heard Miss Fiona Reynolds (Assistant Director [Policy], Council for the Protection of Rural England) give some personal reflections on current developments in the countryside. The Principal of Wye College, Professor John Prescott, in thanking both the delegates and the speakers, emphasized the key role which was being played by the College in this important area of countryside management, and spoke in particular of the development of the new Countryside Management Centre which the College was creating. Further information may be obtained from the undersigned writer of this report:

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MEETINGS TO CONSIDER INVOLVEMENT OF THE
NONGOVERNMENTAL COMMUNITY IN THE 1992 UN
CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT,
HELD IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA,
DURING 15–18 MARCH 1990

More than 150 representatives from some 115 organizations and institutions (many of them Working Partners of the Centre for Our Common Future and more than 40 from the Third World) met in Vancouver from 15–18 March 1990 to consider the involvement of the nongovernmental community in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Attendees came from more than 40 countries and represented virtually all nongovernmental factions: environment and development NGOs, business and industry, trade unions, the scientific and academic communities, youth groups, women's groups, indigenous peoples, and other citizens' groups. Several of the participants were member organizations and board members of the Environment Liaison

Centre International, who were holding a separate meeting in Vancouver to plan their agenda for '92.

To start the weekend meeting — which was also attended by Maurice F. Strong (the newly-appointed Secretary-General of the '92 Conference), Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland (Chairman of the World Commission on Environment and Development), and Ricardo Luiz Viana de Carvalho (from the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) — participants were presented with (i) reports by Carl Pedersen, of the UN Director General's Office, and by Maurice F. Strong, on the outcome of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the '92 Conference, which had only completed its work on the morning of the 17th, (ii) the views of the Brazilian Government regarding the '92 Conference which they are to host*, and (iii) reports by various participants on the activities planned within their constituencies for '92.

Right from the preliminary session of this propitious Meeting it was clear that there is a broadly-based interest and commitment on the part of the independent sector (*i.e.* of NGOs, INGOs, etc.) to be active participants in, and contributors to, the '92 Conference. A broad range of independent sector activities are already being conducted, and many more are planned. An overview of the reports presented by participants in Vancouver is being prepared by the Centre and will shortly be circulated to all concerned.

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* It is now said in Rio de Janeiro. — Ed.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE: SURVIVING WITH THE BIOSPHERE, HELD IN THE HOTEL AGRO (FORMERLY TOT BUILDING), NORMAFA UT 54, 1211 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, DURING 22–27 APRIL 1990

This, long envisaged as the last Conference of primary responsibility of the undersigned founder of the series, took place in an encouragingly happy atmosphere on the sunny heights of Buda overlooking the Danube and much of the rest of Budapest. The preceding Conferences had been in Jyväskylä, Finland, in 1971 — when almost all of the problems that are now emerging as threatening our world had already been discussed or at least adumbrated — in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1977, and in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1987. Each had led to a substantial volume of Proceedings.*

The present Conference returned to our preferred size for such an event, comprising as it did about 130 invited participants from all the normally-inhabited continents and involving some 30 different countries. It consisted of 14 'normal' Sessions, two special evening sessions — 'Environmental Security for the Horn of Africa' and a 'Round-table: Overcoming Freshwater Constraints' — the 3rd Baer-Huxley Memorial Lecture, this time on

* Of which the Third, on 'Maintenance of The Biosphere', is now available at £25 from Edinburgh University Press, 22 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9YL, Scotland, UK. They will publish the much larger Proceedings volume of the present Conference, it is hoped fairly early in 1991.