INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND ETHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COMMISSION OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

As it had been announced in the first CHE/IUAES letter (April 86), the first meeting of the Commission took place in Madrid, the 24th of September. Were present: C. Bernis (Spain), E. Crognier (France), T. Malmberg (Sweden), R. Simpson (Australia), P. Tobias (South-Africa), N. Wolanski (Poland) as full members and G.F. De Stefano (Italy representing M. Cresta), B. Nikityuk (USSR representing T. Alekseeva) and J. Visvader (USA, representing R. Borden), as observers.

1 - The first question concerned a proposal for an international research project, which from the year 1987, would express the unitary will for common research, emanating from at least several departments of members of the Commission.

According to N. Wolanski's proposal, the suggested project refers to the study of the "biosocial status of human populations, as an indicator of environmental status".

2 - The IUAES executive is actually dealing with a project of establishment in Dubrovnik (Yugoslavia), of an IUAES Advanced Institute of Anthropological Sciences. Its purpose will be to undertake courses of instruction in any branche of Anthropology, including inter-disciplinary studies at postgraduate level and oriented to the international mandate of the Union.

According to this, a governing body (=senate) should be created and should include two members of each IUAES commission. The CHE was requested to propose four candidates (from different
countries) to the IUAES executive, among which two will be finally selected as nominees for the senate.

The commissions chairmen being already selected personalities, we had to choose three other members of the CHE. Our final proposition is: N. Wolanski (Poland), P. Baker (USA), T. Suzuki (Japan) and E. Crognier (France).

3 - Among the activities of the CHE, is the task of organizing "schools in Human Ecology", or any scientific meeting on particular topics in connexion with Human Ecology. The need for a workshop focusing on the study of "modelling" in Human Ecology, has been admitted as a priority. As this theme appears to be the subject of a future meeting of the Society for Human Ecology (USA), N. Wolanski and C. Bernis were given a mandate to contact and eventually negotiate with the S.H.E. representatives, a project of common organization of this workshop.

4 - It was decided to prepare a multi-volumes "traité", which would present opinions of experts on matters related with Human Ecology. The first volume could be made with the synthesis of papers prepared for the conference "Human Ecology, past, present and future", which is to be held in Zagreb during the XIIth ICAES meeting (June 1988).

5 - Most of answers to the circular letter sent by N. Wolanski during the summer 1985, insisted on the necessity of intensive exchanges of information between the members of the Commission.

For this purpose, it has been decided to create a newsletter, which will be sent free of charge (as long as it will be possible) to all members of the CHE. This newsletter will be edited by E. Crognier and C. Bernis, with no regular periodicity but as often as necessary. Its cost will be covered by E. Crognier's funds.
6 - The next official meeting of the CHE will take place in Zagreb, during the XIIth ICAES.

Pr. M.R. Chakravartti (India), proposed to organize a future meeting in New-Delhi. The Commission acknowledged his proposition and suggested him to set up a project.

7 - The organizational problems of the CHE are numerous and could not be fully worked out during the first meeting of the Commission.

The leading idea is to limitate the membership to the CHE, in order to include only very active persons, representative of Human Ecology at a world scale. Their final number should not much exceed thirty persons.

*Two kinds of membership would be distinguished:

1 - full membership
2 - membership related with the task of leader of a working group

*It has been decided to create sub-commissions connected with a precise duty. Thus far, three sub-commissions are established:

-a sub-commission instructed to organize the common project of research
-a sub-commission in charge of the problems of publications
-a sub-commission related with workshops and conferences

N. Wolanski is responsible for the s-c. concerned with the project of research, T. Malmberg is responsible for that concerned with publications.

*It has also been decided to create several working-groups, which contrarily to sub-commissions (only opened to members of the CHE), will be very widely opened to any interested laboratory or scholar, the connection with the CHE being set up through a "leader", himself member of the Commission.

The working-groups actually created are:

- the ecology of nutrition (leader M. Cresta, Italy)
- the ecology of urban environment (leader R. Simpson, Australia)
- The ecology of disease (leader J. Benoist, France)
- the ecology of human territoriality (leader, T. Malmberg, Sweden)

A next working-group concerned with "The social and biological problems of human environment" directed by M. Chakravartti (India), will be probably also created when more accurate aims will have been defined.

*The remaining important question was to decide of the membership in the CHE. In order to avoid the nomination of persons which would not participate actively to the development of the Commission activities, it has been decided to settle the definitive list of members within several months, on the basis of their activity related to the CHE.

The following list of personalities only indicate then, "potential" members of the Commission.

T. ALEKSEEVA (USSR); K.R. ARAP MITEI (Kenya); C.J. BAJEMA (USA); P. BAKER (USA); J. BENOIST (France); C. BERNIS (Spain); R. BORDEN (USA); S. BOYDEN (Australia); M.R. CHAKRAVARTTI (India); J. CLENCH-AAS (Norvège); M. CRESTA (Italy); E. CROGNIER (France); Z. DAYSH (UK); F. DICKINSON (Mexico); A. EL-NOFELY (UAR); A. FROMENT (Cameroon); B. JUNGEN (Sweden); F. S. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka); E. KOBYLIANSKI (Israël); M. A. LITTLE (USA); U. E. LOENING (UK); T. MALMBERG (Sweden); C. MALOFF (USA); L. MATA (Costa Rica); C. J. NUTTMAN (UK); P. RUDAN (Yugoslavia); F. M. SALZANO (Brazil); R. SIMPSON (Australia); A. SUHAIMI (Malaysia); T. SUZUKI (Japan); K. THOMPSON (New-Zealand); S. C. TIWARI (India); P. V. TOBIAS (South Africa); J. UMEH (Nigeria); T. K. UNNITHAN (India); N. WOLANSKI (Poland); G. L. YOUNG (USA).

In the future, the status of "observer" could be given to the chairmen of various national and international scientific societies of human Ecology.

E. CROGNIER
Secretary of the I.U.A.E.S./C.H.E.