* The Kentucky Governmental Accountability Project has been able to provide legislative and judicial representation to Kentucky citizens.
* The Cincinnati Roundtable was established to get local business and environmental leaders to work cooperatively on water quality problems in that Ohio River city.
* VEE grants to Virginia Commonwealth University–Medical College of Virginia and Virginia's Health Department established the direction, purpose, and meaning, of all future research on the insecticide Kepone.
* A new curriculum guide for secondary school students about toxics and their environmental effects was developed and distributed.
* The Student Environmental Health project was established in Virginia to recruit university students to assist local community groups' work on environmental problems.

In addition, a number of new projects show promise of future beneficial results. Examples include:

1) An environmental centre is being developed on Belle Isle in the James River at Richmond.
2) A comprehensive assessment of all water and wastewater treatment needs is being conducted for Virginia.
3) A multi-jurisdictional cooperative effort has begun to study the water quality of Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia, towards developing ways to control the adverse effects of development around the Lake.
4) A major cooperative venture involving the local government, a private conservation organization, and research workers from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, is developing a shoreline protection plan for Richmond County, Virginia.
5) The US Nature Conservancy is being funded to develop conservation plans for the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and to develop a voluntary registration programme for landowners to protect their valuable habitats and endangered species.
6) A programme to help local governments to address the increasingly difficult matter of safely disposing of hazardous wastes is under way.
7) The Ohio River Basin Research and Educational Consortium has been formed to coordinate water-quality work in that region.

Other organizations that VEE helps to support include major US conservation groups such as the Izaak Walton League, the National Audubon Society, the Natural Resources Defense Concil, the Southern Environmental Law Center, and the Student Conservation Association.

A new major focus for VEE is the protection and management of Chesapeake Bay, one of the world's great estuaries. VEE is funding projects that address scientific research and citizen participation in developing public policy (both federal and state) to protect the Bay, and is promoting new partnerships among business, conservation, academic, and local government, organizations. In addition, VEE continues its interests in toxics, water quality, land-use, waste management, and conflict resolution.

In its first decade, through its judicious grants, VEE has made a significant contribution to protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment for the benefit of the people. The accomplishments of its first decade signal a forecast for this unique organization's work to continue to benefit all of us in the region, and may well point the way to such activities which if possible should, and probably could, be widely emulated elsewhere.

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Evaluating Last Year's Congress of the International Society of Soil Science

Following our report on the above events in the Conference & Meetings section of this Journal (*Environmental Conservation*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 182–3), we would like to emphasize some outstanding points as follows: Firstly, the Congress demonstrated not decreasing, but rather increasing, attention of the world community of soil scientists to the fundamental ideas of Dokuchaev's pedology and to its genetical doctrines in particular. An intention to consider natural and anthropogenic soil phenomena and processes on the basis of their genesis, development, and evolution, with due account of ecological conditions or factors of soil formation, was evident in many of the reports presented to the Congress. Naturally, this was especially evident in the reports of the ISSS commission which deals specifically with the problems of soil genesis, and particularly in the reports on soil classification problems. However, much the same is true in respect of the reports concerning some other problems of soil science.

At the same time, it is necessary to mention the lack of general theories of soil formation and functioning among the materials presented to the Congress. The problem of general soil classification of the world still remained unsolved, despite the efforts undertaken.

Secondly, in the majority of the more substantial reports there appeared a clear tendency for a transfer from 'descriptive' to 'managerial' science—to attempts at uncovering the inside mechanisms and the dynamics (regimes) of soil formation and functioning as the basis of soil management—or the purpose of creation of soils with improved features. This is particularly characteristic of the scientists of the highly industrialized countries, where the aspects of technologies tend to be most at the forefront of scientific studies.

Thirdly, a tendency should be noted towards a change of emphasis of soil studies in different directions in different groups of countries.

Alongside their intensive studies of the management of soil processes and increasing attention to problems of soil pollution, decreasing efforts to investigate the problems of soil fertility are characteristic of the developed, industrialized countries: many of the West European countries are not interested now in the growth of soil fertility, owing to the urge to maintain stable high productivity of agriculture and of having a series of socio-economic and political problems for the European Economic Community to tackle. This tendency might be just temporary, but it does exist at present.

On the contrary, increased attention to the problems of soil fertility growth, and to the protection of soils against progressing erosion and other hazardous processes, is a characteristic tendency of developing countries nowadays.

The accents corresponding to these two tendencies are seen in many pertinent agrochemical studies: the *quality* of biological products being emphasized in the industrially developed countries and their *quantity* as a first priority in the less developed countries.

The published proceedings of the Congress deserve careful study by specialists in order to digest and utilize fully the wealth of scientific and technical information contained in the multitude of component reports.

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The Importance for Rural Regions of Hunting and Shooting Game*

A report by the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Agriculture, adopted in July, proposes a better understanding of hunting and shooting. Starting with the public debate raging in many Council of Europe member states on the future of shooting game, it goes on to show that hunting may well be poorly understood owing to a failure to appreciate its essential role in preserving a wide and balanced variety of species and hence in environmental protection in general. The report calls for measures to improve the training of hunters, for intensified international cooperation, and for a more open and fruitful dialogue between hunters, farmers, foresters, and the general public, as to how their various interests can best be reconciled.

There have been many instances which bear witness to the desire of the majority of hunters to continue to act as managers of Nature, for example the purchase and management of a large area in south-west France and a campaign for birds of prey run by Italian hunters. At the international level, the Council of Europe's Code of Conduct for Hunters has been positively received, and an international seminar on the protection of the environment as a factor of economic development in rural areas will be held at the Palais de l'Europe in the spring of 1988. Training for hunters will continue in order to put a stop to offences against legal and moral codes.

NEWSLETTER–NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT
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* Having been accustomed to *hunting* with hounds and, particularly, *shooting* game in our youth, we have ventured to include both activities—as environmentally desirable when properly controlled— in this title, although the Council of Europe did not so distinguish them in their note.—Ed.

Food Production and Agricultural Development up to Year 2000

Although the world's farmers are growing more food each year and the alarming increase in world population is starting to slow down everywhere except in Africa, the 'unnecessary tragedy' for widespread hunger still remains, according to the updated 1987 edition of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) study, *Agriculture: Toward 2000.* This 263-pages' study, presented to FAO's recent biennial Conference, outlines crucial options for national, regional, and global, policymakers, for increasing food production. It states that 'the outstanding fact in food and agriculture is that the past 25 years have brought a better-fed world despite an increase of 1.8 [thousand millions] in World population'.

But as the FAO Director-General emphasizes in the Foreword, the general improvement in nutrition for the bulk of the world's people still excluded millions of the very poor. 'Against a substantial achievement of a more ample diet for the majority of the world's population', he states, 'food supplies *per caput* in the low-income countries other than China were not significantly different in 1983–1985 from those of 15 years earlier.'

The study foresees that the number of seriously undernourished people in the world—those with food intakes of less than 40% above the basal metabolic rate (roughly 1,520 calories)—could rise somewhat, from the present 510 millions to 530 millions, though their percentage of the total population would decline significantly. Unforeseen natural or Man-made calamities could push the number much higher, however.

Also, world economic trends work against the chances of many developing countries, especially the very poor ones, to improve the living standards of their citizens, some of whom may face outright starvation. Thus in analysing the food production figures in 94 'developing' countries, the study found that the shadow of famine had tended to diminish in Asia—particularly in China. Indeed the outlook for most of Asia over the period to the end of the century looks promising, according to the study.

But other regions are not so fortunate, and the study points out that 'the overall economic crisis of the last few years virtually arrested the rising trend of calorie consumption in Latin America and, together with the effects of drought and deterioration of agricultural conditions, reduced consumption in sub-Saharan Africa; *per caput* food availabilities were lower in 1983–1985 than in 1979–1981 in 37 of the 94 developing countries. Of the 37 countries, 24 were in sub-Saharan Africa'.

While hailing the contribution of technology to the rise of food production over the past quarter-century, the study urged that much more be done to direct research towards helping the 2 thousand million or so of small farmers whose average income is in the area of $75 a year. They are the rural poor who have been largely bypassed by progress. Many of the Earth's *c.* 500 millions of seriously undernourished people are, paradoxically, farmers or fishermen.

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