

onslaught of man and introduced species of plants and animals. These islands are outstanding as a natural laboratory for the study of evolutionary processes; a considerable background of previous work already exists.

The project has the following features:

- a. It is feasible;
- b. it can provide a model of what can be accomplished in relation to endangered floras and faunas;
- c. the urgency is great; and
- d. it will dramatize the scientific basis for the preservation of ecosystems.

The proposed research will call for participation of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, the University of Hawaii, the U. S. Armed Forces, and various organizations, universities and museums in the mainland United States and in Europe. Competent experts will be sought from all parts of the world. Federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior and the National Science Foundation, will be asked to cooperate.

Study in Tropical Latin America

The Subcommittee has approved the selection of tropical Latin America for a second major investigation. Many areas in central and northern South America have highly localized and endemic faunas and floras which are currently being destroyed by activities formented by the human population explosion. This is particularly conspicuous in the northern Andes. Colombia has been tentatively agreed upon as the most appropriate country in which to make this study. The actual selection of sites which would be most suitable for comparative studies at different altitudes and in the three different ranges of the Colombian cordillera should be made in consultation with Colombian and other experts.

This project would differ from the Hawaiian one by being even more international in character and depending in large measure upon the cooperation of Colombian scientists and the good will and assistance of the Colombian government. Two special advantages are offered by: