

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, D.C., April 2, 1968.

HON. EMILIO QUINCY DADDARIO,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development,
House Committee on Science and Astronautics, House of Repre-
sentatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. DADDARIO: I am pleased to respond to the invitation to participate in your Subcommittee's hearings on environmental quality. In an effort to provide a useful contribution, I have prepared the attached statement for inclusion in the record. The first section of the statement provides a description of the conceptual framework within which those activities of the Institution that have a direct bearing on the issues of environmental quality are evolving, together with a brief inventory of some of the relevant, ongoing programs.

The second part of the statement represents an attempt to gain a coherent overview of the numerous proposals that have emerged in response to the need for institutional mechanisms capable of developing an understanding of the interrelationships between human societies and the sustaining environment.

It is our belief that the problems which create the need for such mechanisms require no further documentation. We must now concentrate our efforts on reaching agreement concerning the most comprehensive and positive way in which to proceed. The second part of our statement is an outline of what we feel is necessary.

You are to be congratulated for your foresight in recognizing the significance of the problems that exist in the area of environmental quality. By providing a forum for an exchange of views on this topic, you are performing a most important service to the nation. I commend your efforts and look forward in assisting you in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

S. DILLON RIPLEY,
Secretary.

STATEMENT BY S. DILLON RIPLEY, SECRETARY, SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to participate in these hearings on environmental quality.

In order to provide you with the conceptual framework within which the Smithsonian Institution is evolving its program in ecology, I would like to insert a statement that was prepared for our Board of Regents.

For the average citizen, ecology is fast becoming a household word, as increasingly it is being demonstrated to him that man is in nature and is a part of nature. No longer can he regard himself simply as a separate creation divinely appointed to manipulate nature at will. He now begins to understand that a human society with its total en-