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6 November 1970

NOTES ON QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE RAISED AT THE
INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

1. CASE STUDIES

A letter to all governments has been prepared and is being circulated this week with a request for comments by the end of January 1971. We are asking governments to help us formulate the criteria for selecting case studies since they have to be prepared for presentation to the Conference and their number must be limited. They must however, cover the more important and typical environment problems in the national and regional context and also in the major geographical regions of the world. In some cases it should be possible to extend technical assistance to a country or group of countries for the preparation of a concrete case study. We are exploring this at the present time.

2. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON MARINE POLLUTION

The General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session asked the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the problems of marine pollution and to consult all the governments on what action the United Nations should propose on this matter. The General Assembly also requested that this report should be submitted to the ECOSOC, the General Assembly, and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Human Environment.

Mr. Baum who is in charge of the preparation of this report, informed me that the scientific aspects of the report (EG/Study of Noxious Elements etc.) were under way. They have already received 35 answers from governments. All these will be incorporated in the report which will be completed for submission to ECOSOC in July 1971. It is possible that Mr. Baum will prepare a brief

or status report in time for the second session of the Preparatory Committee in February 1971.

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3. REPORT ON CONCRETE STEPS THAT COULD/TAKEN TO FACILITATE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Jim Coutts, Jim Fisher and I explored several possibilities for example establishing a small panel of well known personalities in the field of development and developing countries and assign them the preparation of this report. They should work in a developing country e.g. Brazil.