

# Conservationists Bar Rifle Unit

By SYDNEY H. SCHANBERG  
Special to The New York Times

NEW DELHI, Dec. 1—The National Rifle Association of America and a world trade association of fur dealers were balked today in their attempt to gain membership in an international conservation organization dedicated to saving wildlife from extinction.

After opponents raised objections at the conservation organization's conference here, it shelved the membership applications.

A spokesman for the 21-year-old organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, said "it was a fluk" that the rifle association's application got as far as it did.

L. L. Glasgow, United States Under Secretary of the Interior, said that past practices of the fur dealers' group, the International Fur Trade Federation, had been questionable, but he added: "They're changing. We need to bring them on in and convert them to our views."

## Leopard, Cheetah, Tiger

Peter M. Scott, a noted British ornithologist argued similarly that if a dialogue could be established, "we may indoctrinate them and in the end reduce the pressure on these animals."

The animals in question are the leopard, cheetah and tiger of Africa and Asia, which are being threatened with extinction by poachers working for fur buyers. After the cats are killed in violation of national game laws, the skins are smuggled out, mostly to the United States and Europe, in violation of customs laws.

Kenya and Ethiopia led the successful fight against the fur group's membership. The Ethiopian delegate to the conference, General Mabratu, head of his country's Wildlife Conservation Board, warned

## World Agency Also Rejects Bid by Fur Dealers

against letting "a Trojan horse come into our society."

He asserted that members of the fur federation, using different names, were directly involved in wholesale slaughter. He said that while his Government allowed only seven leopard and cheetah skins out legally over a recent three-year period, the illegal traffic took out 5,000 in a year.

He said he would accept the fur dealers' group when it had demonstrated its good faith and barred its members from buying illegal skins.

## Favorable Vote Recorded

Actually, the General Assembly of the conservation organization, which was holding its 10th conference since its inception in 1948, had approved the fur dealers' application in a show of hands on the opening day a week ago. Opponents disputed the vote, contending that some who raised their did not have voting rights. Today they finally succeeded in forcing the issue to another vote, only to lose again.

However, officials of the organization, visibly upset over the split, announced that to remove the source of divisiveness they would ask the fur federation to withdraw its application.

The application of the National Rifle Association, which has opposed stringent gun-control legislation in Congress, never came to a vote.

All the 300 members of the conservation organization are governments, agencies of gov-

ernments, private conservation groups and individual conservation experts.

"The National Rifle Association is just looking for prestige," said an American delegate. "It would make us a laughing-stock. They belong in about as much as the Audubon Society belongs in the fur-dealers' association."

## U.S. Unit Stresses Conservation

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1—A spokesman said today that the National Rifle Association had sought membership in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources because "no organization which involves as many sportsmen as we do can afford to ignore conservation."

He said he did not know that the association's application had been shelved.

"Those using the outdoors are naturally concerned with the environment," he said. "We speak for one million outdoorsmen and we are concerned that natural resources are used in a healthful, legal and legitimate manner."

The association has supported conservation causes, the spokesman noted, including attempts to preserve endangered species, and has opposed a jetport at Miami that may endanger the Everglades.

Another official pointed out that the group had spent \$28,500 on radio and television "public service" announcements and programs that favor conserving wildlife and the environment.

"Our involvement in conservation is prompted by a desire to promote the sport of hunting and to insure our national heritage."