

are now being investigated by the Smithsonian authorities, with the hope of cooperation from the Royal Society of London and international conservation agencies.

A much-to-be-hoped-for result might be to have the Pitcairn Island Group, including also Oeno and Ducie atolls, given World Heritage status, which would be helpful to the Pitcairn Islanders. Meanwhile, it is a great satisfaction and morale-lifter to be able to claim a victory in international conservation and

point to an indication of public appreciation of the importance of the ecological study of islands.

F. RAYMOND FOSBERG, *Botanist Emeritus
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20560
USA.*

Sir John Adams, 1920–84

Probably more than any other individual, Sir John Adams was responsible for the remarkable growth and development of the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN), which currently occupies a site of 480 hectares (with an even larger area reserved for possible future development), has in addition various underground tunnels of which the Super Synchrotron one alone is 7 km long, and employs some 3,500 people with, in addition, ca 1,500 working visitors mostly from member countries. Of it he was Director of the Proton Synchrotron Division before being Director-General during 1960–61, thereafter returning to England to occupy senior governmental posts before resuming at CERN as Director-General of its 300 GeV Accelerator Project and ending up as Executive Director-General of the entire organization during 1976–80.

One might think of such a leader on the physical—and especially nuclear—side as scarcely likely to understand, much less help, our primarily biological environmentalists' one. Yet fortunately for us, John Adams also had a heart for the biological world and strong views on the necessity of shielding the environment from what we are prone to think of as 'the dirtiest garbage of all'. Thus concerning atmospheric pollution, according to a correspondent, 'He would have liked to see much more intensive fundamental research on the many problems, for he realized their complexity and felt that, on the whole, they were incompletely understood'. Like us he would advise young people desiring to make a career in the environmental wilderness of our time, to 'start with a good degree in one of the pure sciences before embarking on a course of environmental study'. The accompanying photo, taken a few years ago at the inauguration of one of Sir John's major projects, was kindly furnished by his wife Renie.

Such was the wide vision, deep perception, and ability to explain physical phenomena quite charmingly to laymen, that we were delighted when, after relinquishing his main administrative responsibilities at CERN, John Adams joined our panel of Advisory Editors of *Environmental Conservation*, dealing



with matters pertaining to physics (apart from Energy), and so we came to benefit also from his meticulous refereeing and wise counsel. His loss to Europe and to us is great—the more so because of the shock of its prematurity—and our sympathy goes out to his family, friends, and numerous even-closer colleagues.
N.P.

Tolba Gold Medal

The Energy Society of Pakistan has established an award which will be given to person(s) and/or institutions(s) making the most important contributions in the area of energy for sustainable development in developing countries. The award consists of a gold medal, named after Dr Mostafa Kamal Tolba, which will be given every second year to any individual, organization, or group of people, whose work contributes most towards the philosophy which Dr Tolba has encapsulated in his book *Development Without Destruction*. The recipient(s) of this international award will be chosen by an international jury of eminent persons from among the nominations received from all over the world.

The first Tolba Gold Medal will be presented in Lahore,

Pakistan, in December 1984. Nominations are invited for it of candidates who have contributed most significantly to the environmental and energy needs of developing countries in a sustainable manner. All entries received by 31 August 1984 will be considered for the first award. Nominations, with full pertinent details of candidates and their work, should be sent to the undersigned (telephone 52662 or 851583; Telex: 44388 GOLDN PK).

MOHAMMAD NAZIM, *Secretary
Energy Society of Pakistan
123-J Model Town
Lahore 14
Pakistan.*