

tural Relations with Foreign Countries, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the U.S.S.R. Youth Organizations Committee, and the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Specialized Secondary and Higher Education. Prominent scientists of the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and of other countries, will be invited to teach at the university.

The university will be open to candidates of both sexes up to 35 years of age, irrespective of race or religion. Applications may be submitted through public organizations and government offices of the applicant's country, through the embassy or consulates of the U.S.S.R. in that country, or directly to the university.

International Help Asked To Save Congo Gorillas

The mountain gorillas in the Belgian Congo's Albert National Park—among the world's rarest animals—are in danger of becoming extinct because of native incursions into the reservation area to graze cattle that eat the gorilla forage. In the Watusi tribe that lives in the area, a man's social status is governed by the number of cattle he owns. Because of a rapid population increase in recent years, the lands bordering the reservation are badly eroded from overgrazing, and flocks are being driven further into the park.

The Belgian Congo National Parks Institute, Brussels, which administers Albert National Park for the Belgian Government, has heretofore protected the gorillas, of which there are about 350. However, now that the Belgian Congo is to become independent on 30 June, the institute no longer has the cooperation of the local authorities, who are disinclined to take action against trespassers.

American Group Conducts Study

Under institute patronage, an American expedition has been studying the mountain gorillas for most of the past year. A member of the research team, George B. Schaller, reported a month ago that two large tracts of land in Albert Park have recently been returned unofficially to the natives. Schaller says: "Although the habitat appears to be still adequate for the support of the gorilla population, the animal will in the future not be able to survive if the present destruction by Watusi cattle continues. Watusi and their cattle ven-

ture far into the Congo side of the park. A visit into the area . . . in July 1959 showed countless old cattle trails and huts over a mile into the Congo. More recently in December 1959 and January 1960 several hundred cattle were noted from the Ruanda border as far as 4 miles into the Congo."

On the basis of this report, Victor Van Straelen, president of the Congo Parks Institute, has written an appeal to Harold Coolidge of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, who is chairman of the International Committee on National Parks of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Coolidge is executive director of the Pacific Science Board of the academy). Van Straelen asks for vigorous international protest against the violation of the mountain gorilla sanctuary in Albert National Park. He says that there must be "concerted action if these anthropoids are to be saved."

Mathematics Board Formed

The Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences was formally incorporated in the District of Columbia on 29 February. The charter members are the American Mathematical Society, the Association for Symbolic Logic, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Mathematical Association of America, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

The principal purpose of the Conference Board will be to represent mathematics where cooperative action among the various societies is more desirable than action on the part of a particular society. The new organization plans to open a Washington office on 1 July.

The present officers are G. Baley Price, California Institute of Technology, chairman; J. R. Mayor, AAAS, secretary; and A. E. Meder, Jr., Rutgers University, treasurer.



Mountain gorilla prepares to charge. Found only in the highlands of central Africa, the mountain subspecies is outnumbered by the lowland gorilla, the variety usually seen in zoos. This captive male was photographed in a jungle enclosure near Utu, Belgian Congo. [National Geographic Society]