

tional Botanical Congress, conscious of their responsibility as biologists, consider that there is no solution to the final problem unless population control is achieved. Therefore, we urge governments to adopt such policies while at the same time ensuring an adequate standard of living for their people, particularly by encouraging increased food production commensurate with proper land use.

The XIth International Botanical Congress, recognizing the importance of preserving every aspect of the diversity and resources of the earth's biosphere, requests the governments of the countries of the world, the inter-governmental organizations of the United Nations family, particularly those involved in technical assistance projects intended to promote scientific, cultural and economic development, other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in conservation matters, universities and other institutions of learning and research, and any other group or individual interested in conservation, to do all in their power to encourage every effort to preserve the earth's biosphere from the manifold destructive influences of man, including the release of persistent toxic materials. We urge support of the conservation projects embodied in the International Biological Program and within the ambit of the International Council of Scientific Unions and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

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### Astronaut's Resignation

The news note "Trouble at NASA: Space scientists resign" (22 Aug., p. 776) refers to a comment made by NASA officials that I resigned from the scientist-astronaut program because I didn't want to become a pilot.

This is an oversimplification. The budgetary delays in plans for scientific space flights and the inability to carry on a reasonable amount of scientific research in the meantime were equally important reasons. I discussed all these reasons in the statement of resignation which I submitted to NASA for public release. "Flying just isn't my cup of tea" was quoted in the NASA official announcement from a telephone conversation with Deke Slayton and not even included in my statement.

This is one of those unfortunate cases in which news is distorted because only a small portion is taken out of context for simplicity and readability. . . .

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17 OCTOBER 1969



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