

Additional islands, representative of the Virgin Islands in general and including the zone of intergradation between the Lesser and Greater Antilles, would serve as thoroughfares for natural dispersal of many kinds of animals and plants. An extension therefore of the Virgin Islands National Park, to include the British island archipelago (Salt, Cooper, Ginger, Round (Rock), Fullen Jerusalem Islands, and the south peninsula of Virgin Gorda) south of the Sir Francis Drake Channel, would add immeasurably to the scenic and biological value of the Park. The diorite blocks of Virgin Gorda are of National Park quality and should be so preserved.

Displaced persons, resulting from land acquisition by the U. S. National Park Service, should be transferred at the expense of the government to St. Thomas or St. Croix Island where they should be given housing and economically profitable farming land. Individuals requesting life tenure on their homesteads should be retired with pension for life. These persons should not pursue agricultural or business interests nor economically participate in the tourist trade of the island. Qualified personnel for developing and maintaining the operation of the Park should be selected from individuals who are now residents and should be chosen according to seniority of habitation on the island.

#### ECOLOGY

1. Basic research in ecology, especially studies in the periodicity and fluctuation of biotic communities and habitat, is needed to define the present community composition. This information is desirable as basis for comparison with later stages of succession and with the ultimate climatic climax stage of community development. Research should be confined to areas of biological necessity.