

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Of the biological and physical features on St. John Island, only undisturbed conditions in natural relationships should be presented to the observers. Presenting the natural conditions can be accomplished in only certain areas and under certain limited situations, and even with the most ideal of circumstances, must be executed with a degree of compromise. Only when a concealed observation station is gained by means of a subterranean tunnel as opposed to a path or road, can the natural community be presented unaltered to the observer. For the Virgin Islands National Park, it is most practical, at this time, to introduce the observer to the natural and physical features of the island by placing the observer at the border of inviolate areas and at borders of areas of biological necessity.

Interpretive museum: Establish museum at Caneel Bay and develop educational program related to insular biology and geology; relationship of living West Indian fauna and flora with extinct forms; affinities of fauna; manner of colonization; marine communities etc.

Observation platforms: Observation platforms or enclosures are individual units (accommodating 1 to 6 persons by reservation) placed for observing undisturbed nature without the observer being a factor in the community function and are to replace camping by tent or trailer. Each unit, varying in size from 3 x 6 to as large as 8 x 12 feet, is so concealed in the sea cliff (above wave action), as not to be seen from any other such unit and provides comfortable and convenient open air facilities including reclining chairs (also used as beds), toilet, food and water. Some units should be provided with enclosed shelters for inclement weather. These units can be constructed and camouflaged without defacing the natural configuration of the land or sea cliff and access is by horizontal or graded trail from road. Observation platforms can be constructed wherever