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SECRETARY UDALL RECEIVES REPORT ON PREDATOR AND RODENT CONTROL STUDY

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced receipt of a "Blue Ribbon" committee's study report on the predator and rodent control program carried out by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The study was made at Secretary Udall's request by five distinguished scientists and conservationists headed by Dr. A. Starker Leopold of the Department of Zoology, University of California, Berkeley.

The request for the study called for an appraisal of work being done by the Division of Predator and Rodent Control to determine if any changes should be made in the program.

At the time, Secretary Udall noted that there was controversy over the program, with some groups contending that the program was too extensive and was endangering certain species of animals. Meanwhile, some farmers and ranchers are urging greater efforts to reduce losses to crops and domestic animals.

"The constructive report covers the whole range of problems and I am confident that it identifies all the main areas where new policies and improved management plans may be needed," Secretary Udall said. "The report should attract wide attention both in and out of government, and it is my hope that it will serve as the basis for conferences and discussions with all interested groups that will lead to constructive solutions for these problems."

The report will be presented by Dr. Leopold today at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Las Vegas.

Other members of the study committee are Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Vienna, Va., president of the Wildlife Management Institute; Dr. Clarence Cottam, Sinton, Tex., director of the Welder Wildlife Foundation; Thomas L. Kimball, McLean, Va., executive director of the National Wildlife Federation; and Dr. Stanley A. Cain, Ann Arbor, Mich., professor and Chairman of the Department of Conservation, University of Michigan.

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