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Chairman was also invited to the Project of the Forest Development Corporation, in which the Onge reserve has not been clearly demarcated and shall be treated as inviolable. Suitable changes will be made in Project of the Corporation which is headed by the Chief Commissioner himself.

9. The Chairman observed that the basic objective of the proposed settlement is to provide the group basic facilities for hygienic living and protection against elements of nature. He was not in favour of drastically interfering with and changing their economic life. He has already taken steps for the introduction of pigerry and goat keeping in the area which will be in keeping with their traditional way of life. The cultivation of spices is another possibility which could be explored. These plantations will not disturb their traditional form of economic subsistence.

10. The settlement design has to be finalised in the context of decision that the basic pattern of socio-economic life of Onge is not to undergo any drastic change and none against their wishes in any case. It was felt that if the entire population is brought at one place there may not be sufficient hunting ground for them. From this angle, it would be better if the Onges continue to live in smaller groups. Another important aspect is that the bringing together of all the Onges at one place may make them vulnerable to the risk of some change factors adversely affecting the entire community may be leading to exterminating the group. Prof. Vidyarthi pointed out that the problem of leadership continues even in a small group of the Great Andamanese, who have been reduced to mere 23. They continue, in their own way, to look back to their old tribal distinctiveness. Amongst the Onges the Sub-Group loyalties are reported to be quite strong and there may be problems of adjustment if all of them are brought together and are settled at one place. On the other hand, 3 Settlements are likely to pose the problem of extra cost. It was agreed that cost cannot be an important consideration in dealing with these groups. The Chairman said we would re-examine the circumstances and sound them whether they would prepare 3 separately. Existing settlement and if so make plans accordingly.

11. In view of the fact that the other groups have now shown interest in the settlement at Dugong Creek, it was considered whether the work on the 3 settlements could be started simultaneously. Prof. Vidyarthi pointed out that the concept of consent and 'willingness' themselves will have to be very carefully applied in the case of these groups. In some cases, it may be just an impulsive response without any perception of the total implications. It was agreed that the work for settlement may be taken up at Dugong Creek immediately and pre-