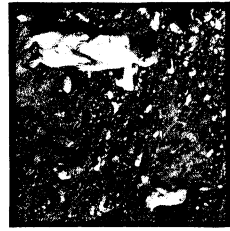
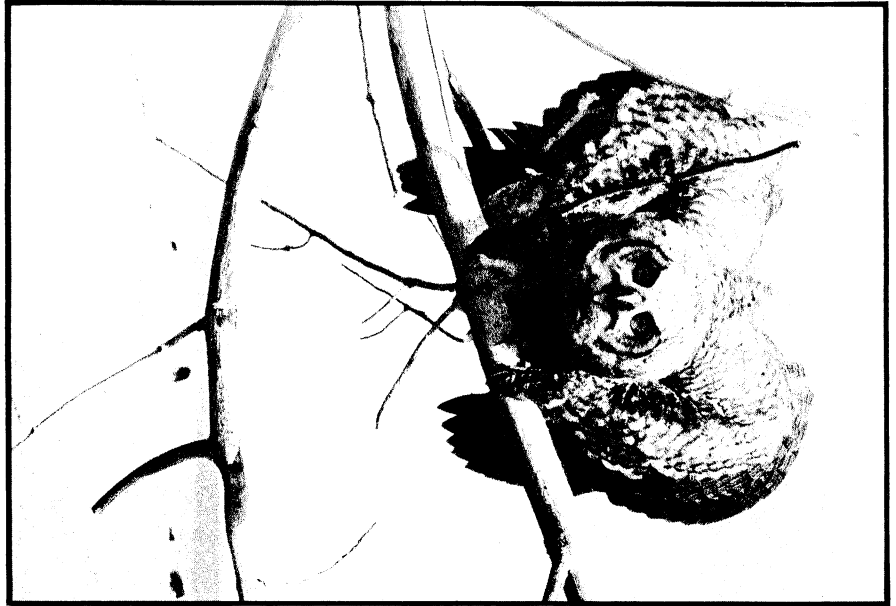
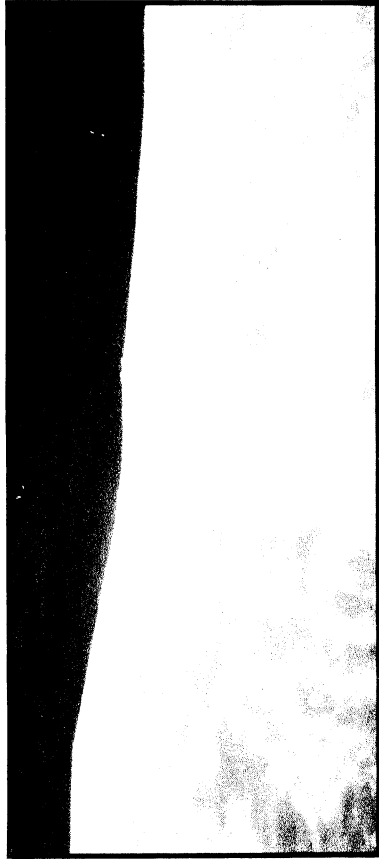
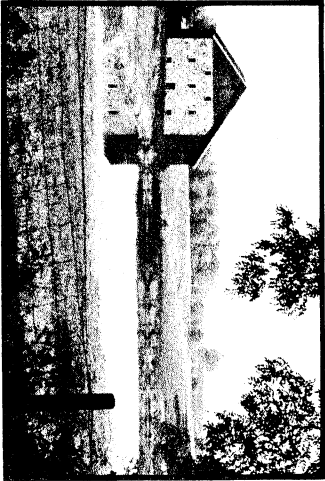
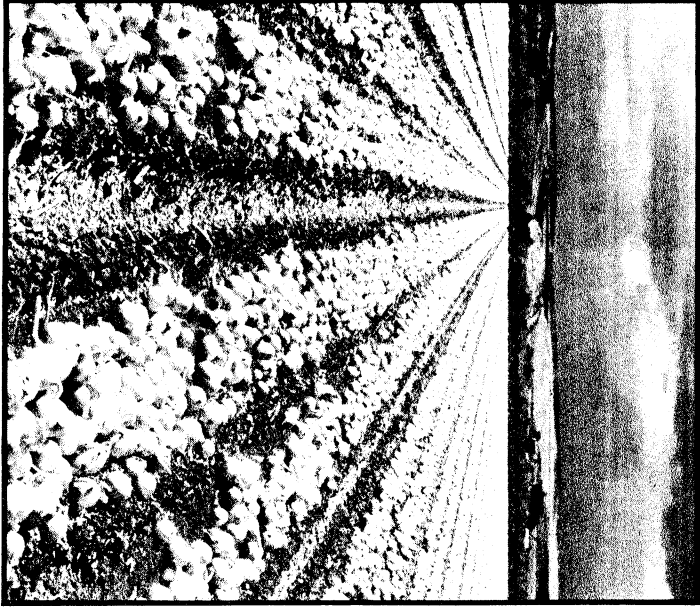
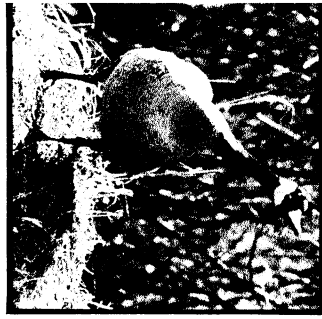


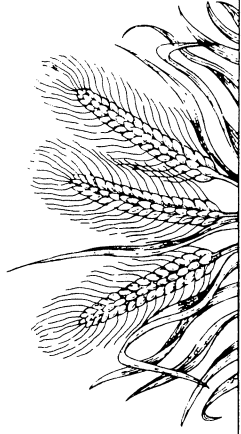


National Agricultural Lands Study

Final Report
1981







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1981**

PREFACE

Concern about the adequacy of America's agricultural land base to provide a continued supply of essential goods and services at reasonable cost are bipartisan and are shared by both the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government. In a 1975 report, entitled "Perspectives on Prime Lands," Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz emphasized the relationship between federal projects and the conversion of agricultural lands to nonagricultural uses. In its 1976 "Memorandum to Agency Heads," the President's Council on Environmental Quality directed government agencies to consider the effects of federal programs on agricultural land.

The Carter Administration sought to reduce the extent to which federal activities were causing the conversion of prime agricultural land. Executive agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency, adopted specific agricultural land protection policies. In June 1979, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the President's Council on Environmental Quality agreed to sponsor an inter-agency study of the availability of the nation's

agricultural lands, the extent and causes of their conversion to other uses, and ways in which these lands might be retained for agricultural purposes.

This effort, the National Agricultural Lands Study, was charged with:

- Determining the nature, rate, extent, and causes of conversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.
- Evaluating the economic, environmental, and social consequences of agricultural land conversion and methods used to attempt to restrain and retard conversion.
- Recommending administrative and legislative actions, if found necessary, to reduce potential losses to the nation that might result from continued conversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.
- Presenting a final report on findings and recommendations in January 1981.

To obtain the views of the public, the National Agricultural Lands Study conducted