

NEWSLETTER

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PYGMY CHIMP'S TRAGIC DEBUT AT YERKES

The acquisition of 5 Pygmy Chimpanzees by the Yerkes Primate Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, has caused such concern among chimpanzee field workers that 36 out of 38 respondents to a petition opposing any removal of this species from the wild had signed within 3 weeks of receiving it. In order to allow readers to make up their own minds about the project, we contacted both supporters and opponents and bring you the following information.

The Yerkes Center, which is under the direction of Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, has the world's largest collection of great apes. As of 1974, there were 16 gorillas, (2 born in captivity), 40 orangs, (18 captive-born), and a large number of chimpanzees.

Until recently, the one great ape missing was the Pygmy Chimpanzee; this primate weighs approximately two-thirds of the weight of the Common Chimpanzee and is confined mainly to the forests south of the Congo River in Zaire. So well-protected has this animal been till now that only four zoos have been able to procure specimens for exhibition. The 1974 International Zoo Yearbook lists a total of 16 animals. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists the Pygmy Chimpanzee as 'vulnerable to extinction'.

Several powerful research institutions, including the Yerkes Primate Center, have tried to get Pygmy Chimps over the years, but until recently all efforts failed.

The export of Pygmy Chimpanzees from Zaire is banned. However, this did not discourage the persistent US National Academy of Sciences. Finally, an agreement was worked out with the Zaire authorities under which several Pygmy Chimpanzees would be sent to the US on a 'lend-lease' arrangement. The **New York Times** (May 16, 1975) reported that 5 Pygmy Chimpanzees had arrived at Yerkes, but that two infant animals had died shortly after arrival. IPPL wrote to Dr. Bourne enquiring about the project on behalf of interested members. We shall reproduce our questions and Dr. Bourne's answers.

Bourne. With regard to your questions you have to understand that as Director of this Center I have many official queries on various subjects that I have to answer or otherwise deal with, therefore I have to limit the amount of time that I can spend in answering unofficial queries such as yours. Nevertheless, I will make an effort to answer the queries, whatever your purpose in asking them, but in doing so I do not acknowledge that you have any official right to ask them or to expect a reply.

IPPL. Why was the original project which involved a pair of Pygmy Chimpanzees expanded to 5 animals? What were the approximate ages of the various animals?

Bourne. Why five instead of three animals? The Zaire capture expedition which was organized by the Zaire government's Institute for Research in Central Africa (IRSAC) captured five animals and that is what they sent us. We requested only two.

IPPL. By whom were the animals caught? Was any observer

from Yerkes present? Please give a detailed description of the capture technique. Were the infants captured with their mothers? If so, were they separated from their mothers? How was separation accomplished? Why? Where are their mothers?

Bourne. I have answered this above. This was an IRSAC, i.e. a Zaire Government operation, there were no dealers and no commercial activities involved. The first capture operation netted three animals. About a week later two young animals were added.

IPPL. By which department of the Zaire government were the export permits issued? On what date does the lease expire? Is a fee to be paid for the loan? What US agencies were involved in the negotiations?

Bourne. Export permits were issued by IRSAC (Institute for Research in Central Africa) which is answerable directly to the President of Zaire. No date was set for the lease. The animals will remain with us until we have completed our investigations, and it is impossible to say, at this moment, how long this will be. No fee was paid except to an English zoologist, Sinclair Dunnett, who happened to be in Zaire and who took part in the expedition. He was paid a fee to compensate him for his time. The US National Academy of Sciences was the only US agency directly concerned in the project though the US State Department and the American Embassy in Kinshasa were most helpful in the negotiations.

IPPL. What preliminary ecological or behavioral studies were performed in the wild in preparation for this project?

Bourne. A National Academy of Sciences Committee, of which I was a member, visited Zaire in 1973 to consider on the spot the advisability of capturing a small number of animals for study. Zairian sources informed us that there was an unofficial estimate of 150,000 Pygmy Chimpanzees in the wild. I do not know how accurate that is, it is probably an exaggeration. Nevertheless, the authorities in Zaire advised us that there were areas where the animals were very plentiful and this is borne out by the fact that the expedition took only a few days to capture three animals and advised us that if they had stronger nets they could have captured many more.

IPPL. What was the exact cause of death of the two infants? Specifically, what parasites were present? Do you feel the trauma of capture and transportation aggravated pre-existing parasites? Or were the infants likely to have died anyway? Have any further losses occurred?

Bourne. The full autopsy report is in our file, but complete details will not be available until all the histology has been completed. However, the pathologist's provisional gross diagnosis for each animal is given below. [A long list of parasites follows]. Considering the amount of pathology they had the animals survived the trip very well and when I saw them soon after arrival they did not look exhausted. I do not see how these animals could have survived much longer in Zaire. The other pygmy chimps are suffering from Strongyloidosis and one had a severe diarrhea from

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it, but we pulled her out of it and all three look very good. The carcasses of the two which died have been sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

IPPL. Are there any plans to transfer any more Pygmy Chimps to the USA? Does the lease provide for the replacement of dead animals or for compensation in this eventuality?

Bourne. There are no plans at present to transfer further animals.

IPPL. The article in the *New York Times* states that the Pygmy Chimp, if truly a closer relative of man than the *Pan Troglodytes*, would make 'the best possible subject for studying human diseases and testing new drugs.' Does this reflect your thinking? Do you feel such a goal to be compatible with your reported goal of conservation?

Bourne. The final protocol has not yet been worked out and will not be until the animals are out of quarantine, but will include studies of the hematology, blood chemistry, blood groups, microbiology, reproductive physiology, behavior, mental level and possibly ability to learn language.

IPPL. What specific studies involving the animals are planned?

Bourne. With reference to the *New York Times* article, I have no plans for, and would resist, bringing Pygmy Chimpanzees from the wild into the laboratory so that they could be used for studying human diseases and testing new drugs. . . . Finally, with regard to the pygmy chimpanzees, I believe the hazards of jungle existence with the short life expectancy that results, is such that the rate of loss of these animals has exceeded the birth rate for some years and they will inevitably die out if positive action is not taken, both to study and preserve them. We need action not talk, and our plans for the Center in Zaire will depend on the former, and they will also depend on the absence of harassment from individuals and organizations who imagine they have a prerogative in animal conservation.

IPPL also contacted various other interested parties and received the following information:

Mr. Julian Engel, (Commission on International Relations, US National Academy of Sciences). The National Academy of Sciences was instrumental in launching the concept of a dwarf chimpanzee breeding colony in Zaire as a base for the eventual establishment of an international center for scientific research in Zaire. . . . The author of the idea is Dr. Carl Djerassi, Professor of Chemistry, Stanford University, and Chairman of the Academy's Board on Science and Technology for International Development. . . . Dr. Djerassi . . . suggested that [an] international scientific enterprise could be established in Zaire centered upon the dwarf chimpanzee as an unexcelled model (subject to confirmation by present studies) for a broad range of biomedical and behavioral research activities. . . . Following the 1971 meeting, the Academy constituted a special follow-up panel headed by Dr. Djerassi which visited Kinshasa and the IRSAC satellite research station at Mabali for a week (16 - 22 April, 1972). . . . the group spent 3 days in Kinshasa and 3 in the field, mainly at the Mabali Station. . . . The estimate of 150,000 Pygmy Chimpanzees was obtained secondhand from Dr. Jacques Verschuren, Director-General of the Zairian Institute for the Conservation of Nature. . . . The information has not been verified, but came to us on good authority.

Dr. Jacques Verschuren, (famous for his work in conservation in general and gorilla conservation in particular, formerly in charge of national parks in Zaire). The figure 150,000 was not given by me. It is completely impossible to give a statistic for this forest species. This number appears too high, in any case. . . . I am NOT in favor of its introduction to the laboratory; that would signify a hunting pressure on a species which must be considered rare. One must attend, first of all, to its PROTECTION. (Comments translated from French).

Mr. Lannon Walker, (Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, Kinshasa, Zaire). The embassy did facilitate the arrangements for shipping the chimpanzees from their original habitat in Equateur Province to the Yerkes Primate Research Center. . . . The fact that the 5 chimpanzees arrived safely in New York after their trans-oceanic flight was confirmed for the Embassy by telephone from the Department of State on March 27, 1975. However, I am unable to inform you further of the chimpanzees' health once they were delivered to the Yerkes Institute. . . . I wish you success in your program to conserve and protect endangered species.

Field worker. Even though there is apparently no danger of the immediate extinction of *Pan Paniscus*, I was personally very upset by the NAS project. They managed to bypass the laws against exporting Pygmy Chimps from Zaire by collaborating with high officials in the government, with, I might add, substantial help from the American Embassy. If the laws were bypassed once, how much easier will it be to bypass them again?

J. Grant Burke, (Environmental Affairs Officer, Department of State, Washington, DC). The State Department has, in the past, occasionally cooperated with those attempting to obtain animals for legitimate use.

Dr. Adrien Kortlandt, (veteran chimpanzee field worker). Only 40% deaths seems a quite satisfactory figure, as compared to the Laboratoire Médical at Stanleyville in 1959 - 60, where ALL the 86 *Pan Paniscus* chimpanzees captured for the poliomyelitis and arteriosclerosis programs died within 3 weeks.

A second Chimpanzee field worker. The huge tracts of the Congo basin forests which are inhabited by the Pygmy Chimpanzee are not being cut for timber to any extent. The only significant hunting is the bow-and-arrow type, mainly by pygmies, which I do not get too excited about. . . . As to Bourne's comment that the chimps would have died anyway, I think it is so much hot air. Most animals in the wild carry a host of parasites which do not affect them in any way in their normal living. But the acute stresses involved in capture, shipping, etc. with the consequent physiological trauma, generally result in the parasites getting the upper hand. . . . I cannot imagine how anyone could make a guess about the population of Pygmy Chimps: I would say that the figure of 150,000 is sheer fantasy.

A third Chimpanzee field worker. Without an extensive population survey, it is really anybody's guess as to how many Pygmy chimps exist in Zaire. As far as I know, neither Dr. Bourne nor Dr. Engel has set foot in a rain-forest in Zaire nor have they sent anyone else to make a survey.

Another Field Worker. I consider the plans for the conservation of the species by Dr. Bourne, Yerkes and the NAS absurd - - worse than absurd. They plan to set up a «reserve» - - a fenced-in reserve near Lake Tumba. They plan to have not only *Pan Paniscus* (Pygmy Chimpanzee) there, but also to transport *P. Troglodytes* (Common Chimpanzee) and Gorilla spp. there. In my view the more that more species are snatched out of their natural habitats and transported elsewhere, the more harm is done to the individual animals and the species as a whole. If the people at Yerkes were truly interested in preserving *Pan Paniscus* as they claim to be, they would use their funds to set aside sanctuaries in their natural habitat where they would be relieved of hunting pressure and could be studied.

Mr. Philip Handler, (President, US National Academy of Sciences.) [The private owner of 5 Pygmy Chimpanzees] who was leaving Zaire permanently, was willing to make them available to Yerkes. . . . Delays in Kinshasa resulted in the owner of the animals not obtaining the requisite export papers. . . . He left and was able, nonetheless, to take his animals with him. Upon enquiry with the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, US Department of the Interior, the Academy was informed that in the absence of proper

export papers from Zaire, the Lacey Act prohibited the importation of these animals into the United States The Academy was not in any way associated with an effort to obtain dwarf chimpanzees on the black market The lend-lease arrangement for the study of these Pygmy Chimpanzees is not an arrangement to circumvent Zaire's export ban.

Dr. William McGrew, of the University of Stirling, Scotland, acting independently, recently drafted a petition which he has sent to over 75 present and former chimpanzee field workers. The petition deplores the Yerkes acquisitions as detrimental to the long-term interests of the species and expresses strong support for the maintenance of Zaire's export ban on Pygmy Chimpanzees. It urges laboratories, zoos, and other institutions not to procure Pygmy Chimpanzees and proposes that any project based on removal of Pygmy Chimpanzees from the wild be reconsidered, preferably being abandoned in favor of the establishment of adequate and secure sanctuaries for the species in its natural habitat. As of August 18, 36 of 38 respondents had signed the petition.

There are two inherent contradictions in the Bourne-NAS position which should be resolved before any translocation of Pygmy Chimpanzees is undertaken, in order to satisfy the many people who are not convinced this is a bonafide conservation project. Bourne and NAS quote a figure of 150,000 Pygmy Chimpanzees in the wild, implying that capture of a few won't harm the species. Yet, on the other hand, we are told by Bourne that the species is dying out of natural causes and requires 'help'. One wonders how these poor, disease-ridden creatures managed to evolve and survive alongside Homo Sapiens before the latter ever invented primate research! There is absolutely no evidence that the species is dying out and the argument that it appears to be an unscientific rationalisation. IPPL takes the position that, if the Pygmy Chimpanzee is rare, it should indeed be left alone; but, even if it relatively common, it should likewise be left alone. Many factors contribute to a satisfactory conservation situation, including legal protection. Therefore, it would be unwise to take away this umbrella. In any case, translocation is not performed by waving a magic wand, and the darting, netting, transportation, and separation involved would necessarily involve losses of animals.

The second contradiction lies between Bourne's rejection of the Pygmy Chimp as a medical guinea-pig and Djerassi's reported view of the species as an unexcelled new disease model. Until a clear statement is made about its future course, conservationists and animal-lovers have every reason to be suspicious of the project as these two statements are totally incompatible. IPPL is investigating a report that a leading pharmaceutical company has contributed several thousand dollars to the project: this, of course, if confirmed, would increase fears that there is more to the project than conservationist sentiments Bourne is due to retire soon, so much would depend on his successor's sentiments. In any case, once the animals are assembled and critics disarmed, the project might well change direction.

IPPL hopes this project, both in its export aspect and the planned Zaire Primate Center, will be reconsidered. Countries which have pioneered strong protective measures for their wildlife should be encouraged to continue this policy rather than being persuaded to make exceptions in favor of very specialised interests. (If funds were freely available, they might better be used for improvements or redesign of the tiny cages in which most of the captive primates at Yerkes live). The wide publicity which necessarily attends the procurement of Pygmy Chimpanzees is very likely to start a fad for the species in zoo and research circles with repercussions back in the habitat. More and more efforts are likely to be made to get hold of specimens with the attendant pressures to weaken legislation and undermine Zaire authority. Increased smuggling and corruption might follow. Large monetary incentives could rapidly ruin this species the protection of which seemed secure until now. It would also be likely that hunters and traders, hearing that the Zaire Center wanted Pygmy Chimpanzees, might bring in animals caught by mother-killing, an economic incentive being provided which could be disastrous for the species.

IPPL strongly supports Dr. McGrew's proposal that, rather than a project involving capturing Pygmy Chimpanzees for relocation, a reserve with a natural population of Pygmy Chimpanzees should be established where observational, non-manipulative studies could be undertaken.

THE SINGAPORE CONNECTION

In June 1975, IPPL sent to the United States Department of the Interior a formal request for an investigation of the role of Singapore as a smuggling center for the protected primates of its neighbor countries. We pointed out the large volume of orang-utans, gibbons, siamangs, and other primates traded through Singapore in the 1960s and 70s, although the wild primate population of Singapore consists of only a few Crab-eating Monkeys. We noted such discrepancies as the import of 42 "Singapore Siamangs" to the USA in 1971, a year in which only 6 siamangs (4 dead at birth or in infancy) were born in world zoos, and when Singapore itself had no zoo. Any suggestion that 42 siamangs were born in secret breeding-places in Singapore appears frivolous to IPPL: it is clear that these animals were smuggled to Singapore from neighbor countries: possibly in fishing boats; coastal freighters or false bottoms of trucks, all favorite smuggling methods.

IPPL suggested that such trafficking violated the US Lacey Act which makes it illegal to import wildlife in violation of the laws of ANY country. Interior's reply, dated August 7, indicated that Interior "shared our concern", and was determined to prosecute ALL violators of US laws. However, although the Department admitted that US law allowed authorities to REQUIRE importers to show that they had violated no laws in procuring wildlife, Interior admitted that it has a policy of admitting any animals with Singapore 'export permits', and that it has never made a single seizure of any primate shipment with Singapore documents.

Singapore shows no signs of responding to pleas to curtail this sordid trade and refuses to sign the International Convention on

Interior's and Singapore's attitudes are sad news for the primates, and for Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, the major victims of this illicit traffic, all of which have long sea borders and are in no position to check every fishing-boat that leaves their shores. The contents of Interior's letter are also sad news for all who care about the survival of rare and endangered primates. However, the Singapore smugglers and the US importers who have operated the 'Singapore Connection' for years unhampered will rejoice at Interior's announcement and the prospect of the revenue that will flow in from steady streams of 'legal' smuggled primates. A particularly nauseating aspect of the Singapore traffic is that much of it consists of infant primates caught by mother-killing. Interior's "policy" and Singapore's rapacity have combined to condemn hundreds of mother and infant orang-utans, gibbons, and siamangs to senseless deaths, as well as countless other primates; in addition, many primates have been shipped from Singapore to Europe, Canada and other countries, few of which have any anti-wildlife smuggling legislation whatsoever. The purpose which inspired the US Lacey Act was the prevention of just such transactions: if the Act has any loopholes, they should be closed not exploited.

Efforts to end this situation will have to be made at both the Singapore and US ends. If "gentle persuasion" fails, IPPL is prepared to propose to other animal welfare and conservation groups a tourist boycott of Singapore until it mends its ways. Singapore earns considerable foreign exchange from free-spending tourists and the most likely way to effect change would be to hit the country

ENDANGERED SPECIES PERMITS FOR PRIMATES

Shirley McGreal

LEMUR PERMITS

The purpose of the US Endangered Species Act of 1969, revised in 1973, is to restrict the trade in wildlife threatened with extinction. A list of Endangered Species was announced in December 1970. Primates listed include gorillas and orang-utans, (but not chimpanzees and most gibbons), all Malagasy primates, all uakaris, and some species of colobus, macaques, mangabeys, langurs, marmosets, tamarins, and spider-monkeys. Trade in all these species is in most cases banned.

However, two categories of permits were established which make permissible transactions otherwise illegal under the Act. They are:

1. a) **scientific purposes.** valid purposes are not defined and there is no clause stating that the animals may not be sacrificed. (IPPL's position is that no endangered primate should be used in work of a terminal nature or such as might have an adverse effect on its health, well-being or reproductive capacity.)

b) **propagation purposes.** permit applicants in this category were to demonstrate that their plans would contribute to the conservation of the species in question.

2. **economic hardship:** if a dealer could prove that he had made a contract for an animal prior to its listing as endangered, he could be granted a permit on the grounds of the economic hardship caused by the loss of the business: no criteria of what constituted economic hardship were established. (Hundreds of economic hardship-permits have been issued for leopard-skin coats and leopard trophies.) This clause is clearly the reflection of a profit-oriented society and the power of vested interests since economic hardship is neither a relevant nor a valid factor when species survival is at stake.

No permits were issued for emotional hardship in cases where a family living overseas had possession of an endangered primate prior to the passage of the Act and wished to bring it back on returning to the US.

Files relating to the Endangered Species permit applications are kept at the Department of the Interior's Division of Law Enforcement, 1612 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C., and they are open to public inspection. An examination of their contents reveals a pattern under which the interests of the wild animals are frequently subjugated to the interests of animal dealers and institutions. Illustrative examples follow.

The island of Madagascar has unique primate life and species have survived there which have long since disappeared from the mainland of Africa. Among the permits issued for lemurs were:

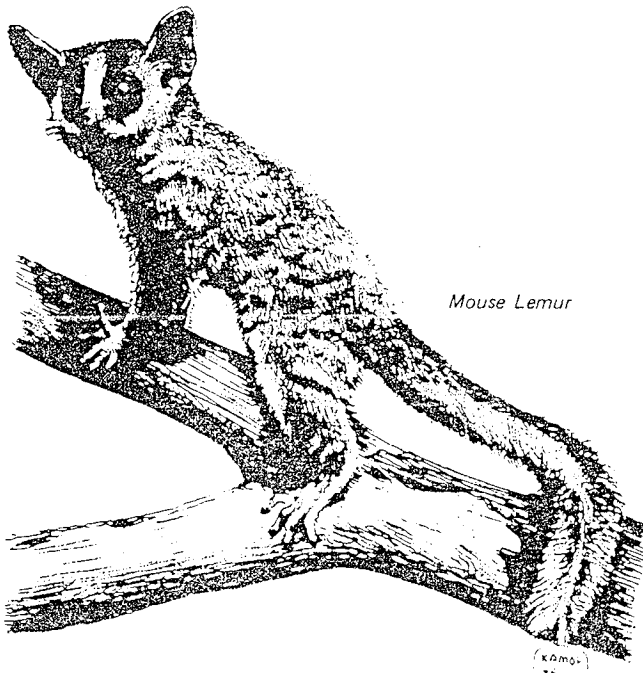
ES 11: August 12, 1970. Carl Hellmann of the Maryland Research Institute, sought permits for 1 Black Lemur, 1 Red-fronted Lemur, 1 Crowned Lemur, 3 Ruffed Lemurs, and 3 Sifakas.

Since nearly all these species are listed as threatened with extinction by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), outside opinions were sought on the desirability of issuing this permit. Dr. Robert Yarger, of the US National Academy of Sciences, said, «we recommend that the requested permit be disapproved.» Dr. Theodore Reed, Director of the US National Zoological Park, noted Hellmann's successes with lemurs but pointed out that the Maryland Research Institute was not affiliated with any recognised scientific or educational institution, and that the sole staff member was Hellmann, an engineer with no formal training in the biological sciences. He concluded, «I cannot recommend Mr. Hellmann for the scientific or educational maintenance and propagation of these animals.» Dr. Richard Thorington, of the National Museum of Natural History, in Washington, noted that, although the Center had existed for 15 years, nothing had been published: he opposed issuance of the permit. Henry Goodwin, Chief of the US Office of Endangered Species, opposed the permit; while praising the Hellmann facilities, he did not see the Institute as contributing to scientific knowledge and noted: «he [Hellmann] maintains no staff of qualified research personnel, seeks no guidance, and has established no provision for maintenance of the colony or continuance of his work.»

The Chief of Permits, Mr. B. Palas, inspected the facilities: he found them clean and noted that the 24 lemurs and 8 galagos appeared to be in good condition: however, he found Hellmann «indefinite» and «noncommittal» on other questions. Hellmann was reported as stating that, «if the Bureau actions conflicted with his plans, he would seek redress from the courts.» When Mr. Palas pointed out to Mr. Hellmann that responsible management required a caretaker or backup man for the facility, Hellmann replied that he was self-sufficient, but that his will covered the eventuality, as the animals were to go to the National Zoo in Washington. Dr. Reed, Director of the Zoo, was contacted a few days later and was unaware of the will. IPPL wrote to Hellmann at the address on the permit: when no reply was received, we contacted Dr. Reed, who kindly looked into the situation and tried to track down Hellmann and the lemurs. Dr. Reed comments: «we can find no current address, no active telephone number for him. In fact, we have drawn a complete blank. So far as we are concerned, the man seems to have disappeared from the face of the earth.» Dr. Reed promised to continue his search and communicate the results to IPPL.

Incredibly, in spite of unanimous advice against this permit, it was issued. No precise data on past imports to the Institute and their origin, nor of colony births and deaths, appear in the files, nor is there any history of breeding efforts in other institutions: such data would be an absolutely essential prerequisite to determining whether the issuance of the permit would, in fact, be enhancing the survival chances of the species in question or not. In the case of the sifakas, this is highly doubtful, since, according to the Red Data Book, these animals generally do not survive long in captivity and only exceptionally reproduce.

ES 19: November 20, 1970. This was a «propagation» permit and was issued to the San Diego Zoo for 4 Ruffed Lemurs, 4 Red-Fronted Lemurs, 4 Red Ruffed Lemurs, 2 Ring-Tailed Lemurs, 6 Mouse Lemurs, 3 Sifakas, 6 Sportive Lemurs and 6 Gentle Lemurs.



IPPL sent an enquiry to Clyde Hill, Curator of Mammals at the San Diego Zoo. Hill replied:

[In 1965 I was] given permission by the Malagasy government to capture and transport a number of species while I was in Madagascar.....The expedition was successful and formed the nucleus of our excellent program in breeding lemurs. When I left Madagascar in 1965, it was agreed by the government that all confiscated pet lemurs would go to the San Diego Zoo and, between 1965 and 1969, a few trickled in. Then the Endangered Species Act came into being. We appealed to the US Department of the Interior for an open-end permit to continue receiving confiscated animals. Permit ES 49 was issued. We did not receive a single animal under this permit. There was a change of government and everything came to a standstill.

Apparently, the 1965 lemur procurements raised quite a storm, as Hill informs us:

It was interesting in 1966 to see a large outcry from the self-appointed watchdogs in the zoo world and outside, of our 'lemur-smuggling' operation. I suppose this stems from the fact that almost every other lemur in captivity had been obtained by smuggling. When I was in Madagascar, a ship-load of 40 lemurs was confiscated by the government as it was leaving the island.....All of this hullabaloo resulted in an official investigation of us by the IUCN which was dropped when we sent photostats of our permits.

ES 37: January 2, 1971. This permit was issued to Dr. Buettner-Janusch of Duke University for one Red-fronted Lemur and two Ruffed Lemurs. What makes this permit interesting is Dr. Buettner-Janusch's statement that he was already in possession of 150 lemurs, 50% imported from Madagascar, making this colony, along with that of the Oregon Primate Research Center, also numbering over 150, one of the two largest lemur collections in the world. Many tropical countries make exceptions to their wildlife protection laws for research, and these exceptions have been much used (and frequently abused).

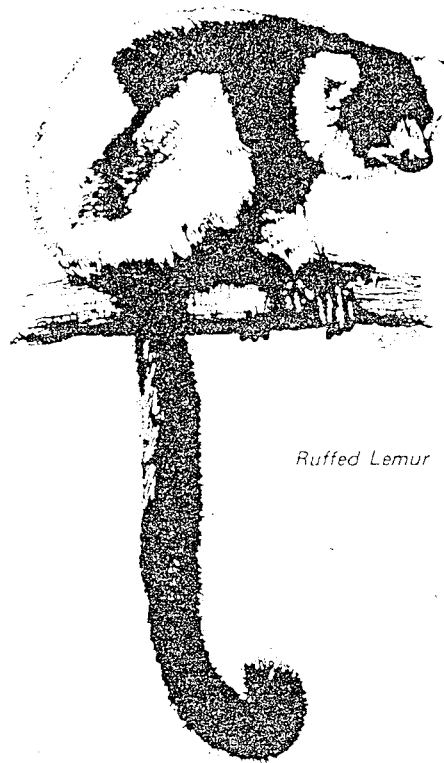
ES 38: January 15, 1971. This permit allowed the Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas, to purchase 4 Ruffed Lemurs from the South African animal dealer, John Visser. The application sought 10 lemurs, but permission was only granted for the 4 that had already left Madagascar.

ES 54: February 19, 1971. Permission was granted to the Rare Feline Breeding Compound, an animal dealer and breeder in Center Hill, Florida, to purchase 9 Mongoose Lemurs from the Bazizoo. The Bazizoo, in Cros-de-Cagnes, on France's Mediterranean coast, is operated by Georges Basilewsky, who was able to obtain many wild-caught lemurs, some reportedly from sailors landing in Marseille, who were bringing back pet animals. Recent reports indicate that the zoo may become a lemur refuge on Basilewsky's retirement, which may have already occurred. The Compound has been successful with Mongoose Lemurs, recording seven births as of 1974.

ES 85: April 12, 1971. Permission was granted to the Cincinnati Zoo to purchase 8 Mouse Lemurs from John Visser. The zoo is listed as possessing only two specimens in the 1974 International Zoo Yearbook.

ES 105: June 28, 1971. Cincinnati Zoo applied for a pair of Ruffed Lemurs to be supplied by John Visser. Two months before the permit was granted, the Cincinnati Zoo Director, Ed Maruska, wrote Visser suggesting he dispose of the animals in Europe, since their entry into the United States was forbidden. On May 3, 1971, Visser replied that the Malagasy government license was issued on the condition that the animals go to Cincinnati:

Right now, it is impossible for me to offer the animals elsewhere, especially species like Ruffed Lemurs and all the excitement they generate. Not only would I be breaking a condition of capture, but as a member of IUCN for South



Ruffed Lemur

Africa, it could prove highly embarrassing, if, as is sure to happen, some leading zoo (Frankfurt, for example) in Europe gets an investigation going perhaps you could call some influential person like Buettner-Janusch and ask his help You are free to mention that I am an IUCN representative (Felidae Specialist Group), have thus acquired the animals legally, with the cooperation of the Malagasy Scientific Research Department.

Antony Mence, Executive Officer of the IUCN's Survival Service Commission, informed IPPL on January 23, 1975. «Mr. Visser has no official status with IUCN and is certainly not entitled to represent it in any way. He is, however, an 'observer' to the Cat Specialist Group.»

Visser blames the US Department of the Interior for the deaths of two infant Ruffed Lemurs he was holding: during the delay in permit issuance, they were left with «bullying adults» and died. He also notes having on hand one Fat-Tailed Dwarf Lemur, a rare species of which IPPL can locate no captive births outside Madagascar.

Apparently Visser was able to get lemurs through his association with the Institut Pasteur, a scientific institute in Tananarive, Madagascar: it is not clear whether his affiliation with IUCN facilitated this opportunity to trade in lemurs which Visser so diligently used. Although reportedly mainly self-taught, Visser has a good reputation in zoo circles for the quality of the animals he sells, although his activities are a cause of concern to some South African conservationists.

The Ruffed Lemurs imported on this propagation permit have not yet bred and were moved earlier this year to the University of Cincinnati.

ORANG-UTAN PERMITS

The orang-utan continues to be gravely endangered, through loss of habitat and illicit maintenance of baby orangs caught during timber-felling and other jungle operations. Prior to the mid-60s, a large-scale international trade in illegally-obtained baby orangs, caught by the killing of mothers, centered at various times on Hong

Kong, Bangkok, and especially Singapore. Thanks to the activities of the Orang-Utan Recovery Service, in which major roles were played by IUCN, Barbara Harrisson, Charles Shuttleworth, and Dr. Grzimek of Frankfurt Zoo, (who promoted an agreement among the world's responsible zoos not to purchase illicit oranges), the trade has been curtailed to a considerable degree. Hence, most of the ES permits for orang-utans were for transfers of animals between zoos. One of these zoo transfer permits, however, raises some questions as to what exactly transpired. IPPL does not yet have a complete explanation.

ES 49: June 22, 1971. This permit allowed the Busch Gardens (Tampa Zoo) to purchase one pair of Sumatran oranges from the dealer Jabria of Harderwyck, in the Netherlands. Due to the colonial link between Indonesia and the Netherlands, the Netherlands has long been a center of both licit and illicit orang trading which has continued to a lesser extent since Indonesian independence. The male in this case was stated to have been born in East Berlin Zoo and the female in Dresden Zoo. Surprised at this movement of oranges from East to West, IPPL instituted enquiries. Dr. Dathe, Director of East Berlin Zoo, in a letter dated February 6, 1975, did confirm the sale of 18-month old Vroni to Jabria in 1970. However, Gotthart Berger, Director of Dresden Zoo, wrote on February 6th: «we have not sold a female orang to the dealer Jabria of Harderwyck, Netherlands, in early 1971 or late 1970. In no case, earlier or later, have we sold an orang-utan to this dealer.»

A letter from Gerald Lentz, Manager of Zoological Operations, Tampa Zoo, does not clear up the mystery. «We currently have two male oranges received on June 3, 1971, from a US animal dealer, and one male received on June 3, 1971, from another US dealer, not Jabria.» A further enquiry mailed to Mr. Lentz about these oranges on April 15, awaits a reply. It is not clear whether the animals on the permit ever reached Tampa, and, if so, whether they died or were sold. The confusion is compounded by the fact that no oranges are listed as being in Tampa's possession in the Census of Rare Animals in Captivity section of the 1974 International Zoo Yearbook.

Permit sought. A remarkable permit application was pending as of November 1974, and had not been acted on as of March 1975. The 1973 revision of the Endangered Species Act made it illegal to ship endangered species between US states without a permit. The applicant, Bobby Berosini, of Reed Springs, Missouri, requested permission to ship 3 oranges interstate as part of his circus act. Berosini complains of the act, which, he feels, «has the potential to phase out zoos and circuses.» He asserts, but does not document, that his oranges were born in captivity. Further, he notes that his act has been praised by Dr. Bourne, Director of the Yerkes Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia. In *The Ape People* (1971), Bourne states:



Orang-Utan

he (Berosini) has the gorillas and the chimpanzee doing acrobatics on the trampoline. In the final part of his act, he has an orang-utan dancing the hula on a big drum and the gorillas beating the tom-tom on either side It is a very impressive act.

Berosini notes in his application that: «we are solid citizens, pay taxes, support our community, and also donate a great deal of time to charitable functions.»

In 1973, Berosini applied to purchase a new gorilla to replace one which had died of a 'heart attack', (could it have been caused by over-exertion on the tom-tom and trampoline?) In spite of Berosini's emphasis on his performances for the «burned, crippled and retarded», and the economic hardship the denial of a permit would cause him, the application was denied.

GORILLA PERMITS

The usual method of capturing gorillas is to kill the mother and to remove the clinging infant from her body. Since gorillas, unlike oranges, live in groups, the other adults are often killed too for fear the «gentle giant» might be sufficiently provoked to attack the human predators. Capture of an infant gorilla often involves the deaths of many mothers and a majority of the infant gorillas which have survived the bullets die of neglect. Many gorillas die within the first year of captivity, (e.g. two infant gorillas shipped to the Japan Monkey Center in 1971 were dead within a week.) Hence one would expect the Department of the Interior to weigh the threat to the species more heavily than any real or imagined economic hardship to animal dealers. Two permits, ES 43 and ES 97, are of particular interest.

ES 43: January 11, 1971. The Rare Feline Breeding Compound sought to import to the USA nine Lowland Gorillas. The Compound Director, Robert Baudy, wrote in his letter of application:

all of these animals were collected and are conditioned for our exclusive use in the Cameroons, the Gabon and the Congo Republics following is a list of the specimens involved showing sex, weight, and country of origin with names and addresses of our hunters and suppliers:

SEX	WEIGHTS	SHIPPERS
4 m.	42, 32, 26, 12 lbs.	Mr. Robert Roy, Sangmelina, Cameroons
3 f.	18, 14, 14 lbs.	Mr. Robert Roy, Sangmelina, Cameroons
1 m.	40 lbs.	Mr. Jean Muxart, Moanda, Gabon
1 f.	30 lbs.	Mr. D. Maniacky, Director, Parc Zoologique, Brazzaville, Congo Rep.

Baudy notes that, «some of the animals are extremely young and will have to be weaned before shipment.» Recent reports indicate that Roy, an expatriate Frenchman, is still in operation in the Cameroons and that a new German dealership is setting up legally to trade in gorillas and chimpanzees.

An interesting sidelight is Baudy's assertion that he had previously supplied Dr. Gibbs of the National Institutes of Health with gorillas. Dr. Gibbs confirmed to IPPL that he had indeed purchased two gorillas from the Compound as well as one from the International Animal Exchange, Ferndale, Michigan, USA. The gorillas are used for the study of genetics, behavior, breeding and latent viruses. Three young have been born: one died of anaemia, one of asphyxiation, and another is alive at three months.

The Department of the Interior only allowed Baudy to import one gorilla: even that appears too much since the purpose of the Act was surely to prevent exactly such destructive activities.

ES 97: June 4, 1971. Also an 'economic hardship' permit, this allowed the international Animal Exchange, Ferndale, Michigan, to import four female infant gorillas for the Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas. Why Interior allowed the IAE to import all the gorillas it was seeking and was less generous to the former applicant, is unclear. The letter of application from the IAE's Vice-President, Tom Hunt, states:

1. The four gorillas will be captured in the Cameroon by Robert Roy.
2. The customary procedure followed in the Cameroon is for export permits to be issued after the capture of the animals.
3. Three of the four were in captivity as of April 5, 1971.

Hunt added that: «the information provided in this letter concerning the supplier is priority matter of a confidential nature. Consequently, we request that it not become a matter of public record available for public inspection.»

Puzzled at this secrecy, IPPL instituted enquiries which Interior does not appear to have done since there is no record of any Interior investigation of the circumstances in the Cameroons. It appears that the Cameroons has an export quota of 15 gorillas per year shared among three dealers.

The application for the permit notes that the purpose of the importation is to complete an open contract between the Exchange and the Zoo. A cheque for the sum of \$ 72,817 from the E.C. Sams Foundation which finances the Gladys Porter Zoo is attached. The cheque is dated November 14, 1969, three weeks before the passage of the Act. Support for the claim of economic hardship was added by the statement that Don Hunt, the President of the International Animal Exchange, had made two separate trips to West Africa from his home in East Africa for the sole purpose of procurement of the four gorillas, at a total cost of over \$ 5,000. No bills or receipts are included with the paperwork, nor any explanation of why this transaction could not have been handled by correspondence. Further, it was stated that the Gladys Porter Zoo had already spent \$ 100,000 on the living facilities for the gorillas although confirmatory evidence is not present in the file. In addition, the International Animal Exchange added that its corporate counsel had advised that there was a possibility of legal action against IAE by the zoo if the contract fell through and the gorillas were not supplied. Since the unfortunate gorillas had no 'corporate counsel' to plead their case, the permit was issued for the 4 gorillas requested.

When one thinks of «economic hardship», one thinks in terms of some hard-pressed entrepreneur facing bankruptcy when suddenly-passed legislation threatens him with ruin. But it appears that, in Interior's view, the effect of the one transaction took precedence over the total financial picture of the institutions involved. To IPPL, the issuance of ES 97 appears totally unjustifiable and any claim of economic hardship ludicrous. Let us look for a moment at the partners in these transactions. In a May 23, 1970, article in Business Week entitled «Wild Game Pays Off for Bwana Don», we are told that Don Hunt and his three brothers have a \$ 2,000,000 per year business: and that, besides being the world's largest single trappers and suppliers of wild animals, they operate game preserves, and own the Mount Kenya Game Ranch and Hunt's International Travel Organisation. John Connally, former Governor of Texas and Secretary of the Treasury at the time of this permit application, was listed as an investor: however, there is no indication that he was involved in the issuance of this and other permits, although wealthy Texan interests and a business associate were the beneficiaries.

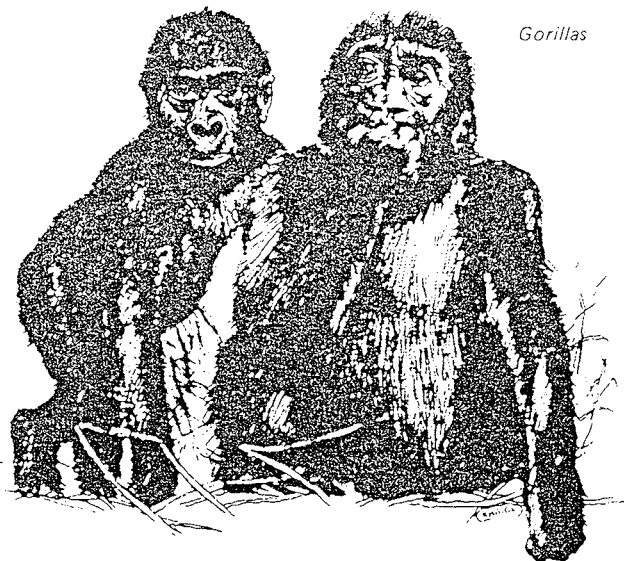
The Gladys Porter Zoo is operated by the E.C. Sams Foundation. Gladys Porter is the widow of Earl Sams, who was, for 25 years, Chairman of the Board of the J.C. Penney Company, and, according to the Zoo's handouts, «one of the most successful and primary Captains of Commerce of his day.» The Zoo describes itself as a 'haven' for rare animals. A zoo handout says «the Sams Foundation felt that this unique zoo should concentrate on the rare and endangered species of the world in need of help It meant the shouldering of a staggering burden to take on the future of some of the vanishing species of the world great effort has been made to obtain many of the animals seen at the zoo the collection represents an unending chain of triumph and tragedy.»

This permit was undeniably a triumph for the zoo and the dealer involved, but it was also a tragedy for the gorilla mothers shot to death to procure the four infants which, «in need of help», would find sanctuary in Texas from the travails of jungle existence. Although the permit was for 4 females, the 1974 International Zoo Yearbook lists the Gladys Porter Zoo as owning one female. Currently, hundreds of institutions find themselves with a vocation to conserve endangered animals and the way to conserve them usually includes the institution getting hold of specimens for itself: often, of course, this involves withdrawing animals from the wild for the purpose of 'saving' them, thus placing a further drain on the species. In general, institutions sincerely interested in preserving endangered wildlife would be better advised to support programs aimed at conserving natural habitats and their wildlife.

In reply to an enquiry about why this permit was issued, Mr. Clark Bavin, Chief of Enforcement at the Department of the Interior, wrote to IPPL on March 20, 1975:

The criteria for issuance of economic hardship permits are (a) the effect such permit would have on the wild population (b) the severity of the economic hardship (c) evidence that the applicant entered into a valid contract prior to the date the wildlife was listed (d) whether the applicant can effect the importation within one year from the date the wildlife was listed and (e) the economic, legal and other alternatives open to the applicant. It was determined that the Gladys Porter Zoo qualified under these criteria.

Mr. Bavin's implication that the capture of four FEMALE infant gorillas, the hope for the species' future, does NOT have a negative effect on wild populations (and presumably the deaths of their mothers doesn't either) is as ridiculous as his reference to the «severity» of the economic hardship which would have resulted to the zoo or the dealer as a result of the denial of the permit.



PILEATED GIBBON PERMIT

The Pileated Gibbon is listed in the IUCN's Red Data Book on a red page, indicating that the species is in immediate danger of extinction. It occurs only in eastern Thailand and Cambodia, and is captured by the mother-kill method with a high loss of both mothers and infants.

ES 122: August 16, 1971. This permit allowed the Gladys Porter Zoo to purchase a pair of Pileated Gibbons from the Friendship Farm, Bangkok, via the International Animal Exchange. The Pileated Gibbons were purchased under the aforementioned «open contract» between the zoo and the Exchange. IAE's «Statement of Economic Hardship» notes, «IAE spent considerable man hours and communication cost locating a source of supply.» One can

Pileated Gibbon
and Infant



well believe this since the commercial export quota for gibbons has been zero since 1965 in Thailand. Hunt notes that the zoo had already built the gibbons' cage, «under the strength of the contract», (although no receipts are on file), and that the company's corporate counsel had warned of a lawsuit if the transaction fell through.

Not surprisingly, Interior capitulated to IAE's arguments and the permit was issued. Clause 7 of the permit noted however: «this permit is conditioned upon compliance with all applicable foreign, state and US laws and regulations.» Pong Leng-ee, Chief of Wildlife Conservation in Thailand, asserts that these gibbons did not have export permits to leave Thailand. The file in the Office of Endangered Species contains no record of any Thai export permit, which is surprising as one would think that the first step in processing any permit application would be to make sure that the source country wished to supply the animals. If the animals had no Thai export permits, the shipment would have been in violation of both Thai and US Law, a possibility which IPPL is investigating.

A Field Officer from the International Society for the Protection of Animals visited the Friendship Farm in 1974 and reported, «[procurement of] protected species was no problem: matters could be arranged.»

DOUC LANGUR PERMITS

The Douc Langur is a delicate, leaf-eating monkey which lives in the war-ravaged areas of Indochina. Its Red Page status in the Red Data Book indicates that it is a conservation «basket case». A Thai animal dealer informed IPPL that very few specimens survive the first month in captivity. Yet, incredibly, Interior issued a series of permits for Douc Langurs from Thailand – where they do not occur. The animals in question must have been brought into Thailand from Vietnam or Laos, and, unless export permits are produced from the TRUE country of origin, Interior, in issuing permits for Thai Doucs, would find itself in the strange position of issuing permits to smuggle. And permits in violation of the terms of the permit itself, which states clearly that the animals must be legally acquired!

ES 45: January 13, 1971. Permission was granted to the International Animal Exchange to purchase 3 Doucs from the Friendship Farm, Bangkok, Thailand. One of the animals was already dead when the shipment reached the London Airport Hostel run by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (see IPPL Newsletter III). The file contains no mention of export certificates from any country. The fate of the animals is unclear as two were destined for the St. Louis Zoo and one to the San Antonio Zoo, neither of which lists any Doucs in the International Zoo Yearbook's census of rare animals in captivity.

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ES 121: August 16, 1971. Permission was granted to the International Animal Exchange to import 2 Doucs, both from Bangkok and destined for the Gladys Porter Zoo. These Doucs were to join three previously purchased from IAE in October 1970. A permit was not required for the former transaction since no mammals from other countries than the USA were listed as endangered until a year after the passage of the Act, thus making it inoperative for an entire year. Conservationists are still suffering endless frustrations trying to get chimpanzees and other species added to the List.

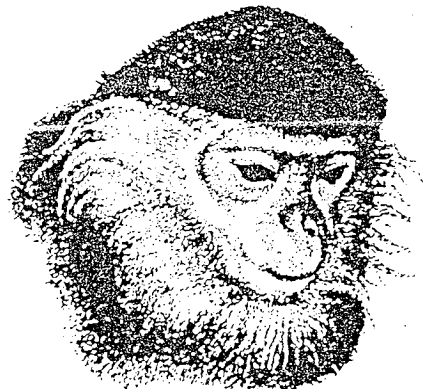
Consultants on this permit were not enthusiastic: one notes of the Zoo Director, «he's already killed the last 4 he brought in»; another notes, «there are no indications in the application that the organisations concerned are either aware of or concerned with the status of the species requested», and asks the true origin of the animals, since they are not indigenous to Thailand.

ES 417: May 17, 1973. In spite of the warning about the Douc's not being a Thai animal in connection with ES 121, yet another permit, signed by Clark Bavin, the Chief of Enforcement at Interior, was issued to the International Animal Exchange and the Gladys Porter Zoo. In his application, Warren Thomas, the Zoo Director, notes that 3 of his Doucs have already died; leaving two females. Therefore a «propagation permit» was required to balance the numbers: two males and two females were requested. Thomas states: «we would obtain the animals through legitimate sources which presently operate within the range of the animal we had planned to establish three and then enlarge the numbers the following year unfortunately, before we realised it, the Douc Langur was placed on the Endangered Species List.» Unfortunately for the Douc or the zoo?

The permit was issued for 4 Doucs: signed personally by Clark Bavin, it authorised the zoo to import 2 males and 2 females from «the Southwest [sic] Asian countries of Laos, Thailand or Vietnam.» The file contains no copies of export permits nor even a mention of them. The 1974 Zoo Yearbook lists the zoo as being in possession of one male and two female Doucs (out of nine presumably imported). It is questionable whether 'propagation' permits for this species based on withdrawals from the wild do any good: for the Douc and most other species, it would be better for zoos to pool resources, as is the trend in conservation-minded zoos.

Clearly, there are faults in the procedures surrounding consideration of these permits – consultants are rarely used, and, when used, mainly ignored. There is insufficient investigation into the legality of the acquisitions and no sign of consultation with overseas conservation authorities, although some contacts may not be recorded. Some sort of followup is necessary to see to what extent the permits have helped or harmed the species for which they were issued.

Douc Langur



It is doubtful whether it is necessary to issue any economic hardship permits at all under laws governing endangered species. Frequently, word gets out about the imminent listing of an animal and contracts could well be made in anticipation. The status of animal species does not remain static. Extermination or extinction is something that may today, with most populations seriously reduced, occur very quickly. The loss of a few dollars to an animal dealer will seem trivial viewed in the light of history: the loss of a species will not. The fact that animal dealers have been allowed to rape the wild for decades does not give them a divine right to continue their depredations indefinitely. Rather, they should appreciate the tolerance accorded to their activities so far both by the countries out of which they traffic and, in general, by law enforcement authorities in most importing countries.

The «economic hardship» loophole was somewhat tightened in the 1973 revision of the Act: a proposal that there should be public hearings on all permit applications was rejected but it was decided that all permit applications must be published in the Federal Register, and comments from interested parties and organisations be taken into consideration. The Secretary of the Interior must now publish in the Federal Register his findings that a) the exemptions were applied for in good faith and b) the issuance of the permit will not harm the species. The need now is to add more primate species to the List. When this occurs, the Act will come closer to its purpose of committing the United States to leadership in preserving the world's wildlife from extinction.

GIBBONGATE REPORT

Events continue to unfold in the extraordinary drama of the gibbons shipped from Thailand to the University of California at Davis. (See IPPL Newsletters 2, 3 and 4). These shipments have assumed particular importance in view of the US National Academy of Sciences' recent proposal that funding be cut off from researchers purchasing illegally exported primates. (NAS Report, *Nonhuman Primates*, 1975).

IPPL'S INVESTIGATION

IPPL contacted all the relevant Thai authorities, who were uniformly helpful and spent much time investigating the circumstances. The following information was gathered.

THREE SHIPMENTS

Prior to presenting further developments, we shall review the shipments in question for new readers.

1) **December 31, 1973;** ten unweaned infant gibbons were sent by the Thai dealer Pimjai via the Ark Animal Exchange in Canada to the University of California at Davis' Comparative Oncology Laboratory: six of these baby gibbons died of pneumonia.

2) **January 16, 1974;** nine former pet gibbons were shipped by Pimjai to the Ark Animal Exchange: six were shipped to the Davis laboratory.

3) **August 9, 1973;** eleven gibbons were shipped to Davis by the US Army - Walter Reed Hospital Gibbon Laboratory in Bangkok.

At least one shipment went to Davis via Singapore, which has no indigenous gibbons.

THAI DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Health certificates for animals exported from Thailand are on file at the Department of Livestock Development in Bangkok. Dr. Chamlong Bhuchongsmutta, Chief of Disease Control, kindly supplied IPPL with a health certificate issued to Pimjai for a shipment of 80 mynah birds destined for the Ark Animal Exchange. The certificate was dated December 31, 1973. The carbon-copy of this health certificate is on file in the USA and IPPL secured a copy. The certificate is identical, except that 10 Heads of White-handed Gibbons were added to the 80 mynah birds. It is not yet known who made the alteration.

Dr. Chamlong was unable to find any health certificate issued to Pimjai for a shipment to the Ark Animal Exchange on January 16, 1974. On file in the USA, however, is a «health certificate» supposedly issued to Pimjai for the shipment of 1 Leopard Cat and 9 gibbons to the Ark Animal Exchange. Dr. Chamlong denounces this 'certificate' as a total forgery. It is misspelled and in the wrong format, he alleges, pointing to the heading which reads «Ministry of Livestock Development».

It is surprising that such an obvious forgery did not draw the attention of authorities anywhere along the animals' itinerary.

THAILAND EXPORT REGULATIONS

Under Thai law, protected wildlife is divided into two Categories, namely, I and II. Gibbons are on Category I and, for them to leave Thailand legally, the following documents must be secured:

- 1) a health certificate issued by the Department of Livestock Development,
- 2) Thai Customs clearance papers,
- 3) an export permit issued by the Royal Forestry Department, and
- 4) an export license issued by the Department of Foreign Trade.

THAI CUSTOMS

Thai Customs has a customs clearance application by Pimjai for the export of 80 mynah birds on December 31, 1973. There is no record at all of any gibbons. Regarding the mynah birds, Mr. A. Lewis of the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture, wrote to a correspondent on June 23, 1975: «our records show that the birds were not imported on December 31, 1973, and no import permits had been issued for these birds.» However, Lewis admitted that his Department had issued Canadian import permits to the Ark Animal Exchange for a shipment of 10 gibbons.

There is no record at Thai Customs of the departure of any leopard cat or gibbons on January 16, 1974. Mr. Lewis admits that the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture issued an import permit to the Ark Animal Exchange for nine gibbons. He adds: «we have no knowledge of a leopard cat being shipped with the gibbons to Dorval Airport on January 16, 1974.» The Thai Customs Investigation Division is currently investigating the case.

IPPL REQUESTS INVESTIGATION

Because some of these formalities appear not to have been completed in the abovementioned shipments, IPPL forwarded all relevant documents and evidence it had collected to the US Department of the Interior's Division of Law Enforcement. Interior was requested to investigate whether the shipments violated the clause of the US Lacey Act which forbids the import of wildlife in violation of the laws of ANY country.

The Department of Foreign Trade kindly provided IPPL with a list of gibbon export licenses issued between June 1973 and June 1974. These include no licenses to any animal dealer. In addition, Khun Suthee Natvarat, Director-General of Foreign Trade, wrote to a Canadian reporter on March 30, 1975: «regarding the two shipments of gibbons in question, we have no evidence of our issue of export permits to Pimjai Birds and Wild Animals.» The Department has formally notified the Chief of Wildlife Conservation, Mr. Pong Leng-ee, that it authorised neither the December 31, 1973, nor the January 16, 1974 shipment of gibbons.

IPPL learned that the US Army-Walter Reed shipment of 11 gibbons had a Foreign Trade export permit and also learned how it was secured. The US Army Gibbon Laboratory in Bangkok is part of a larger Army medical program which was until recently under the direction of Colonel Philip Winter. On February 27, 1973, Colonel Winter sent a memorandum to Admiral Samrit Jatinanda, a Thai associate of the Army research program. Winter noted that the National Cancer Institute of the United States had contacted the US Embassy in Bangkok asking its assistance in securing export papers, and concluded: «therefore, request your assistance in obtaining permission for the shipment of a total of 11 gibbons from our animal colony to the National Cancer Institute.»

Admiral Jatinanda replied on March 28 that permission had been secured to export the gibbons and that Winter should have someone contact the Department of Foreign Trade for an export license. The Forestry Department was not mentioned. The animals were not presented for the routine forestry clearance at the airport, and the Army issued its own health certificate. Forestry officials only learned of this shipment a year after it happened.

At the time of this shipment, Thailand was still under military rule, and American influence was great. Ambassador Leonard Unger has admitted to IPPL that he personally intervened to facilitate the Foreign Trade Department export papers.

It is unfortunate that the dual responsibility for issuance of export documents served in this case to cover up a shipment of questionable legality.

AMERICAN EMBASSY ENQUIRY

Six months after IPPL handed over its file of documents to Interior, Mr. William Toomey, Counselor for Economic Affairs at the US Embassy in Bangkok, wrote to Mr. Pong Leng-ee, Chief of Wildlife Conservation in Thailand. Toomey's January 16, 1975, letter requested a copy of Thai wildlife legislation and enquired whether the shipments via the Ark Animal Exchange had export permits. The Army gibbons were not mentioned.

MR. PONG'S REPLY

Mr. Pong's reply to the Embassy letter asserted: «no permits have been issued for the export of gibbon to the Ark Animal Exchange, Canada, or the University of California at Davis, or to any Thai dealer to supply them.» He enclosed a copy of the relevant Forestry law, and ended: «if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.»

Mr. Pong's letter was not notarised, as requested, but passed through Department protocol, being approved by several officials. As there is no such practise as notarisation in Thailand, and the Embassy did not explain what it meant, this seemed the correct response, according to Mr. Pong. The Embassy never followed up on Pong's offer of further assistance.

On March 20, 1975, IPPL received a letter from Mr. Clark Bavin, Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement at the US Department of the Interior. Bavin stated that the gibbon case had been dropped due to Mr. Pong's failure to cooperate. In another, later, letter to a New Hampshire animal-lover, Mr. Bavin was more specific; he wrote:

it appears that you have been misinformed about the facts in the case. In your letter, you refer to correspondence between this service and Mr. Pong Leng-ee, National Wildlife Management, Thailand. In response to an official enquiry submitted by this service to the US Embassy in Thailand, Mr. Pong did provide a letter stating that no export permits had been issued authorising the export of gibbons to the US. The Embassy provided this service with the information contained in this letter and advised that this letter was being forwarded to Washington. This office, however, never received the letter. This actually made little difference in the investigation, because, according to information received from the US Embassy, Mr. Pong refused to certify the contents of his letter. Without such certification, and subsequent exemplification by the US Embassy, the information would not be legally admissible in US courts. Also information obtained from other sources conflicted with Mr. Pong's, making it impossible for the Embassy to determine the facts in the case.

THE DAVIS AGGIE REPORT

An alternative version of the dropping of the gibbon case was offered by David Purinton, of the US Department of the Interior's Sacramento Office. Purinton was named in the April 16, 1975 issue of the *Aggie*, the campus newspaper at the University of California at Davis, one of whose component institutions, the Comparative Oncology Laboratory, had purchased the gibbons, as having taken charge of Interior's entire investigation of the gibbon case; he was reported as saying that all IPPL's charges were unfounded and that the gibbons were «legally imported through channels and the permits had been obtained in both countries.» Purinton is also reported as saying: «the only problem discovered was one of communication between two government agencies in Thailand - one did not know that the other had issued the required permits.» All that Interior found were «minor technical discrepancies», but nothing illegal. One wonders what Purinton defines as «minor technical discrepancies.» The *Davis Aggie* refused to print IPPL's rebuttal of Purinton's statements. Probably the reason for this violation of principles of fairness and ethical journalism lies in a statement in the *Aggie* article that: «any truth to the charges might have resulted in a loss of federal funds to the Vet-Med's Comparative Oncology Laboratory.»

US EMBASSY IN BANGKOK COMMENTS

The US Embassy admits that neither the Department of Foreign Trade, nor the Thai Customs, nor the Department of Livestock Development were contacted. No Interior investigator came to Bangkok, and the «investigation» was left in the hands of the Economic Counselor at the US Embassy. Embassy officials admit that the notarisation process was not explained to Mr. Pong and that no explanation or assistance in performing the process was offered. However, it appears that the question of notarisation may be a smokescreen for dropping the case. A top lawyer in the US Justice Department has informed IPPL: «I am at a loss to comprehend why the Department of the Interior would require a formal (i.e., legally admissible) statement from Director Pong at this juncture, when no judicial proceedings have been instituted and when the matter is merely in the investigatory stage.»

PONG LENG-EE'S COMMENTS

Mr. Pong Leng-ee received a copy of a letter alleging his non-cooperation from a recipient who was not satisfied with Interior's response to his enquiry. He also saw a copy of the Aggie article. He was distressed at being scapegoated in spite of his cooperation, and therefore sent a letter to Clark Bavin at Interior. Pong drew Bavin's attention to letters and statements critical of himself that Interior had issued; he pointed out that Interior's allegation that he had refused to certify the contents of his letter was false, and that, in fact, he had offered full cooperation. Pong took note of Bavin's statement that information collected from other sources conflicted with his, and asked Interior to identify the sources, since all Thai authorities agreed that the gibbons had no export permits and that the health certificates were falsified. In response to Agent Purinton's statement in the Davis Aggie that Interior had made an «extensive investigation» of the case, Mr. Pong pointed out that the entire investigation in Thailand appeared to be a letter addressed to him from the US Embassy in Bangkok. Reacting to Purinton's statement that the gibbons had export permits, Mr. Pong challenged him to produce them. Mr. Pong concluded his letter: «I most strongly protest the Department of the Interior's inaction in the case and its blaming its failure to act on my alleged non-cooperation. I strongly protest the issuance of false and misleading statements which reflect on my reputation and integrity. Since only a few such statements come to my attention, it is impossible for me to refute each letter and statement individually.»

PROSECUTION PROBLEMS

Prosecution in cases of wildlife smuggling has been rare in Thailand, due to a combination of factors, including the divided authority over wildlife export, the failure of importing countries to report violations back to Thailand, and the fact that the import of illegally-exported animals is not considered an offence in many countries, including Canada: hence, once the animals actually depart from their homeland, there is rarely any feedback on what becomes of them.

CANADA'S NON-COOPERATION

Perhaps the most discouraging aspect of the gibbon case has been the total non-cooperation of Canadian authorities, and their dedicated, persistent defence of the Ark Animal Exchange's (and by implication, other dealers') right to traffic. Both the Ministers of Agriculture and Environment refuse to take any action, and, worse still, they refuse to hand over documents for use of Thai authorities, although, without the Canadian import permits, prosecution efforts in Thailand may flounder.

Dr. Morton Shulman, a Canadian M.P., has tried to get action

IPPL NETWORK EXPANDS

Anna Merz will represent IPPL in Ghana. Mrs. Merz is very active in wildlife conservation activities and is also trying to improve shipment conditions for exported wildlife. Currently she is rearing a young chimpanzee confiscated by government authorities from a hunter. On arrival, the chimpanzee was in poor condition and weighed only 4 pounds. Mrs. Merz reports that it is doing well now and will eventually join the group of confiscated chimpanzees which Ms. Penny Rucks is trying to rehabilitate in Bia National Park.

Sonia Jeffrey will represent IPPL in Liberia. Ms. Jeffrey is a biologist who worked for 6 years in the high forest region of Ghana. Currently, she is studying the animal trade in Liberia on a grant from the Fauna Preservation Society's 100% Fund.

Detlef and Walai Blumel will represent IPPL in the Cameroun. Ms. Walai used to serve as IPPL's representative in Thailand.

in Canada; writing in the Toronto Sun (July 22, 1975) he states: «to me, the most disgraceful aspect of this entire cruel transaction has been the attitude of the Canadian government . . . officialdom in our country apparently do not give a damn about endangered species.» He notes «indifference, evasions and outright lies.»

IPPL COMMENTS

IPPL deploras both the dropping of the gibbon case and the method used to drop it. It appears most likely that the true reason for the dropping of the case lies somewhere in the US Department of the Interior's relations with other agencies of the US government and vested research interests. It is easier to drop an investigation by alleging «foreign» non-cooperation than to enter into difficult infights. It is not clear that the United States Department of the Interior is fully committed ideologically to the concept of the United States protecting the wildlife of other nations, especially if it involves denying certain laboratories and zoos animals they want. In the case of the gibbons, the US had a clear opportunity to respect the laws of Thailand and enforce its own law. Interior claims to be understaffed; however, in the gibbon case, IPPL staff and friends conducted most of the investigation at their own time and expense, and without the power to subpoena evidence. Innumerable man- and woman- hours were spent on the case by interested investigators. The US Department of the Interior did very little in contrast and found a way to put the case to rest. It is a tragedy that those employed to protect the world's dwindling wildlife do not use their power when given an opportunity. It is hard to know how any US agency would become involved in a coverup or whitewash of one of the vilest trades on earth - the traffic in infant primates taken from the bodies of their dead mothers.

However, consumer advocates like Ralph Nader have observed for years that regulatory and investigative agencies in the USA tend to become tools of the institutions they are supposed to regulate. Interior's Division of Law Enforcement appears to be no exception.

STOP PRESS: after receiving Pong Leng-ee's protest, the Department of the Interior reopened the gibbon case on the basis of "indications that new evidence may be available."

IPPL has received a report of 2 further shipments of gibbons sent by Pimjai to the Ark Animal Exchange. On March 20, 1974, five gibbons were shipped; one was dead on arrival. On March 28, 1975, 1974, ten gibbons were shipped - all ten were dead on arrival. It is not clear whether these animals were destined for the University of California at Davis.

Mr. James Gormley, of the US Embassy in Bangkok, delivered an apology to Mr. Pong Leng-ee from the U.S. Department of the Interior on September 18, 1975.

Dr. William McGrew will serve as IPPL representative in Scotland. Dr. McGrew teaches Psychology at the University of Stirling. He has studied the behavior of both wild-living and captive chimpanzees.

Dr. Carolyn Tutin will serve as IPPL's Secretary for Scotland.

Dr. S.M. Mohnot, Professor of Zoology at the University of Jodhpur, will strengthen IPPL's India network. Dr. Mohnot has been studying the life of the Indian langur on the fringe of the Great Indian Desert.

CORRECTION: Dr. Duane Rumbaugh, Professor of Psychology at Georgia State University, USA, was incorrectly announced as a member of IPPL's Advisory Committee in Newsletter III. Although Dr. Rumbaugh offers us advice on a friendly basis, he is not a Board member.



CHIMPANZEE COLLECTING IN LIBERIA

Upon receiving a report from Africa that the New York Blood Center was involved in collecting chimpanzees in Liberia for use in hepatitis research, and that serious loss of chimpanzee life had already occurred, IPPL started an investigation. A preliminary report follows.

IPPL learned that the Blood Center had teamed up with a veteran animal dealer, Harry Gillmore, and set up a center called Vilab II at Robertsfield and a hunting camp near the Ivory Coast border. Several Blood Center employees are involved in the project: the research is under the control of Dr. Alfred Prince, who commutes between New York and Liberia; Dr. Joseph Davis is based at Robertsfield, and Ms. Betsy Brotman and the animal dealer direct the hunting, having trained a team of local hunters. At first, capture was attempted by darting the chimpanzees with a tranquilliser gun, rather than obtaining them by the traditional method which involves killing the mother chimpanzee. The darting method reportedly did not work out well, with chimpanzees dying of heart failure and falls from trees. The Center then started to buy infant chimpanzees from local hunters who had presumably captured them by traditional methods. An IPPL contact in the area reported «an escalation of chimp shooting in the Tchien area with many hunters who formerly hunted for meat, now looking for chimps and selecting when possible females carrying infants.» Apparently word that the Center wanted chimpanzees spread like wildfire through the bush as our Liberian contact reported having met a hunter in Lofa County who was transporting an infant chimpanzee to Robertsfield, 300 miles away. In addition, rare Pygmy Hippos were reportedly captured at the bush-camp, presumably for export.

Mr. Gillmore is alleged to have exported 7 chimpanzees in March 1975 to a major laboratory in New York. These animals had immunity to hepatitis and were therefore rejected from the research program in Liberia. Liberian Forestry officials have been unable to locate records of export permits for these animals although Mr. Gillmore claims he did have permits.

Mr. William Hoff, Acting Minister of Health in Liberia, informed the Blood Center on June 6, 1975, that it was to close down its Vilab II operation. A later letter from Mr. Hoff (July 7, 1975) stated that the Ministry of Health was prepared to reconsider its decision: «if certain measures could be instituted to prevent further occurrence of events in the case.» A new agreement was worked out, and the Center was informed that: «any infraction or

deviation from the agreement will leave us no alternative but a final termination of your activities here in Liberia.»

The agreement stresses the necessity of the Blood Center obtaining its chimpanzees legally, and of ensuring that chimpanzees are not killed or exported. The Center is permitted to capture an unlimited number of young chimps up to 40 lbs. for research and 40 adults for breeding. Strict guidelines are set up for capture, and a few examples of the rules will indicate the difficulties inherent in darting procedures, which require great expertise and knowledge of animals. The hunters are to locate the chimpanzees' nesting sites, and sit there quietly without moving, eating or smoking, until the chimpanzees wake up. Then they are to follow them to their feeding place, where they dart the animals. When the chimpanzees are darted, it takes 3-6 minutes for them to lose coordination. During this time, «every effort is made to keep the darted chimps from climbing trees by making noise to confuse or frighten them. In this manner, the chimp tends to select a ground escape route.» The captured chimpanzees are to be taken to the base camp, where they must stay for no less than two and no more than seven days prior to transfer to Robertsfield.

Chimpanzees not suitable for the vaccine program are to be returned to the capture area and released. Further, «the Blood Center is prohibited from engaging in the sale, barter or exportation of chimps and other animals while operating in Liberia.»

Dr. Aaron Kellner, Director of the New York Blood Center, informed IPPL on June 16, 1975, that, as of that date, eleven chimpanzees had been captured by darting and one in a trap. Fourteen animals had been lost and 21 purchased from local hunters. Dr. Kellner comments: «although these losses are higher than we would like, we are confident that with more experience they will be substantially reduced. They are in any case far less than those involved in the usual chain of commercial trappers and dealers involved in chimpanzee export from West Africa.»

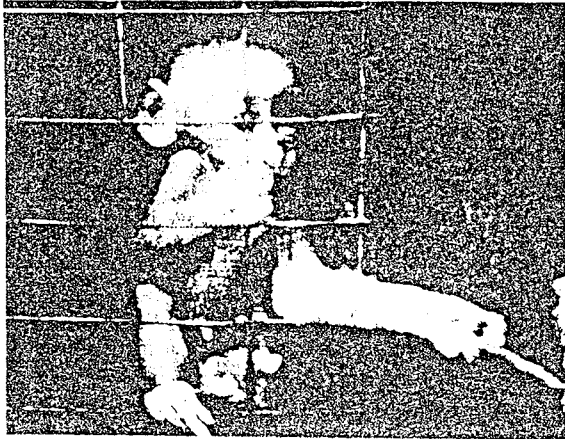
The recent National Academy of Sciences report **Nonhuman Primates** notes that the number of chimpanzees in Liberia is declining and foresees extermination of the entire population within a few years. While in agreement with the principle that better ways of capturing primates than mother-killing must be devised, IPPL feels that the conservation situation for chimpanzees in Liberia and the rest of West Africa is sufficiently critical that none should be removed from the wild by any method or for any reason.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. McGreal leaves Bangkok in October, so no further correspondence should be addressed to Bangkok. Membership mail should be addressed to PO Box 9086, Berkeley, Ca. 94709,

USA, and other mail, as well as letters for forwarding to Ms. McGreal, should be sent to Ardith Eudey, Dept. of Anthropology, University of California, Davis, Ca. 95616, USA.

PROJECT BANGKOK AIRPORT



For the ten-week period, March 31 - June 6, 1975, teams of Thai university students monitored wildlife exports from Don Muang Airport, Bangkok. The students worked from 8-5 daily, and undertook a 24-hour watch for two weeks.

The volume of wildlife traffic leaving Thailand is truly staggering; close to 100,000 mammals, birds, and reptiles left during the course of the project.

Thailand's export quota for monkeys is 6000 per year, but the monkey trade has been slow this year due to early rains and a decrease in primate populations outside of sanctuary areas resulting from over-trapping and irresponsible mother-kill capture methods.

However, several monkey shipments left, nearly all to the USA. Some of them contained infant monkeys. Last year, in conversation with Michael Nolan of Primate Imports, a company which imports around 28,000 laboratory primates a year to the USA, Ms. McGreal raised the subject of this vicious trade. Mr. Nolan agreed that it was deplorable, and said that he did not trade in baby monkeys. It was therefore surprising to observe on June 5, 25 monkeys leaving for Primate Imports in two crowded crates; 5 were juveniles, 12 very small and 8 tiny infants. IPPL contacted Nolan for an explanation and received the following reply:

in regard to baby monkeys, we specifically don't want, nor can we use anything under 1 1/2 kg. . . . our shipper, however, does from time to time send us some of these babies, despite our vehement objections. We have to keep them here for over a year before we can release them for sale.

Students were angered by their daily observations of «snake-boxes» with tiny air-holes about 1/2 to 1 cm. in diameter. It was impossible to ascertain what was really inside. There are several documented cases of smuggling of primates and other wildlife in such boxes. The cramped conditions, lack of ventilation and inadequate care cause heavy mortality to the rare animals shipped

this way. During the project, no «snake-boxes» were seen to be opened by airline, health, or customs officials; presumably all were reluctant to confront a snake!

It is imperative that boxes containing wildlife have a wire mesh or, plastic see-through window at least 3 cm. in diameter, both so that the well-being of the animals can receive proper attention and to prevent smuggling. By accepting closed-up snake-boxes, the airlines, which loudly proclaim their innocence whenever accused of abetting smuggling, are ensuring the continuation of this sordid but profitable traffic.

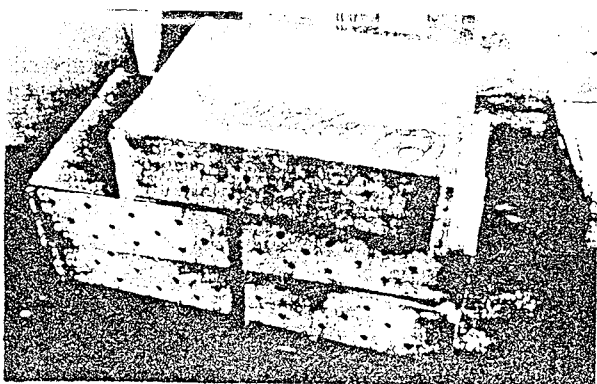
The International Air Transport Association standards for animal shipment, supposedly mandatory since February 1, 1975, were totally ignored in Bangkok by most shippers and airlines. Although almost all cages were substandard, the students did not see a single box rejected, nor a single airline official checking the boxes with the IATA Standards manual in hand. It is not surprising that many animal shipments get shipped to the wrong destination, as hardly a box complied with the requirement that the consignee's name was to be clearly shown on the crate. Airline officials informed the students that their lines would lose their share of the lucrative wildlife traffic if they enforced the standards since other airlines were not observing them. In addition to the deplorable physical conditions of the crates, they were often brutally tossed around by the handlers with little regard for the comfort of the animals. Water-pots were rarely filled and the feeding instructions for transit animals were ignored. Overcrowding was common, as this reduces shipping costs.

Clearly, if the standards are to have any meaning, IATA must penalise airlines which flout them.

IPPL strongly recommends that similar projects be organized at all airports with a large volume of wildlife traffic.

Commendations are due to Project Airport's fine team leaders, Mr. Suchart Khulkhosa and Mr. Chanchai Rairat of Mahidol University, and Mr. Nilratana Phatanaseree and Mr. Viroj Pruesanusak of Chulalongkorn University, as well as the team members who came from Chulalongkorn, Mahidol and Kasetsart Universities.

Project Bangkok Airport was sponsored by the International Society for the Protection of Animals, the Fauna Preservation Society, the New York Zoological Society, Ms. Christine Stevens of the Animal Welfare Institute and Ms. Katherine Buri, a dynamic Thai conservationist.



Snake-Box. What is really inside?

Ken Sims, Penang, Malaysia

Culling is arguably a technique for reducing e.g. elephant populations in a park which can only support a given number of animals, but it cannot be used for forest primates. Your opposition to culling is supported. Further, wherever a forest is 'reserved' so automatically should its fauna be 'reserved'. Mention was omitted of the vast areas of forest being felled and planted. Should the primates which lose their homes be "harvested" legally to reduce the pressure on other populations? Better not as doing so would provide an outlet for poached animals.

Only an insignificant proportion of users will voluntarily use captive-bred animals unless there is a cost advantage. Thus governments should compel users to use captive-bred animals by denying them wild-caught stock. It would be of interest to see what proportion of "work" could suddenly be done on rodents where before "only primates" were usable.

Dr. Warren Brockelman, Mahidol University, Bangkok

Although the work from Harlow's laboratory may well be declining in scientific imagination and value, the administrative decisions regarding its merit should be made by (a) the funding agencies and (b) a responsible regulatory agency or breeding facility whose job it is to ration primates for laboratory research. The latter do not exist. We should propose that they be established.

Anthropology Professor, USA

The reports on the trauma studies were unbelievable and you are doing a great service in reporting them.

Anthropology Professor, Georgia, USA

This is just a quick note to congratulate you on the April IPPL Newsletter in particular, I was delighted with your "Outstanding Research Award" I also appreciate the literature

search for primates used (up) in trauma studies it's very useful to have such stellar examples of solid research at hand for reference.

Staff Member, British High Commission, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

I have heard that a good many primates are being smuggled out of Thailand through a dealer in Langkawi (islands close to coast of Thailand and Malaysia, some belonging to each country). I am not sure whether these are shipped to Singapore by sea or landed on the coast of Malaysia to continue their journey by road.

Lastly, IPPL was delighted to receive some comments on the politics of conservation from Señor Felipe Benavides, the Peruvian conservationist who recently received the first Getty Prize for his efforts to save the vicuña and other wild animals of Peru, and who tells us that the expatriate animal dealers, the Tsalickis, have finally been put out of action in the Amazon headwaters area:

For years I have been insisting on breeding monkeys in Peru for scientific reasons but while we had the Tsalickis in Leticia (Colombia) and Iquitos (Peru), it was impossible to control the situation so now at last we have stopped totally the export of wildlife from the Amazon and the result is that traders like Tsalickis who also are now controlled from Leticia are looking for Bolivia and Ecuador.

I am so much aware of this problem that I feel again the importance of a coordinating body within the Organisation of American states. It is a Latin American problem that must be solved by Latin Americans. The more evidence I see of contraband and illegal trade among our nations in Latin America, the more I feel that OAS must intervene. One of the reasons for this intervention is that legislation in one country sometimes does not fit with the legislation of a neighbor.

THIS MONTH'S AWARD

The work chosen for this month's award is truly incredible. The United States Army Gibbon Laboratory in Bangkok (known as SEATO Lab) killed four **three-year old female** gibbons, rare animals on Appendix I of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, in a **dog heartworm** experiment. Since young females are the hope of any species' future, it is truly astounding that four young females were so wastefully destroyed.

The experiment is described in the article "Experimental Infection of the Gibbon with *Dirofilaria immitis*", in the **American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**; (Vol. 21, no. 5, 1972). The researchers include Dennis O. Johnsen, Alexander de Paoli, and Prayot Tanticharoenyos.

Heartworm is transmitted among dogs by the *Aedes* mosquito, but the Army transmitted it to the gibbons by subcutaneous inoculation. The four young gibbons were killed at various intervals. The conclusion of the Army's report is that, "it would appear that the response of the gibbon to *dirofilaria immitis* is similar to that of the dog" and, "the gibbon appears to be the animal of choice for studying heartworm infection in a primate host."

Dog heartworm has only very rarely been recorded in man. The best way to control it is not to seek alternate hosts, least of all rare animals, but through mosquito control and preventive medication for dogs, which is available.

ALTERNATIVES TO PRIMATES

It is the professional obligation of every researcher and pharmaceutical company using primates to keep abreast of the rapidly-developing field of non-animal based methods of research and production.

To assist scientists in keeping up-to-date, the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) set out on a continuous search for information on alternative techniques, which include tissue, cell and organ cultures, computers, and use of lower organisms.

FRAME publishes a journal of **Abstracts on Alternatives to Laboratory Animals** twice yearly. Every institution using primates should have these abstracts available in its library and encourage researchers and members of utilisation and review committees to study them. Instead of 'thinking Primate', researchers should 'think Alternatives'.

Please draw the attention of your librarian to these abstracts. Subscriptions can be placed with the Secretary, FRAME, 312a Worple Road, London, SW20 8QU, England.

SAVE A MONKEY'S LIFE !

The production of standard polio vaccine is extremely costly in monkey lives. Vervet monkeys from Africa are killed in the production of the vaccine and Rhesus monkeys from India are killed in the testing process. A more modern and less wasteful method of polio vaccine production is the use of human diploid cell strains.

IPPL contacted Pfizer, which produces diploid cell-based vaccine, in search of further information. Dr. Cini, Pfizer's Director of Medical Services, informed IPPL:

the position is as follows. The number of monkeys used in the testing of the vaccines is the same for both types. However, Diplovax is prepared from

human tissue, while monkey tissue is necessary for the manufacture of monkey tissue vaccine. Overall, then, less monkeys are required for the production of Diplovax. We feel that Diplovax is as safe or safer than monkey kidney vaccine.

By making a point of using diploid cell polio vaccine, you would be saving vervet monkeys from the ordeal of capture, transportation and unnecessary death.

IPPL suggests that the sacrifice of monkeys in vaccine production should no longer be permitted in cases where safe alternative methods of producing the vaccine exist.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know that

_____ a minimum of 70-80% of primates imported to the U.S. enter biomedical research and production ?

_____ around 50% of marmosets and night monkeys imported to the U.S. die in quarantine ?

_____ 61% of all monkeys imported to the U.S. for research are killed within one year ?

_____ 83% of all Rhesus monkeys imported to the U.S. are killed within a year ?

_____ laboratory monkeys are cheaper than laboratory dogs in the U.S. ?

_____ in 1973, 60% of monkeys imported to Canada from Malaysia died within a month of arrival ?

_____ only 57% of Rhesus monkeys born in breeding colonies are raised to six months ?

All this and much more useful information, is contained in the booklet **Nonhuman Primates**, available from ILAR, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Av, NW, Washington, DC 20418, USA.

SUGGESTIONS

IPPL's Newsletter contains information you will find nowhere else. If it isn't in your library, talk to your librarian about subscribing. A membership in IPPL would make an ideal Christmas gift.

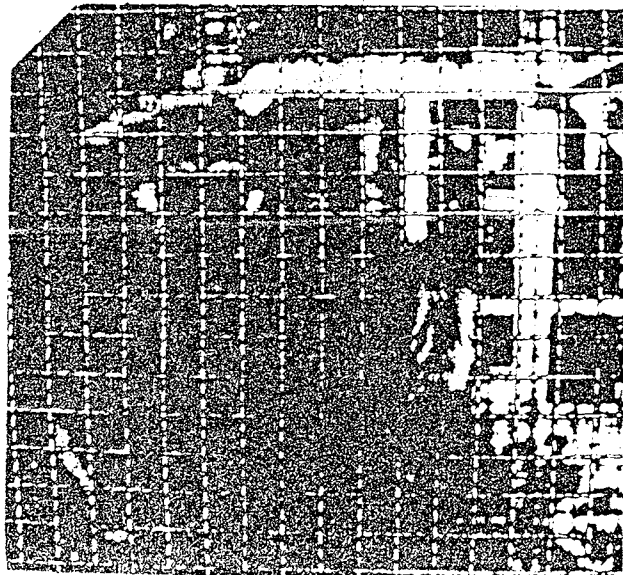
US ARMY GIBBON LABORATORY TO CLOSE DOWN

The US Army - Walter Reed Gibbon Laboratory in Bangkok, which once numbered around 200 gibbons, is now down to 40 survivors. Forbidden to export them, the Army wants to get rid of them by transferring responsibility for their upkeep to the Wildlife Conservation Division of the Royal Forestry Department. Along with the 40 gibbons, some disused laboratory cages and a six-month supply of monkey chow were offered. It was suggested to the Thais that they ask the World Wildlife Fund for money for the installation and upkeep of the gibbons, which will be extremely costly (close to \$ 1 per day per animal). The Army also suggested that the Thais release the animals, an extremely risky approach since

- a) these gibbons are habituated to man and might attack people or fall easy prey to hunters,
- b) gibbons are territorial and resident gibbons would attack and drive out newcomers,
- c) released gibbons might transfer human infections to wild populations; a conservation disaster,
- d) these gibbons, captured as infants, have no idea of jungle living, what foods are poisonous, gibbon social behavior, etc.

A long-term rehabilitation program would be extremely costly, as would establishing the gibbons in modern, well-designed habitats, and maintaining them satisfactorily. The Division of Wildlife Conservation cannot afford such an expense on its budget of \$ 200,000 per year. The US Army can. The Army assumed responsibility for these animals and cannot wash its hands of them now they have become a burden. We request IPPL's US members and friends to write to the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Defense, and their senators and congressmen demanding that the Army provide a substantial endowment for these animals, to ensure them a good future and in return for all the advantages the Army has derived

from the use of Thailand's rare gibbons in medical research. Please request also that the Army IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES be allowed to "put the gibbons to sleep", as an Army veterinarian proposed. This would be wanton destruction of threatened animals.



Sad-Looking Gibbon at
Army Laboratory

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HOW TO JOIN

Complete the form below and mail it with a cheque payable to the International Primate Protection League, to IPPL, PO Box 9086, Berkeley, Ca. 94709, USA. Membership applications in the United Kingdom should be sent to Dr. William McGrew, Department of Psychology, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA, Scotland.

- I wish to join IPPL as a () Sustaining Member - \$ 25.00 or £ 10 or more
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