

the international primate protection league

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IPPL UNCOVERS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN PYGMY CHIMPANZEE PROJECT

Evidence has come to light which suggests that a project allegedly designed to foster the conservation of the Pygmy chimpanzee (*Pan paniscus*) may have as its real purpose the attempt to bring this endangered species into use as a laboratory animal, with the strong likelihood that it would be used to study injury or trauma of military importance, such as burns, shock and bleeding.

The October 1975 issue of the IPPL Newsletter reported that the Yerkes Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, had acquired 5 Pygmy chimpanzees from Zaire, Central Africa, on a lend-lease basis, in order to evaluate the species' potential as a laboratory primate. IPPL disputed claims made by the project's sponsors, the Yerkes Primate Center and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, that the project would help assure the survival of the Pygmy chimpanzee. That same issue of the Newsletter also reported that Dr. William McGrew of the University of Stirling, Scotland, had organised a petition opposing the project. This petition received wide support from chimpanzee field workers invited to sign it. The March 1976 issue of the IPPL Newsletter noted that supporters of the project had chosen to defend it by attempting to ridicule and deride its critics rather than by addressing themselves to the substantive issues involved.

The contract between the U.S. National Academy of Sciences/ Yerkes Primate Center and the Zairean Institute for Scientific Research states that the purpose of transferring the 5 Pygmy chimpanzees to the USA is to "establish the biomedical importance of the species," and that a breeding colony will only be set up after this importance is established. This "importance" was apparently quickly determined through study of the Pygmy chimpanzees at Yerkes, in spite of the death of two of the animals.

The business meeting of the Sixth Congress of the International Primatological Society was held on 26 August 1976 in Cambridge, England, and was chaired by Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, Director of the Yerkes Primate Center. At this meeting, Dr. Bourne appears to have used his position as chairman to announce that he and Mr. Joseph Engel of the National Academy of Sciences had just returned from Zaire, where permission had been given for the capture of 50 Pygmy chimpanzees for transfer to islands in Lake Tumba in Zaire. Bourne also remarked that a lot of "misinformation" had been circulated about the conservation aspects of the project. At the end of his announcement, Dr. Bourne gave no opportunity for comments or questions from the membership of the International Primatological Society. Members of the audience had to result to catcalls, coughs, and foot-stamping to attract his attention. Critical questions were asked by Dr. Robert Sussman of the Department of Anthropology, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Jan Moor-Jankowski, Director of the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates, New York, and Dr. Thomas Struhsaker, of the New York Zoological Society. The issue was dropped only because of the lateness of the hour.

In order to clarify the true purpose of the project, IPPL contacted the Office of Naval Research for documents pertaining to the project under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §552). The documents furnished by the Office of Naval Research suggest that the purpose of the project is not conservation of the Pygmy chimpanzee, but its introduction to biomedical research. Examples of these documents follow.

1) In an undated statement entitled "Pygmy Chimpanzee Project," Dr. Bourne describes the main purpose of the project as "to establish the Pygmy chimpanzee as an important future animal model for the biomedical and behavioral research community." He proceeds to define the three phases of the project: a) the capture of a few Pygmy chimpanzees from the wild and their transfer to Yerkes Primate Center for study, b) the capture of more specimens from the wild, and their transfer to a breeding colony, and c) utilisation of the

species in research programs.

2) Attached to the statement is a paper on the "Scientific Significance of the Pygmy chimpanzee." This paper describes how the project originated. Preliminary negotiations were conducted by a team which visited Zaire in April 1972. Dr. Richard Thorington of the Smithsonian Institution is mentioned as being a member of this team. Dr. Thorington later became Chairman of the Primate Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). To the disappointment of many opponents of the project, IUCN appears to have done nothing to prevent its fruition, although the organisation has classified the Pygmy chimpanzee as "vulnerable to extinction." Further, although IUCN has an African Board member, Dr. Emanuel Asibey of Ghana, it apparently did not inform him of either the project or the petition opposing it, of which a copy had been submitted to IUCN.

One paragraph of this "Significance" statement is of especial interest:

In the case of an extremely rare and endangered species such as the *Pan paniscus* which is now excluded by convention from the international traffic, their availability to science can be assured only by systematic breeding programs within the country of native habitat.

Clearly, this project, and similar projects designed to exploit endangered primate species in their habitat countries, is designed to mitigate the effects of national and international legislation to protect the world's vanishing wildlife.

3) In a letter dated 17 January 1975 addressed to Dr. Joseph Pollard, Director of the Biological Sciences Division of the Office of Naval Research, Dr. Geoffrey Bourne states that the budget for Phase 1 of the project is U.S. \$25,000, of which the Kaiser Foundation had already contributed \$10,000, the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company \$3,000, and the Merck Sharp Dohme Pharmaceutical Company \$5,000. The letter proposes that the office of Naval Research contribute \$4,000.

4) The Office of Naval Research's "Procurement Request and Approval" for the project, dated 29 January 1975, allocates \$4,000 for the Pygmy chimpanzee project. Of this sum, \$2,000 is to come from the Navy, \$1,000 from the Army, and \$1,000 from the Air Force. A section of this document entitled "Description of Work" notes:

This is Phase I of a project to determine the value of *Pan paniscus* as an animal model for the study of a variety of medical conditions of concern to military medicine, under the joint sponsorship of the Office of Naval Research, the Army and the Air Force.

5) An office of Naval Research "Research and Technology Work Unit Summary" dated 29 January 1975, states:

The Pygmy chimpanzee is smaller, more intelligent, and agile than the *Pan troglodytes*. It may be more closely similar to man. As a laboratory animal, it would be more economical of space and food requirements.

6) A memorandum numbered NR-200-070, Code 442, which is attached to the aforementioned documents, seeks to explain the Navy's unlikely-seeming interest in the forest-dwelling Pygmy chimpanzee.

(The Office of Naval Research's) interest is possibly small, but the investment is correspondingly little and justified by the need for better animal models particularly for the study of shock. The best animal for this work at the moment is probably the baboon which is large and often dangerous.

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Much work done in the past with dogs is not instructive with respect to the reactions of primates to the effects of burns, bleeding and shock.

The need to use an endangered primate (or any other primate) for the study of induced burns, bleeding, and shock, when there are so many humans traumatically injured every day, must be questioned. Further, the Pygmy chimpanzee is not a "miniature" chimpanzee weighing a fraction of the weight of other chimpanzees, and more likely to submit docilely to the infliction of traumatic injury. An adult male animal can weigh as much as 100 pounds, far more than a baboon, and could be more dangerous. The Navy appears misinformed on this point.

7) An Office of Naval Research budget paper shows that the Office paid \$4,000, the expense of shipping the 5 Pygmy chimpanzees from Zaire to the USA, as well as the expense of a Zairean technician who accompanied the animals. It is not clear whether this was the original \$4,000 allocated for the project, or a supplemental appropriation.

8) An undated "Application for Renewal of Funds" for the Pygmy chimpanzee project submitted to the Office of Naval Research by Dr. Bourne, seeks a further \$6,000 to enable Dr. Bourne, and Mr. Joseph Engel of the National Academy of Sciences, to visit Zaire to negotiate for permission to initiate Phase II of the project, the capture of animals from the wild to form the breeding stock for the colony. The request was granted, with the U.S. Army and Navy each contributing \$3,000. Dr. Bourne and Mr. Engel visited Zaire in August 1976 and appear to have been successful in obtaining permission to capture and move 50 Pygmy chimpanzees.

Two of the documents recently obtained by IPPL mentioned the controversy surrounding the project. The first is a letter dated 4 March 1976 from Dr. Robert Jennings, Program Director for Biochemistry at the Office of Naval Research, to Lt. Col. Richard Spetzel of the U.S. Army. The letter attempts to allay the Army's reluctance to get involved in the controversial project. Jennings takes note of the "unfortunate and very unfair publicity" accorded to the project. On the basis of a visit he recently made to the Yerkes Primate Center, Jennings states that any criticism is "entirely unjustified." In an extraordinary *tour de force* of logic, Jennings reasons that the salvation of the Pygmy chimpanzee lies in the laboratory, not the jungle:

The Pygmy chimpanzees at Yerkes receive daily expert veterinary care and are in excellent shape. Note that those that did not have this opportunity died. It suggests to me that the establishment of the proposed breeding colony is far better insurance against the disappearance of this species than leaving them to diseases and hazards of wild existence . . . The purpose for which (the 5 Pygmy chimpanzees) were removed from their normal habitat is humanitarian not cruel as implied (in the petition): while it is true that our desire is to establish a better model of experimental animals, it is not true that all such research involves pain and sickness

Jennings speaks glowingly of the "love" shown to the Pygmy chimpanzees by the staff of the Yerkes Primate Center, including Dr. Bourne, and remarks, "I can think of no better hands in which to place the welfare of the species." He concludes that, "the criticism must be motivated by some other factor than concern for the welfare of the animals." He concludes that this factor is malice.

The other reference to the controversy occurs in a letter dated 19 January 1976 from Dr. Bourne to Dr. Pollard of the Office of Naval Research. Dr. Bourne notes that IPPL has learned who is financing the project and counsels the Office not to answer any letters from IPPL.

In response to an enquiry from IPPL, Dr. Pollard stated that the Office of Naval Research plans to continue funding the Pygmy chimpanzee project. He justified the Navy's continued interest by stating: "It appears that the Pygmy chimpanzee is physiologically and biochemically more similar to man than most animals presently used in medical research." He added that the Navy supported a broad basic research program with one underlying purpose:

These programs are related to the problems of stress and disease experienced by the sailor and marine in his combat assignment. To carry out this effort it is of utmost importance that valid animal models be available which will bridge the gap between the test tube and the human.

In response to an IPPL enquiry, Dr. H. C. Campbell of the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company confirmed that the company had contributed to Phase I of the project, since "The Pygmy chimpanzee appeared to be an attractive alternative to some of the primates

currently used in medical research because of its size." Dr. Campbell appears not to be aware that the size difference between the regular and Pygmy chimpanzee is not great, and that a large Pygmy chimpanzee is bigger than a small regular chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*).

IPPL OBJECTIONS

IPPL considers that the entire Pygmy chimpanzee project is open to question on practical, academic, legal, and ethical considerations.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Yerkes/NAS plan provides for the release of the captured Pygmy chimpanzees on islands in Lake Tumba. Lake Tumba is a long, somewhat narrow lake in Equateur Province, Zaire. The Zairean Institute for Scientific Research has a field station at Mabali close to the lake. Mabali Station has comfortable living facilities used by the Belgians in colonial days, and would be the center for the project.

During 1973-1975 Dr. Arthur Horn of Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, conducted a 25-month field study of Pygmy chimpanzees in Zaire. According to Dr. Horn, there are only a few islands (4-6) in the lake, only one of which is larger than 2-300 meters across. Dr. Horn estimates the size of the largest island to be around 1 square kilometer (about 250 acres). This island is close to the west bank of the lake and is about 15-20 kilometers by boat from the Mabali Station on the east bank. This would be a boat-ride of approximately 45 minutes on a 40 horsepower boat. Although there are no Pygmy chimpanzees on the islands in Lake Tumba, they have a varied fauna including monkeys. The environmental impact of the release of 50 Pygmy chimpanzees on one or more islands does not appear to have been studied by sponsors of the project, although it appears likely that the entire ecological balance of the islands might be shattered.

According to Dr. Horn's survey, confirmed by reports from other field workers, the density of Pygmy chimpanzees does not exceed one individual per square kilometer in any part of Zaire, and is usually much less. If 50 animals were released on an island approximately one square kilometer in area, they would probably destroy the habitat in a very short time, and many would starve to death, and others die in aggressive encounters provoked by the overcrowding and competition for food. Dr. Horn assumes that project plans would include bringing food from the mainland for the Pygmy chimpanzees, but foresees problems should this be attempted. Heavy provisioning (hundreds of pounds of food a day) would be required. A fleet of boats would be needed to make daily trips in all weather conditions. Breakdowns could cause serious problems, since Mabali is a day's travel from Kinshasa, the closest place where spare parts could be obtained. However, the Pygmy chimpanzees would not necessarily select the food supplied from the outside (whether fresh fruit or commercial pelleted food) over the food available on the island; or they might wander from the areas where the food was deposited, so the habitat might be wrecked in any case, with adverse consequences on the island's wildlife.

A further complication is that the inhabitants of the villages around Mabali do not have much surplus food; therefore, a complex food collection system involving several villages would have to be organized. Dr. Horn notes that, although the well-organized effort that would be required would not be impossible, it would be extremely difficult to establish and maintain. Should the provisioning shuttle be cut off for just a few days, chimpanzees would starve to death. Zaire is not however immune to political turmoil, and the possibility that resident supervisors from overseas might have to leave in a hurry cannot be excluded. In a severe famine, the Pygmy chimpanzees might fall victims to predation by starving humans.

To establish an island colony of 50 Pygmy chimpanzees, a much larger number of animals would probably have to be captured. They would reportedly be captured by netting: since this method of capture would be extremely stressful on the animals, some injuries and deaths could be expected. It is likely that there would be further losses in the weeks after capture, since stress aggravates the parasites with which the captured animals coexist in the wild. Deaths of animals in the island colony would also be likely, and there would be a need for replacements. In the case of an epidemic which would be quite likely in the crowded conditions, and with the exposure of the animals to human infections, the entire colony might be lost. Since netting expeditions are tedious and complicated, the temptation to buy animals for the project from native poachers would be hard to resist. This is not mere speculation, as two of the five Pygmy chimpanzees shipped to Yerkes were not netted, but purchased from poachers. There is no evidence that either the Yerkes Primate Center

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or the National Academy of Sciences made any objections to this purchase. Rather, they implied in their public statements that these two infants were also netted, and exploited the fact that one had gunshot pellets in its body to justify the need for a "conservation" project, alleging that the species was heavily hunted.

Should the Pygmy chimpanzees in the colony breed successfully, and the offspring be removed for biomedical experimentation, this would lessen the value of the colony for behavioral observations. The removal of the offspring would also reduce the relevance of any breeding program to the preservation of the Pygmy chimpanzee. In the event of successful breeding and the discovery of a disease for which this species would be a "useful" animal model, it is likely that plans for a small free-ranging colony would be expanded, and a large caged colony be established. It is likely that biomedical interests would press for export of Pygmy chimpanzees to the United States.

It is likely that the project sponsors would not be content with using only Pygmy chimpanzees. In a letter to Dr. William McGrew dated 20 May 1975, Dr. Bourne stated that colonies of gorillas might eventually form part of the project. The Yerkes Primate Center possesses no Mountain gorillas at the present time, although it purchased 16 wild-caught Lowland gorillas a decade ago.

In the light of these as well as additional considerations, IPPL considers that any movement of Pygmy chimpanzees from their natural habitat to areas where they are entirely dependent on human intervention is undesirable. It would have an adverse effect on the survival chances of the species as a whole and grave implications for the well-being of the Pygmy chimpanzees captured for the project.

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Dr. Horn states that the word 'Pygmy chimpanzee' is really a misnomer, as it gives the false impression that the animal is small, whereas, in fact, it is only slightly smaller in size than the regular chimpanzee. A large Pygmy chimpanzee weighs close to 100 pounds and is hardly a "Pygmy." Dr. Horn does not believe that the Pygmy chimpanzee is a separate species, but merely "A chimpanzee that is a little smaller than the average for the common chimp." Horn also feels that the assertion made by Dr. Bourne that the Pygmy chimpanzee is more intelligent than other chimpanzees and closer to man is unsupported by any evidence. In short, Horn asserts: "To me these points cut away any possible justifications whatsoever that the Yerkes Primate Center and National Academy of Sciences have for attempting to exploit a threatened species and bypass the prohibitions on exporting them."

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The project appears to IPPL to violate Section 7 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-205), which states in part:

All . . . federal departments and agencies shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act . . . by taking such action necessary to insure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by them do not jeopardize the continued existence of such endangered species.

CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT FOR IPPL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION FUND

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is a U.S. federal law designed to help citizens obtain information concerning federal agencies and their actions and decisions on matters affecting the public.

Federal agencies engage in two types of activities of interest to people concerned about primates: they administer and enforce laws that affect primates, and they award grants or contracts for research using primates.

By using FOIA, you can obtain copies of records in the possession of the agencies dealing with these matters. It was by invoking FOIA that IPPL learned of military involvement in the Yerkes Primate Center/National Academy of Sciences project, information which, we hope, will cause the project to be stopped.

FOIA authorizes agencies to charge reasonable fees to locate and copy the material. Although agencies are directed to waive fees when disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest, fees are seldom waived in practice: in many cases the agency concerned does not want the information made public, and requesting large fees is a way to discourage the person or organization seeking material. The National Institutes of Health recently asked IPPL to pay \$154.00 for the 1975 Annual Reports of the Primate Centers and refused to waive the fees, although disclos-

The activities of all the federal agencies taking part in this project might be considered as illegal under this Section of the Act.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

A serious question of professional ethics arises as the result of Dr. Bourne's claim that the Pygmy chimpanzee project is designed to preserve the species with the simultaneous acceptance of money from agencies which clearly expect to derive experimental animals from the project. As far as IPPL knows, no efforts were made to seek financing for the project from conservation organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund. Instead, Dr. Bourne turned to the military and pharmaceutical companies, major users of primates in research. Nonetheless, in a 20 May 1975 letter to Dr. McGrew, Bourne stated:

Unless some active conservation method such as the program we propose is undertaken, the Pygmy chimpanzee will in fact die out. The time for *talking* is past and some positive action is needed.

If Dr. Bourne has no intention of providing Pygmy chimpanzees for experimentation, does he have a legal right to enter into contractual obligations with agencies whose sole goal in supporting the project appears to be to secure such animals? If he does intend that the Pygmy chimpanzee should become an "animal model of human diseases," is it ethical to make such deceptive pronouncements as the one quoted above?

Perhaps the most important moral objection to this project is one that can be extended to the use of all endangered species of primates in research activities allegedly for the purpose of producing "human benefits." With the world's population having passed 4,000,000,000, and the Pygmy chimpanzee population probably numbering far less than 100,000, does Man have the moral right to exploit the species in exploratory research for his own well-being or in order to refine his techniques of making war on his fellowmen?

WHAT TO DO

IPPL has corresponded with officials of both the Yerkes Primate Center and the National Academy of Sciences, and feels that further correspondence with these agencies would be futile. It is therefore recommended that concerned individuals contact their senators and congressmen in Washington, D.C., seeking their cooperation in stopping the project. Enclose a copy of this article in case they are not familiar with the situation. The Secretary of the Interior might also be requested to explore legal means to prevent the removal of any Pygmy chimpanzees from their habitat. Comments should also be addressed to the Secretaries of the Army, Air Force, and especially the Navy, in Washington, D.C.

sure of these records is in the public interest, since these centers cost millions of dollars a year to operate.

IPPL is therefore establishing a Freedom of Information Fund to enable us to obtain: 1) copies of grants and contract applications and awards and progress reports (peer review comments are exempt from disclosure); 2) reports of Department of Agriculture inspections of zoos and animal dealers; 3) Annual Reports of research facilities using primates (which are obliged to report painful or stressful research involving animals to the Department of Agriculture); and 4) records pertaining to administration of the Lacey and Endangered Species Acts.

We should appreciate your cheques earmarked for this vitally important fund. All contributions are tax-deductible. Should you be concerned about conditions in any zoo or some research being conducted in your community, please send us details and we can advise you on using FOIA to solve the problem.

The Society for Animal Rights has published an informative booklet entitled *How to Use the Freedom of Information Act*. It is available from the Society at 900 First Avenue, New York 10022, at a cost of \$1.00 including postage. The booklet includes sample letters to agencies.

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Wildlife conservation authorities in both Thailand and Indonesia have vetoed the establishment of breeding colonies to produce infant gibbons for export to the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). In return for gibbons, NIH offered to provide money for conservation activities in both countries.

Gibbons have been totally protected in both Indonesia and Thailand for many years and their commercial export banned. Until recently, some gibbons smuggled out of their countries of origin reached the U.S.A. in spite of this protective legislation. This can be attributed to the high prices (up to \$1,000) paid for gibbons on the international black market. Some of these smuggled gibbons were destined for NIH contracting agencies, including the Comparative Oncology Laboratory, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California at Davis, a National Cancer Institute contractee. During the time that gibbons were available through the black market, NIH did not propose the establishment of breeding colonies. Such proposals coincided with the cessation of the illegal importation of gibbons into the U.S.A. This cessation resulted from the following:

- 1) The listing of all gibbon species on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and on the U.S. Endangered Species List,

- 2) The apparent closing of the "Singapore Connection" (see "Singapore Tightens Wildlife Controls," this issue), and

- 3) The exposure of the series of illegal gibbon shipments from Thailand to the Comparative Oncology Laboratory at the University of California at Davis, which resulted in stricter law enforcement at both Thai and U.S. ends.

With continued smuggling out of the question, it appears that NIH has had to resort to a subterfuge, euphemistically called "conservation" in an attempt to obtain gibbons.

At the present time, there appear to be at least 70 gibbons in NIH-financed laboratories in the United States. The National Cancer Institute supports large colonies of gibbons at the Comparative Oncology Laboratory, University of California at Davis and the Bionetics Laboratory in Kensington, Maryland. These animals are presumably being used in a relatively discriminating way, at least until more gibbons become available. It was with the purpose of acquiring more gibbons for the National Cancer Institute that Benjamin Blood, D.V.M., Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Primate Steering Committee, visited Thailand and Indonesia in February 1976. The Committee has as its main purpose facilitating primate procurement for U.S. government agencies using primates, and is under the chairmanship of Joe Held, D.V.M.

THAILAND

In Thailand, Dr. Blood first contacted Dr. Joseph T. Marshall of the U.S. Army Medical Component in Thailand. The U.S. Army Gibbon Laboratory (SEATO Medical Research Lab.) is one unit of this component. Dr. Marshall introduced Dr. Blood to Dr. Warren Brockelman, an American lecturer in the Department of Biology at Mahidol University, Bangkok, who had formerly been associated with the U.S. Army Gibbon Laboratory. Dr. Blood indicated NIH's interest in financing primate conservation in Thailand in return for a supply of infant gibbons for U.S. laboratories. Dr. Brockelman arranged for Dr. Blood to meet Thai members of the Mahidol University Biology Department: he has informed IPPL that his role during and subsequent to Blood's mission was to "help get the negotiations placed into the hands of the most responsible Thai officials, conservationists, and scientists." Dr. Blood also met officials of Thailand's Wildlife Conservation Division, Royal Forest Department, and won the support of the leader of the Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, the only one of Thailand's many conservation groups likely to support modification of Thailand's export ban on gibbons.

Shortly after Dr. Blood's departure from Thailand, a meeting was held at Mahidol University attended by Drs. Marshall and Brockelman and 7 Thais, these latter being an official of the U.S. Army Medical Component (Thai Section), the Director of the National Laboratory Animal Center, two university professors, and 3 employees of the Royal Forestry Department. Such groups as Friends of the Earth (Thailand), the Society to Conserve our National Treasure and Environment (SCONTE), and the large student groups were apparently not invited to attend: these groups would certainly have opposed any suggestion for a project involving export of gibbons. No primatologist was among those present. At the meeting

it was decided that Thailand should establish a "National Committee on Primate Research and Conservation" to make policy and plans to develop primate research in Thailand. Drs. Brockelman and Marshall and an employee of the Royal Forestry Department were selected to draft a grant proposal in accordance with Dr. Blood's request, even though the proposed committee had no official authorization to take over the formulation or execution of primate policy for Thailand: this authority lies in the hands of the Wildlife Conservation Division, and any project involving purchase, possession, or export of gibbons could not be initiated without the Department's consent. It is significant that previous illegal exportations of gibbons from Thailand to the U.S.A. were not mentioned at the meeting, although both Americans present were familiar with the incidents. However, it is possible that, had the committee been briefed on the episodes involving the Comparative Oncology Laboratory, and the fact that no action had been taken against the importing laboratory by U.S. law enforcement authorities or NIH, it would have been less willing to negotiate a project to supply NIH with still more gibbons.

The Subcommittee of three proceeded to draft a proposal, although it appears that the Thai member did not play a role in the drafting process, leaving it entirely in the hands of the Americans. The proposal called for the establishment of a colony of 200 gibbons.

Production of 50 infants a year was anticipated, even though gibbons are known to breed poorly in captivity. Of these 50 infants, 30 would be exported to NIH at a cost of U.S. \$150 per gibbon, a "bargain" compared with the price of \$1,000 per gibbon offered by NIH in 1975 (see "Contract for 30 Gibbons not Filled," this issue). The original 200 gibbons would be acquired from private owners and the U.S. Army, which had in its possession at the time about 30 survivors of a gibbon colony which once numbered 200. In return for its cooperation, Thailand would receive NIH assistance in conservation projects.

Although the draft proposal is confused, four separate programs can be disentangled, 1) a breeding program to produce infant gibbons for export, 2) a rehabilitation program for former captive gibbons, 3) an educational program to train Thais in primatology, and 4) a conservation program. However, the draft budget attached to the proposal suggests that the last 3 programs may be primarily "window-dressing" for the first, since no funds were proposed for rehabilitation of gibbons, training of Thais, or conservation. The only items budgeted for were the gibbon breeding colony and a survey. The budget was, according to Dr. Brockelman, "put together in great haste by Dr. Joe Marshall and Albert New . . . I had not even seen it." (Dr. Albert New of NIH visited Thailand in August 1976 to expedite the project: however, he denies any role in drafting the budget). The budget showed clear signs of hasty preparation. For example, the sum allocated for feeding 200 adult gibbons was \$1500 per year, or U.S. \$0.02 (2 cents) per gibbon per day, a completely inadequate sum. In contrast, \$2,000 was allocated to "feed" fuel to one truck. The American project director was to be paid U.S. \$25,000, while 14 Thai employees were to share \$22,000. After 3 years, NIH funding was to stop. The assumption was that funding would materialize, or that sufficient money could be made from the sale of gibbons to medical research establishments to pay for the upkeep of the colony, both very tenuous assumptions.

To IPPL, the establishment of any colony of animals without permanent funding appears negligent and irresponsible. NIH has already dropped funding for the Tigoni Primate Center in Kenya, which has breeding colonies of several African primate species. The fate of the Center is still unresolved.

At this point, a concerned Thai conservationist felt that it was necessary to send a copy of the gibbon breeding proposal and supporting documents for an outside opinion of the project's merits. As a consequence, a preliminary critique of the draft proposal appeared in the *Bangkok Post* on 28 August 1976. The resulting controversy over the project led to the abandonment of the initial proposal. Pong Leng-EE, Chief of Wildlife Conservation in Thailand, has informed proponents of the project and IPPL that Thailand will not permit export of gibbons to NIH. In fact, export of all primates from Thailand was banned from 1 March 1976, and remains banned, according to Khun Pong. However, there are no grounds for complacency. Proponents of exploitation of gibbons are working on a new proposal, which includes "gibbon breeding and management," and it is likely that NIH will seek to generate pressures on other agencies of the Thai Government in order to obtain approval of a rewritten proposal.

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INDONESIA

In February 1977 Dr. Blood visited Indonesia on his quest for gibbons. There he appeared to have adopted a different, "tougher" approach. IPPL has obtained a copy of a "Record" of a meeting held at the Institute of Biology in Bogor, Indonesia, on 7 February 1976. This "Record" was typed by Blood at the American Embassy, Djakarta, Indonesia, which extended him full support. Those present at the meeting were Dr. Blood, the Director of Indonesia's National Institute of Biology and her assistant, the Director of Conservation in Indonesia, the Director of the Bogor Museum, two animal exporters, and Dr. Wendell Wilson of the Washington Regional Primate Center. Until recently, Dr. Wilson was studying the effects of logging on Indonesian primates at the expense of the Weyerhaeuser Foundation. The Weyerhaeuser Logging Company is reported to be the biggest commercial exploiter of forests inhabited by gibbons in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of the island of Borneo.

According to the "Record, initial discussion at the meeting in Bogor centered on Indonesia's general "needs" in respect to primates, including field studies of ecological adaptation and population dynamics, support for primate conservation activities, and provision of primates for research purposes. Discussion appears to have zeroed in on the availability of primates, specifically gibbons, for biomedical research. This can be assumed to be a U.S. rather than an Indonesian priority. According to the "Record," "it was recognized" that all the aforementioned aspects of conservation required attention, but that, "it was not realistic to attempt all at once, or for all species." Therefore, "it was decided" that work should start with the establishment of gibbon breeding colonies to supply gibbons for U.S. research programs. Three components of a program that might win U.S. financial support were enumerated, presumably by Dr. Blood. These were identified as:

- 1) "developing a reserve area (either an island or other demarcated tract) for the breeding of gibbons"
- 2) "breeding of gibbons in pens (sic) or cages, both in Indonesia and the U.S.A."
- 3) "capture and utilization or rehabilitation of gibbons in areas where the destruction of forest habitat . . . will inevitably cause their destruction"

Dr. Blood, apparently feeling confident of the meeting's support for his approach, commented: "I agreed to explore the possibilities for financial support in the U.S. for this project." The next step, he said, was to send a mission consisting of 2 or 3 consultants to Indonesia to draft plans and develop a budget. These consultants were to visit Indonesia "as early as May (but not) later than early in July." Again, NIH appears to be trying to get a hasty decision from a country in which it wishes to procure gibbons. NIH did not appear interested in long-term financing of the project. Likewise, Blood stated "it could at least be partly supported after the first few years by income from gibbons made available for research."

In contrast to his apparently careful handling of Thai contacts, Dr. Blood stated firmly to Indonesian representatives at the meeting that "It must be understood and agreed by all concerned that some gibbons will be made available for research in the U.S."

In several ways, the NIH activities in Indonesia are more dangerous than those in Thailand. The Indonesian project would involve capture of animals from the wild, and, therefore, might possibly become a front for illegal trafficking in gibbons poached in the wild and exported as project gibbons. It is not stated who would select the gibbons to be caught for the project. It would be very difficult to keep track of which gibbons were to be rehabilitated, exported, or utilized. In addition, the goodwill that surrounds the orang-utan rehabilitation projects in Indonesia would not surround any gibbon project which involved export of and experimentation on gibbons. Owners of pet gibbons would be unlikely to cooperate with any such project by donating animals, this making it *entirely* dependent on capture of animals from the wild.

An Indonesian conservationist has made the following comments on the NIH activities:

This is a most unfortunate situation. On one hand, foreign experts severely criticize (our) government for not strictly enforcing nature protection laws, and then, on the other hand, equally reputable foreign agencies offer large sums of money so that these same laws can be circumvented and protected animals be exported and used for medical research. People . . . here . . . agree that this program would just become a smoke-screen for catching and exporting wild-caught gibbons . . . we have one well-known animal dealer involved in this scheme. I need not spell out for you the dangerous consequences for nature protection in this country if this project goes through.

Although the Blood "Record" of the meeting with Indonesians at Bogor gives the impression that there was unanimous approval for NIH plans, an Indonesian conservationist has informed IPPL that this was a misunderstanding on Blood's part. Indonesian wildlife conservation authorities have, in fact, vetoed any project on the lines outlined by Blood. However, as in the case of Thailand, there can be no grounds for complacency. NIH is reported to be trying to further its designs by bypassing the Indonesian wildlife authorities and seeking support within the Indonesian biomedical community.

COMMENTS

IPPL would be pleased to see NIH finance conservation programs in accordance with the wishes of habitat countries. For example, Indonesia is planning a series of rain-forest national parks and Thailand is attempting to strengthen the protection of its national parks and wildlife sanctuaries as well as improve training programs and equipment for wildlife officers and rangers. It would be most appropriate for NIH to support unconditionally programs in Indonesia and Thailand which will contribute to the preservation of primates and their habitats. Both Thailand and Indonesia urgently need funds for conservation activities. Both countries have extremely diverse and rich fauna and flora which are relatively unstudied, and forest habitats are disappearing at an alarming rate. Sound academic and technical programs in ecology and animal behavior should be instituted as soon as possible. Threatened species should be bred in captivity where required, but strictly for the purpose of preserving the species. However, Thailand and Indonesia should not allow themselves to be coerced into modifying their long-standing policies of total protection for gibbons in order to obtain support for vital conservation activities.

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"I have come to the conclusion, gentlemen, that a drug is any substance which, when injected into a rodent, produces a paper."

461972
~~sec 1976~~

RANGERS KILLED IN THAI PARK

Two game wardens, Boonchuay Thangthong, 32 years old, and Charuay Klinpan, 27 years old, were killed in Ramkamhaeng National Park, Thailand, on 16 January 1977. They were riding on a motorcycle from their office in the park to a road construction site. Three kilometers from their office, they were shot with M16 machine guns. Park authorities had recently arrested several wildlife poachers in the park and taken action to prevent illegal timber cutting. Ramkamhaeng National Park had only 9 wardens to protect 350 square kilometers of land.

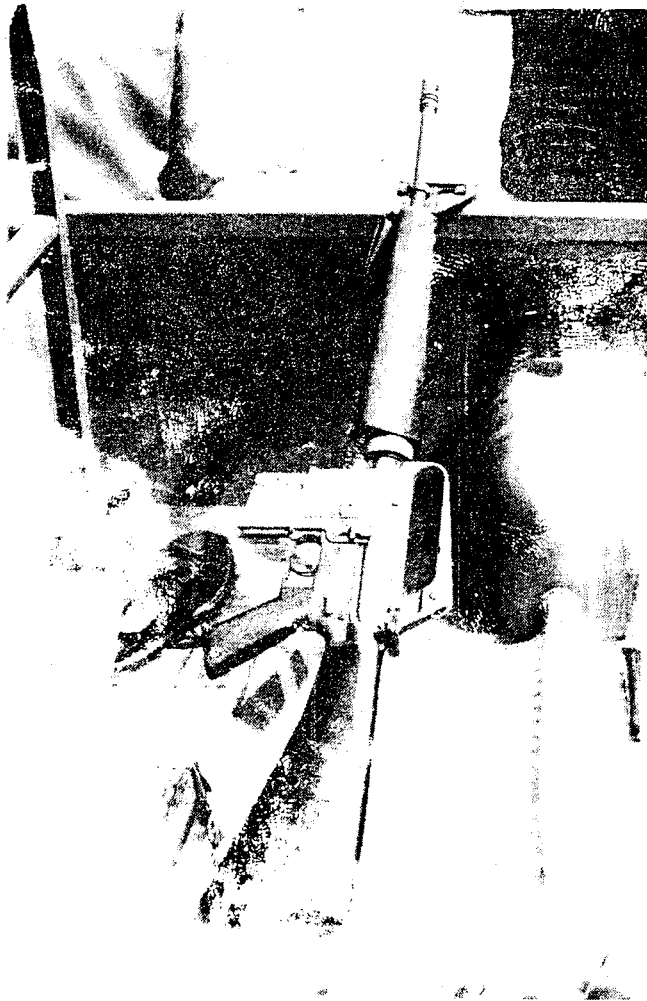
This incident, which is one of many such incidents in recent years in Thailand, further emphasizes the undesirability of agencies such

as the National Cancer Institute issuing high-priced contracts for animals not legally available, (see "Contract for 30 Gibbons not filled," this issue). The end-result of such contracts may well be premature death for rangers trying to protect wildlife against poachers, or rangers not daring to leave the park headquarters to do their work.

The incident also raises questions about whether NIH's view of primate conservation priorities for Thailand and Indonesia (counting primates and partial legalization of gibbon capture and export) has any relevance whatever to the real needs of Thailand and Indonesia at this time.



Thai Poacher



And Gun

CONVENTION NEWS

In November 1976 a meeting of Convention member countries was held in Berne, Switzerland. It was decided to move chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and Pygmy chimpanzees (*Pan paniscus*) from Appendix II of the Convention to Appendix I. (Appendix I is for species in immediate danger of extinction and Appendix II for species not yet close to extinction but likely to become so if trade is not strictly regulated). The Convention members also voted that all primate species not on Appendix I should be placed on Appendix II of the Convention, in spite of opposition from biomedical interests.

Seven more countries have joined the 26 already implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. They are Australia, India, Iran, Norway, the United Kingdom, the USSR, and Zaire.

Among major wildlife importing countries which have failed to join the Convention are France, Japan, and the Netherlands. Enforcement of the Convention is complicated by the fact that several primate habitat countries have not joined the Convention: these include Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

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HELP SAVE THAILAND'S KHAO YAI PARK

IPPL has received an urgent appeal from the Friends of the Khao Yai National Park Association, Bangkok, Thailand, to help preserve the integrity of beautiful Khao Yai (Big Mountain) National Park, one of the finest national parks in Asia.

The park is threatened by a plan to construct two large dams within its borders and a third on the periphery. A similar plan was proposed several years ago, but dropped at the last minute, after construction camps had already been built.

Khao Yai National Park contains several primate species, including the highly endangered Pileated gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*) and the white-handed gibbon (*Hylobates lar*). These species are on both the U.S. Endangered Species List and Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Khao Yai park also contains langurs, macaques, and lorises.

The construction of the proposed dams would essentially destroy Khao Yai National Park (as well as watershed) by almost splitting it in two, making exchange of animals between north and south areas almost impossible and reducing the area available for wildlife. Construction of access roads would open up large areas of the park to log and wildlife poachers. Once an access road is built in Thailand, illegal side roads spring up on both sides, and this means the end of the forest and its wildlife.

Concerned individuals and organizations in all countries are urged to write separate letters to one or all of the following officials requesting that the forest and wildlife of Khao Yai Park not be jeopardized by dam construction:

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej
Chitrlada Palace
Rajvithi Road
Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Tanin Kraivixen
Prime Minister
Bangkok
Thailand

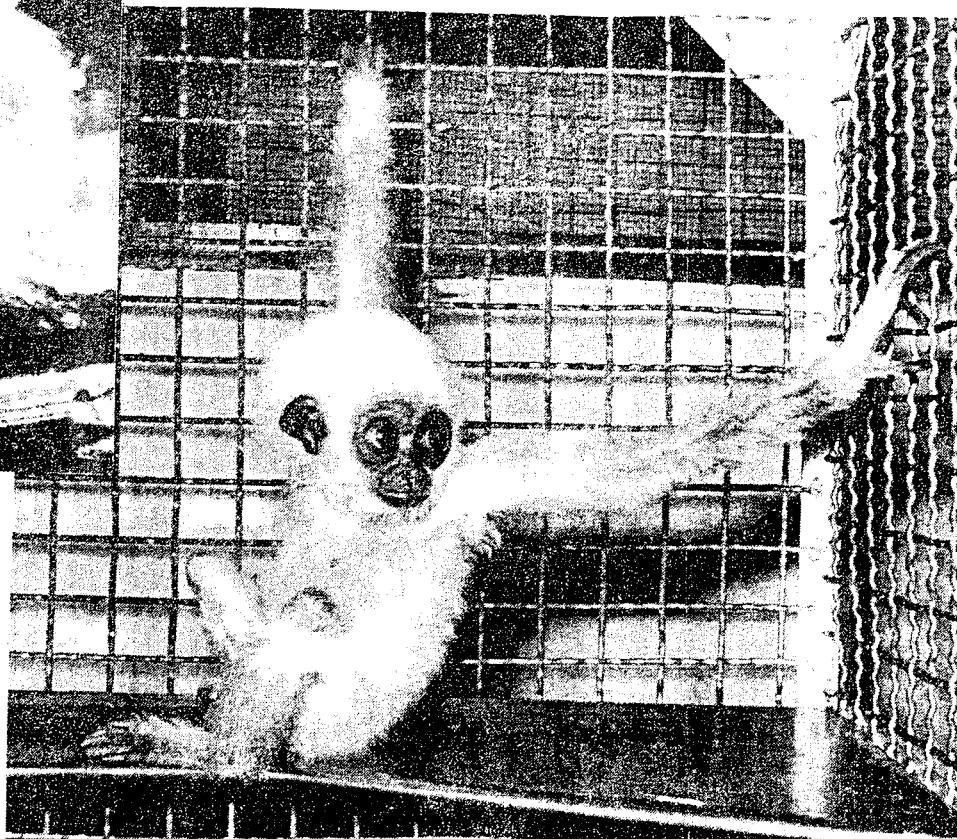
The Director-General
Royal Forestry Department
Phaholyothin Road
Bangkhen, Bangkok
Thailand

Letters should also be addressed to the Thai Ambassador in the capital city of your country of residence.

Please do not postpone this opportunity to save the lives of thousands of primates. Write today!



Pileated Gibbon



White-handed Gibbon

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Addressing the Conservation Symposium at the Sixth Congress of the International Primatological Society held in Cambridge, England, in August 1976, Dr. S.M. Mohnot, IPPL Representative for Central and West India, called for a moratorium on the export of Rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) from India. Dr. Mohnot stated that the export of hundreds of thousands of Rhesus monkeys from India in recent decades has seriously affected Rhesus monkey populations, and that, pending a thorough review of the entire situation, no more Rhesus monkeys should be exported.

BANGLA DESH TO EXPORT MONKEYS

The *Wall Street Journal* (22 November 1976) carried an article with the headline "Bangla Desh Wants to Get into the Monkey Business." Since its separation from Pakistan in 1971, Bangla Desh has protected its wildlife, in spite of country's grinding poverty. However, according to the *Journal*, "Bangla Desh is anxious to develop exports and the U.S. is eager to find new sources of Rhesus monkeys."

The negotiations on the U.S. side are in the hands of Dennis Johnsen D.V.M. of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Johnsen is Executive Secretary of the Primate Research Advisory Committee and the Animal Resources Advisory Committee, a position to which he was appointed in 1976 after many years with the U.S. Army's Medical Research and Development Command. This period included several years with the Army's controversial gibbon laboratory in Bangkok, which appears to have been involved in questionable export of gibbons and research on gibbons. (See IPPL *Newsletter*, October 1975, "This Month's Award," which tells how Dr. Johnsen led a research team which sacrificed three juvenile female gibbons in a dog heartworm experiment.)

Dr. Johnsen visited Bangla Desh to arrange for a survey of Rhesus monkeys, which, he says, "will probably be undertaken by primate experts from Johns Hopkins University under an NIH contract." Johnsen is also drawing up a tentative agreement with the Government of Bangla Desh for long-term supply of Rhesus monkeys to the United States. Dr. Johnsen is quoted as saying, "This is the first country that has given us the invitation to do what we've wanted to do in several countries, that is, to survey the availability of the animals."

WANTED

An Indian magazine has asked IPPL to supply color and black and white photographs of Rhesus monkeys in laboratory situations, including restraint apparatus.

Please send photographs to IPPL, P.O. Box 9086, Berkeley, CA 94709. Please indicate any credit line you wish, and provide a caption.

IPPL "HOT LINE"

Frequently, events affecting primate well-being occur between publication of *Newsletters*. We are therefore compiling a list of people in all countries who are willing to write letters of praise or protest on behalf of primates at short notice. Please contact either our U.S. or U.K. office if you are willing to help. Please provide your telephone number.

REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Reprints of IPPL's *Special Report* on "Chimpanzee Rehabilitation," which tells of Stella Brewer and Raffaella Savirelli's work retraining captive chimpanzees to live in the wild, are available from IPPL's U.S. office for \$1.00 and from our British office for 50 pence. Discounts are available on bulk orders for classroom use or other purposes.

NEXT IPPL NEWSLETTER

The next IPPL *Newsletter* will tell you about the plight of a complete troop of 185 Japanese macaques moved to Texas from Japan, but now offered for sale by their deceased owner's widow.

There will also be an article about a half-million-dollar National Science Foundation-sponsored project in Spain, in which gibbons and monkeys are receiving brain implants to modify aggressive behavior in preparation for use of simular devices on humans one day, bringing the "Brave New World" a step closer.

Don't forget to renew your membership or subscription if it is overdue. Remember, all contributions are tax-deductible.

The U.S. Interagency Primate Steering Committee has developed new criteria regarding the use of primates in scientific research which it hopes will be adopted by all agencies of the US government performing or funding research on primates. These criteria are:

- 1) that the research proposed can be done best with primates, i.e., that no other known system or other kind of animal could produce comparable results,
- 2) that the species of primate chosen is the most appropriate, and that a more plentiful species would not be adequate,
- 3) that the number of primates used is the minimum that will produce acceptable results,
- 4) that the primates will not be sacrificed during or at the end of studies except where termination is part of the investigation, and,
- 5) that, if sacrifice is deemed necessary, body material will be shared where feasible.

One would have liked to think that researchers and funding agencies would have been observing these criteria all along, and not inflicting unnecessary death and suffering on primates (or any other animals). The fact that it was necessary to develop these criteria shows that unnecessary killing of primates, inappropriate use of rare species, and excessive sample sizes are serious problems. It is a positive step that this has been officially recognized: it remains to be seen whether the criteria will be enforced or remain just a "piece of paper."

MONKEYS AND COCAINE

The Chicago *Sun-Times* (24 October 1976) carried an article with the headline "Seductive Cocaine Takes Monkeys on a One-way Trip." The story, written by William Braden, told how researchers at the University of Chicago School of Medicine have been studying the effects of cocaine on Rhesus monkeys. According to the article, the monkeys are attached by tubing to an abundant supply of cocaine. By pressing a lever, they can activate a pump that injects the drug. The article notes that cocaine stimulates activity, and that lever-pressing is an activity: thus, the monkeys may be pressing the lever to relieve boredom rather than to get another dose of cocaine. The monkeys, according to the article, overdose, develop convulsions, and die. The researchers are quoted as saying that monkeys are not humans, and thus their reactions to drugs may differ from those of humans, and that, further, reactions of individual humans to drugs like cocaine differ according to culture and social conditions. Getting monkeys to take marijuana, heroin, LSD, cocaine, alcohol, and other drugs, and then withdrawing the drugs, is carried on at many universities, since funding is relatively easy to obtain. Whether the work has any applicability or value to humans is questionable. Therefore, whether humans should inflict their addictions on other primates becomes an important ethical question.

NOBEL PRIZE FOR KURU RESEARCH

The IPPL *Newsletter* (September 1976) told how researchers at the National Institute for Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NIH) had inoculated 126 chimpanzees with kuru, a fatal neurological disease caused by cannibalism, which is disappearing rapidly with the enforcement of laws against cannibalism in New Guinea.

This research was awarded a half-share of the Nobel Prize for Medicine this year on the grounds that it might one day help explain other diseases in which a "slow virus" might be implicated.

The Nobel Prize for Medicine is adjudicated by the Royal Carolinne Institute in Sweden, a medical institute which receives substantial grants from the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Researchers are nominated by their institutions, and the Institute selects the winners. IPPL has contacted the Institute to enquire whether such criteria as sample size and species selection are taken into consideration in awarding prizes for research which involves the destruction of animals.

Both *Time* and *Newsweek* carried articles about the awards. Both failed to publish an IPPL response in their "Letters to the Editor" section.

"SIMIAN" REFUSES BRONSON ADVERTISING

The IPPL *Newsletter* (September 1976) described Y. Bronson, an animal dealer who opposed the addition of the chimpanzee to the U.S. Endangered List, as an advertiser in the *Simian*, the monthly magazine of the Simian Society of America. Ms. Madelyn Darrow, a member of the Simian Society, has informed IPPL that the Board of Directors of the Simian Society decided at its August 1974 Board meeting to refuse to accept further advertising from Bronson, in view of loss of primate life in shipment, and depletion of wild populations. Bronson used to advertise baby chimpanzees and monkeys as pets.

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*IPPL INVESTIGATOR FINDS
OVER 1000 COLOBUS MONKEY SKINS IN NAIROBI
TOURIST SHOPS*

The Black and White Colobus monkey (*Colobus guereza*) has a beautiful coat which almost caused this spectacular primate to be wiped out around the turn of the century, when "monkey fur" was the fashion rage. Now, with large numbers of tourists visiting East Africa, the Colobus skin trade has sprung to life again. Skins are sold openly in the souvenir shops of Nairobi. Usually, several skins are stitched together to make attractive rugs. An IPPL investigator visiting Nairobi recently performed a survey of the number of skins available. The resulting report is a cause for great concern about the future of the Black and White Colobus monkey if trade continues at its current level.

IPPL's investigator listed the following Colobus products, which he feels may be the "tip of an iceberg," since many skins are stored in warehouses and the back rooms of shops.

- Equatorial Crafts: 2 rugs of 18 skins, 8 rugs of 8 skins, over 100 single skins
- Jems and Jewels: 20 single skins, many immature
- Kenya Souvenirs and Crafts: 21 rugs of 5 skins, 24 single skins
- Metameta Africa Company: 18 rugs of 5 skins
- Zanzibar Curio Shop: 1 rug of 11 skins, 14 rugs of 8 skins, many single skins
- Arts 68: 6 rugs of 8 skins, 8 single skins
- Handicraft Center: 4 rugs of 15 skins, 5 rugs of 6 skins
- Zimmerman: 1 rug of 11 skins
- Jewels and Antiques: 1 rug of 21 skins, 12 rugs of 5 skins, 6 single skins
- Treasures and Crafts: 36 rugs of 5 skins, 1 coat made of 8 skins
- S.M. Maina Crafts: 4 rugs of 5 skins, at least 50 single skins
- Kenya Crafts: huge piles of single skins

The investigator reports that the buyers he observed were mainly American and German.

Many of these skins do not originate in Kenya, where the hunting of Colobus monkeys is regulated. In an effort to determine the source of the skins, an IPPL representative visited Mr. Fikre Morian Demeke, administrative manager of Ethiopia's Wildlife Division. Mr. Demeke stated that the Colobus monkey has the status of "Protected Animal" in Ethiopia: both hunting of Colobus monkeys and possession of their skins are forbidden. If found, skins are confiscated and the owner fined. After being branded and numbered, such confiscated skins are sold through government-

licensed shops in Addis Ababa, and can only be exported on production of an official export license. However, Mr. Demeke noted that Ethiopia's game areas are not sufficiently protected and that large-scale poaching occurs. He candidly admitted that truckloads of Colobus skins are regularly smuggled to Nairobi, Djibouti, and other points, with bribes being paid along the way.

As early as 1974, Mr. Lealem Berhanu, of Ethiopia's Wildlife Division, addressing the Fifth Congress of the International Primatological Society, stated that the skin trade has severely depleted Colobus monkey populations in Ethiopia with some areas now being devoid of the species.

In November 1976, the Black and White Colobus monkey was added to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. This means that Colobus monkey products cannot be imported from Kenya to any Convention signatory nation without either (a) an official export certificate from Kenya if the monkeys were shot in Kenya or (b) an official re-export permit from Kenya based on proof of legal export from Ethiopia or any other country of origin. Without such permits, purchasers of Colobus products living in Convention signatory nations would be liable to seizure of the goods and legal penalties on their return home.

Problems in enforcement can be anticipated since the average Customs officer has no idea what a Colobus skin looks like, and the average tourist has never heard of the Convention. In order to facilitate enforcement, IPPL has contacted the U.S., British, Swiss, German, and other Customs Departments, as well as various embassies in Nairobi, informing them of the new regulations. A notification has been sent to all known Nairobi traders on Colobus skins. Letters have been sent to conservation and travel magazines, as well as travel trade professional journals and associations, and travel companies sponsoring tours to East Africa.

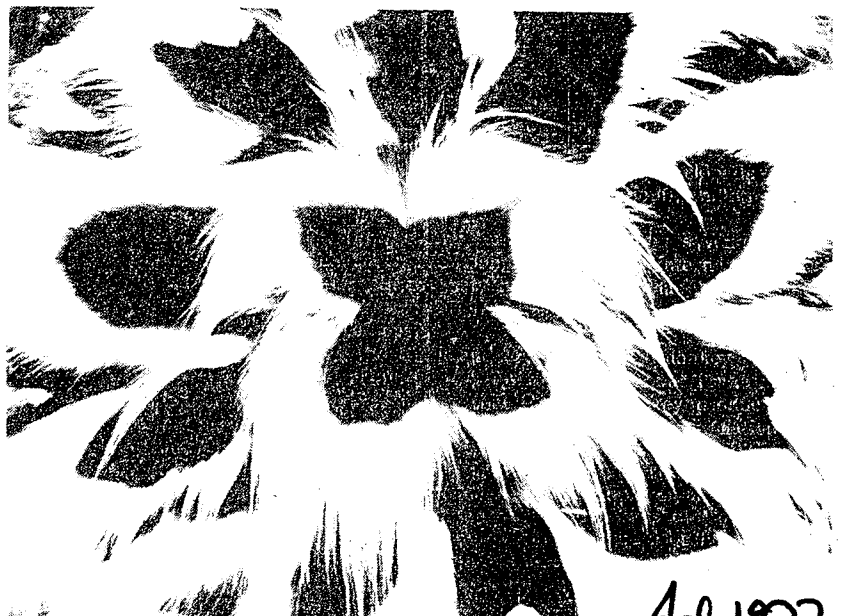
Should IPPL members and friends visit Kenya and see Colobus skins for sale in tourist shops, they are requested not to make purchases at the establishment, and inform the management why they are taking their patronage elsewhere.

It is evident that, since the skins of Ethiopian and Kenyan *Colobus guereza* are identical in appearance, adequate enforcement will depend on securing the cooperation of Kenyan authorities in refusing export permits for skins not of Kenyan origin, or illegally acquired within Kenya.

Further developments will be reported in future IPPL *Newsletters*.



Colobus monkeys



Colobus rug

Feb 1977
Dec 1976

**"MONITOR" OPPOSES SAN DIEGO ZOO APPLICATION
TO IMPORT PROBOSCIS MONKEYS**

The U.S. *Federal Register* (30 September 1976) reported that the San Diego Zoo had applied for permission to import 6 subadult female Proboscis monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*), to be caught from the wild. Since the Proboscis monkey is on the U.S. Endangered List, a permit is required for its importation. All applications must be published in the *Federal Register* to give interested parties an opportunity to comment.

The San Diego application was opposed by "Monitor," a Washington-based coalition of environmental and animal welfare groups in which IPPL participates. Organizations opposing the application included the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, the Humane Society of the United States, the Fund for Animals, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (USA), Friends of the Earth, Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, the Environmental Policy Center, and IPPL.

Currently, the San Diego Zoo has two Proboscis monkeys, a male 12 years old and one of his offspring, a male born in 1971. Of the 8 Proboscis monkeys imported since 1959 by the San Diego Zoo, 3 died within a year of their arrival, and another survived only 1½ years. One female produced 3 live infants, and died in 1975 after 14 years in San Diego, the longevity record for captive Proboscis monkeys. The other two imported females died without producing offspring. Four Proboscis monkeys, including 2 of the infants born at San Diego, died of cryptococcosis, a fungal disease spread by pigeons. (Although the San Diego Zoo has a pigeon control program, pigeons still persist in areas of the zoo.)

With its application the San Diego Zoo enclosed two letters from Rudolf Fauna, an Indonesian animal dealer, the zoo's intended supplier. The first letter dated 22 May 1976 offered other endangered species for sale in addition to Proboscis monkeys and noted that the company was in the process of supplying 2 male and 3 female Proboscis monkeys to the Banham Zoo in England, for which the required British import permit had already been granted.

The second letter dated 5 July 1976 stated that Rudolf Fauna represented the Gembira Lake Zoological Gardens in Jogjakarta, Indonesia, and continued:

We have our agents-catchers at Borneo who will supply us the monkeys. But once the export-import permit has been issued, we must go ourself to Borneo at your expense to select the best, top, and healthy ones, for we cannot rely upon our suppliers over there.

Monitor's statement of opposition emphasised the following points:

- 1) Although the number of Proboscis monkeys in the wild is not known, the species is known to be declining in numbers.
- 2) The Proboscis monkey has a highly specialised diet and is difficult to keep alive in captivity.
- 3) Rudolf Fauna had informed the San Diego Zoo that it would be unable to insure the animals in shipment, an indication that the company knew that some of the monkeys would be likely to die in transit. (The journey from Borneo to San Diego would involve at least 2 transshipments.)
- 4) Proboscis monkeys live in trees and are hard to catch. Several animals would probably be lost for each one that survived. Since Rudolf's talked of selecting only "the best, the top, the healthy" it appears that many monkeys would have to be captured to enable the company to select the best specimens. (Rudolf's did not specify what would happen to captured males.)
- 5) The captive breeding record of Proboscis monkeys is poor.
- 6) Granting of the permit might encourage poaching and unscrupulous animal trafficking.

7) The fact that the San Diego Zoo had recently sold an endangered White-cheeked gibbon (*Hylobates concolor*) to the Comparative Oncology Laboratory of the University of California at Davis raises questions about the depth of the zoo's commitment to the preservation of endangered species.

8) To permit the destruction of a large number of animals belonging to an endangered species in order to fill this order would be contrary to the intent of the Endangered Species Act.

A ruling has not yet been made on San Diego's application. The final decision will be reported in the IPPL *Newsletter*.

NOTE: IPPL has learned that the British Department of the Environment did issue an import permit to a British zoo for 5 Proboscis monkeys to be supplied by Rudolf's. In response to an enquiry from Mr. Cyril Rosen, IPPL's British representative, Mr. R. Griffiths, Permit Officer at the Department of the Environment, stated that the permit was granted because the (unspecified) zoo had had breeding success with (unnamed) "similar species" to the Proboscis monkey, and, in any case, the animals had been in an (unidentified) Indonesian zoo prior to the Endangered Species Convention. Mr. Rosen is not satisfied with this explanation and is pursuing the matter further.



Proboscis monkey

A MAN-GORILLA HYBRID?

Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, Director of the Yerkes Regional Primate Center, Atlanta, Georgia, appeared on the "Johnny Carson" TV show on 7 July 1976. Dr. Bourne showed movies he had taken of performing gorillas at the Nagoya Zoo. Under the direction of their Japanese trainer, the gorillas, each weighing around 300 pounds, carried out a variety of stunts, including forming a band composed of percussion, harmonica, and trombone. Afterwards, conversation turned to the sex life of the gorilla, and Dr. Bourne remarked, "Anatomically speaking, any woman run off with by a gorilla would

be very disappointed." Now it appears that this comment may be more than the joke it appeared to be. The *Sunday Times* of London (29 August 1976) reported Dr. Bourne as saying that he hoped to produce a chimpanzee-gorilla hybrid later this year, and possibly a human-gorilla hybrid at a later date. In the latter context, Dr. Bourne commented: "From a scientific point of view, it would be incredibly intriguing, but I wonder whether I have the moral right to bring a creature into the world that would be neither fish nor fowl."

Doc-1236
Feb 1977

**STOCKPILING OF CHIMPANZEES
AND COTTONTOP MARMOSETS PRECEDES
THEIR ADDITION TO U.S. ENDANGERED LIST**

The IPPL Newsletter (September 1976) told how 27 primate species had been proposed for addition to the U.S. Endangered List. In the *Federal Register* (19 October 1976), it was announced that 26 of the proposed species had been listed (see table below).

Endangered Status

Cottontop marmoset (*Saguinus oedipus*)
Pied Tamarin (*Saguinus bicolor*)
Yellow-tailed woolly monkey (*Lagothrix flavicauda*)
Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus diana*)
Red-eared nose-spotted monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrotis*)
L'Hoest's monkey (*Cercopithecus lhoesti*)
White-collared mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*)
Black colobus (*Colobus satanas*)
Mandrill (*Papio sphinx*)
Drill (*Papio leucophaeus*)
Francois' Leaf monkey (*Prestbytis francoisi*)
Red-bellied monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*)

Threatened Status

Lesser slow loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*)
Phillipine tarsier (*Tarsius syrichta*)
White-footed tamarin (*Saguinus leucopus*)
Black howler monkey (*Alouatta nigra*)
Stumptail macaque (*Macaca arctoides*)
Gelada (*Theropithecus gelada*)
Formosan rock macaque (*Macaca cyclopis*)
Japanese macaque (*Macaca fuscata*)
Toque macaque (*Macaca sinica*)
Long-tailed langur (*Prestbytis potenziani*)
Purple-faced langur (*Prestbytis senex*)
Tomkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*)
Pygmy chimpanzee (*Pan paniscus*)
Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)

The squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*) was the only one of the original 27 proposed species not added to the Endangered List. Heavy opposition came from animal dealers and biomedical users of the species. The *Federal Register* noted that "extensive data" opposing the listing of the squirrel monkey had been received from the "Committee on Conservation of Nonhuman Primates" of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences. (This Committee's name has since been changed to "Committee on Nonhuman Primates"). A statement of

opposition also came from Bolivia's Center for Forest Development: it noted that Bolivia did not export primates until 1974, when it began to export marmosets, owl monkeys, squirrel monkeys, and other species, to the United States, Europe, and Japan. (The beginning of Bolivia's lucrative primate trade coincided with the export bans instituted by Peru, Brazil, and Colombia, and allegations have been made that Bolivia has been exporting primates poached in Brazil and Peru.) The statement noted that Pan American Health Organization-sponsored studies by Drs. Heltne, Freese, and Whitesides of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A., had confirmed the feasibility of harvesting Bolivian squirrel monkeys for biomedical research, and that "Bolivia would like to provide (squirrel monkeys) to laboratories, universities, and zoos." Bolivia therefore opposed the addition of the squirrel monkey to the U.S. Endangered List.

Stockpiling of the proposed species in anticipation of their listing continued till the last minute. A pricelist issued in August 1976 by the International Animal Exchange, an animal dealer in Ferndale, Michigan, announced: "MUST SELL IMMEDIATELY—CALL COLLECT" a large number of primates, including 6 male and 6 female chimpanzees, all weighing between 15 and 30 pounds, at a price of U.S. \$2,000 per animal. No less than 37 infant chimpanzees passed through the RSPCA Hostel at London Airport in the month of June 1976. All originated in Sierra Leone and were en route to the U.S.A. (the majority to a laboratory animal supplier, Primate Imports of Port Washington, New York). Since shipments from Liberia, the other major exporter of chimpanzees, are not routed via London, it is not known how many chimpanzees entered the U.S.A. from that country, although the number is likely to be substantial.

It appears that heavy last-minute stockpiling of Cottontop marmosets also took place. Over 700 specimens were observed on the premises of 2 Miami animal dealers in October 1976: all were destined for biomedical research.

Proposal of a species for the U.S. Endangered List means that it is seriously considered to be in danger of extinction. Therefore, it would have been more in keeping with the spirit of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to include a provision that, *as soon as a species is proposed for listing, trading in it should be suspended pending the final determination*. The fact that so many last-minute orders were placed in this manner raises serious questions about the biomedical community's proclaimed commitment to conservation.

SINGAPORE TIGHTENS WILDLIFE CONTROLS

Recent IPPL Newsletters have carried accounts of the role of Singapore as a redistribution center for wildlife smuggled from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and other Asian countries. The March 1976 Newsletter listed 51 shipments of gibbons and siamangs exported from Singapore to the U.S.A. in 1973 and 1974. The September Newsletter noted Singapore's apparent refusal to change its ways or even admit that a problem existed.

Readers will, therefore, be pleased to learn that Singapore appears to be changing its policy and tightening controls on wildlife trading. In an August 1976 letter to IPPL, Dr. Siew Teck Woh, Singapore's Director of Primary Production, stated:

I am pleased to inform you that we have recently further tightened control on the import and export of wild animals in Singapore. Wild animals will only be allowed import into Singapore provided they are accompanied by an export permit from the exporting country. This will therefore ensure that only legitimate re-exports will be allowed transshipment through Singapore from its country of origin.

This change of policy was confirmed in a subsequent letter to IPPL dated 29 August 1976 from Mr. Cheng Tong Fatt, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of National Development in Singapore, of which Primary Production is a department. Mr. Cheng's letter stated in part:

I have recently met some of the animal traders and have emphasised to them the Government's concern over the illegal trade of endangered species of wild animals . . . these illicit activities could only have come to light through feedback

of organisations like yourself and ISPA (International Society for Protection of Animals). I very much appreciate the co-operation you have extended to us in the past and hope you will continue to alert us if you come into such information in the future.

Recently, IPPL's contact in Singapore visited several animal dealers' premises and observed no gibbons, siamangs, Proboscis monkeys, or Celebes macaques, the primate species most frequently trafficked through Singapore in recent years. It appears that the new policy is being enforced. IPPL's successful efforts to get the Singapore Connection closed will help not only primates, but all other mammals, birds, and reptiles formerly smuggled through Singapore to the West.

**SHUTTLEWORTH QUESTIONS NAVY ABOUT RESEARCH
ON TAIWAN MACAQUE**

Charles Shuttleworth, IPPL Representative for Taiwan, has contacted the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval Medical Research Station (NAMRU 2) in Taipei, drawing attention to the recent addition of the Formosan Rock macaque (*Macaca cyclopis*) to the U.S. Endangered List. In light of this addition, Shuttleworth asked the Commander whether the laboratory planned to continue utilizing this species in its biomedical research program. He also drew attention to the fact that it is illegal to trap wild animals in Taiwan, and that the laboratory's reported practise of buying monkeys from trappers might be illegal.

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[Dr. Rowan is Scientific Administrator of the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments.]

The nations which supply primates for the laboratories of the Western world are cutting back on their export quotas and this is leading to problems in the production and testing of vaccines, in toxicology research, and in basic research programs. The shortage was forecast several years ago by Mr. Keith Hobbs (among others) who was then working for the British Medical Research Council Laboratory Animals Center in London. It was proposed that the answer to this problem was the establishment of primate breeding programs to ensure not only adequate stocks for future research but also the provision of "cleaner" animals. This solution was also suggested by the U.S. Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources in its report *Nonhuman Primates* (1975).

Although it is certainly true that the establishment of adequate breeding colonies would be one solution to the current (and projected) shortage of primates, this is an expensive approach. FRAME suggests that another solution, namely that the research demand for primates should be reduced through the active development of viable alternative systems, would also be successful.

Almost half (47%) of the primates used in laboratories in the U.K. in 1972 were required for vaccine production and testing. Considerable advances have already been made in introducing tissue culture techniques into this field, but more could still be done. For example, the use of serially cultured cell strains, instead of primary cell culture which have to be obtained fresh from the animal, would result in some reduction in demand. In addition, more cell culture techniques for vaccine testing need to be developed.

In a different field, the owl or night monkey (*Aotus trivirgatus*) is one of the few animals which can be infected with the human malaria parasite (*Plasmodium falciparum*). However, the export of the animal for commercial research purposes has now been stopped. It is therefore most opportune that methods to cultivate the parasite in cell cultures have been developed by Drs. W. Trager and J.B. Jensen of the Rockefeller Institute in New York and by Dr. J.D. Haynes and co-workers at the Walter Reed Institute of Research in Washington. Although these cultures do not necessarily mimic the *in vivo* situation, they do constitute an important technical advance in malaria research and will reduce the demand for animal models. Similarly it may be possible to develop alternatives to other primate models; for example, hepatitis research, which is relying more and more on live primates such as marmosets and chimpanzees, urgently requires an *in vitro* system for the cultivation and growth of the virus.

The advances which have already been made constitute only a small proportion of the potential of alternative systems, particularly tissue cultures, in reducing the need for primate "models." Admittedly there are areas where the possibility of developing suitable alternatives seems to be very remote, but biomedical research has overcome greater problems in the past. As always the main problem is the allocation of money and resources.

CONTRACT FOR 30 GIBBONS NOT FILLED

The International Primate Protection League has obtained a copy of a contract between the National Cancer Institute and the New Jersey Foundation for Research in Mental Hygiene. The contract (no. NO1-CO-65319) was signed on 31 July 1976, and called for the acquisition within 4 months of 30 "juvenile gibbon primates." On delivery of these gibbons to the National Cancer Institute, the foundation would receive \$30,000.

In order to obtain the gibbons, Dr. Aristide Esser and Mr. George Nagle of the New Jersey Research Foundation planned a visit to Thailand in July 1975. The State Department made advance arrangements for the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to assist them. Yet, in spite of the high price offered for the gibbons and the high-level assistance, *no gibbons were obtained under this contract.*

The selection of the New Jersey Foundation for Research in Mental Hygiene as a go-between to procure gibbons for the National Cancer Institute is not as surprising as might appear at first glance. The Foundation was one of several organizations with interlocking personnel involved in bizarre "behavior modification" experiments carried out on gibbons on Hall's Island, Bermuda. (See *IPPL Newsletter*, March 1976). Despite Thailand's export ban on gibbons, the Hall's Island project had been able to obtain 20 gibbons in still unexplained circumstances. Ten reportedly were supplied by the U.S. Army Gibbon Laboratory in Bangkok, and ten by the Dusit Zoo, Bangkok. Apparently, the National Cancer Institute thought that Esser and Nagle had the contacts to get more gibbons.

Esser and Nagle's July visit to Bangkok was cancelled after adverse publicity in the *Bangkok Post*. It was later rescheduled, and Esser and Nagle were reported to have reserved rooms in the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok. An official of the Thai Wildlife Conservation Division contacted the hotel several times in order to inform them that the export of gibbons from Thailand was not allowed, and to ask them how they had obtained the gibbons already in their possession. However, Esser and Nagle did not arrive as planned, and the contract expired unfilled.

Although the sale of gibbons is illegal in Thailand, some trading continues on the black market. The local price of gibbons in Bangkok is around \$25-50 per animal. Yet the New Jersey Research Foundation was allotted \$1,000 for the purchase of each gibbon by the National Cancer Institute. It might appear that the Foundation, which is registered as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, was potentially in a position to realize a profit from this venture. However, it is more probable that the inflated sum of the contract can be seen as a disguised form of bribery, although possibly unintentional, by the National Cancer Institute. It is very difficult for Thailand, or any other Asian country in which gibbons are indigenous, to enforce its export regulations in the face of such a large difference between the local and international prices. Therefore, it is much to Thailand's credit that the representatives of the New Jersey Research Foundation found it impossible to obtain gibbons to fill the contract.

NEW SOCIETY FORMED


A new scientific society, the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PRIMATOLOGISTS, is now being formed. The purposes of the Society are to promote and encourage the discovery and exchange of information regarding primates, including all aspects of their anatomy, behavior, development, ecology, evolution, genetics, nutrition, physiology, reproduction, systematics, conservation, husbandry, and use in biomedical research.

Any person engaged in scientific primatology or interested in supporting the goals of the Society may apply for membership in the Society. Annual dues are \$12.00 except for students and those that are retired, for whom the dues are \$6.00. Membership may be obtained by sending a check or postal money order, made out to AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PRIMATOLOGISTS, to W. Richard Dukelow (Acting Treasurer), Endocrine Research Unit, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

The founding meeting of the Society will be held in Seattle, Washington, April 16-19 in the Washington Plaza Hotel and the Seattle Center, immediately after the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists and before the Western Psychological Association meeting. Further details of the meeting will be sent to all members.

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TWO WASTED LIVES

What follows is the story of two wasted lives. Both "McGillan Chimpanzee" and "Angel Gorilla" were captured as infants through the shooting of their mothers and shipped overseas to lead the senseless lives described here.

A Chimpanzee Named McGillan

Mr. Henry Heymann, IPPL's Washington representative, recently became involved in trying to find a home for a 12-year-old male chimpanzee. The chimpanzee, McGillan, had been kept all his life in a small dark cage in a pet shop in Baltimore, where he had been used as a gimmick to attract customers. Now he was becoming less of an asset and customers were complaining about him being kept in such a small cage. So the shopkeeper had decided that McGillan should be "put to sleep," unless a new home were found for him within 10 days.

At this point, Bob North, of the Fund for Animals, and Henry Heymann embarked on a desperate effort to find a new home for McGillan. To their dismay, they found that no zoos contacted wanted the chimpanzee, assuming that the sexual and social isolation in which he had been reared would make him unfit for breeding and exhibition. After a week of phone-calls all over the country, no home had been found. The Washington National Zoo was finally persuaded to accept McGillan for a 10-day period during which further efforts would be made to place him.

M. Heymann and Mr. North went to the pet shop to pick McGillan up. On meeting him, they had a pleasant surprise. Mr. Heymann comments:

The McGillan I met and subsequently got to know was far different from what I expected to see, according to all the "experts" I consulted. Their consensus was that McGillan was a zombie, who knew neither man nor beast and whom it would be best to destroy. The plain truth was that McGillan in his 12 years of life had made a successful adjustment to his dismal surroundings.

Once settled in at the zoo, McGillan quickly seized the first opportunity he had ever had to climb, and went right to the top of his cage.

Phone calls were made all over the country in the effort to place McGillan. No zoo wanted him, and the chimpanzee sanctuaries in Arizona and Florida were full. Finally, a potential home was located at the Chimpanzee Farm in Tarpon Springs, Florida. This farm is run by Bob and Mae Noell, retired carnival performers who used to tour the USA with a chimpanzee wrestling show. Unlike most performers, the Noells did not destroy their chimpanzees when their performing days were ended. Instead, they brought them to their home at Tarpon Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Heymann decided to accompany McGillan to the Chimpanzee Farm. Bob North constructed a travelling crate according to National Airlines specifications. However, it turned out the plane was not a large one, and the crate would not fit through the cargo door. McGillan had to wait another four hours for a later flight, but this plane was also small. So Bob North had to cut several inches off the crate. In spite of all the confusion, "McGillan, the supposed psychotic, had remained in a good mood the entire day," according to Mr. Heymann.

On arrival at Tampa Airport, Mrs. Noell greeted the party. McGillan immediately took a liking to her, gently stroking a wart on her face. Later, McGillan allowed his hand to be placed in Mr. Noell's mouth. McGillan grinned with joy at having a new friend. The next day, he was placed in a cage next to two other chimpanzees. Mr. Heymann comments: "Before we left, we saw McGillan, who, according to the 'experts' would not know what to do if he saw another chimp, pressed against the bars which separated him from the adjacent cage that housed 2 smaller chimps. They were grooming McGillan."

McGillan's years of servitude are over. He will no longer be "bait" to attract customers to the pet-shop and be gawked at and fed "junk foods" by ignorant and insensitive customers. The Noells have had many breeding successes with their "retired" chimpanzees, and perhaps something can be salvaged from McGillan's shattered life.

A GORILLA NAMED "ANGEL"

Unlike the story of McGillan, the story of Angel the gorilla has no relatively happy ending. Angel was brought from Africa in 1968 as a 15-pound infant to live with an "animal lover" in Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. According to a report in the Toronto *Star* ("Meet A Pampered Pet — Angel the Gorilla," 2 November 1974):

Ruth Bowman doesn't take her "baby" out for drives in the country any more since she found he was getting too big for the car. The last time Angel was in the car with his adopted mom he reached over and ripped off the steering wheel.

At this time, Angel was consigned to a 32 x 20 ft. garage, with eight-inch thick concrete blocks and steel bars. According to the *Star*, Angel had been "lying around his Richmond Hill home, sleeping (about 15 hours a day), eating and watching his favorite television programs (wrestling, roller derby and the soap operas)." Mrs. Bowman appeared to think it was time Angel started to earn his keep and confided to the reporter, "He's been a pet up to this time, but he's going to start working — doing a commercial for a tire company."

In the summer of 1976, Angel's health began to deteriorate, according to officials of the Ontario Humane Society, who confiscated the gorilla and removed him to the African Lion Safari in Rockton, Ontario. There, Angel died on 30 September, in spite of veterinary care. The cause of his death has not yet been established. In the aftermath of the incident, there is talk of lawsuits being filed, and questions are being asked about who will get the proceeds of the sale of the gorilla's body to science. However, Canada still has no legislation to restrict the importation of exotic pets.



McGillan

ANIMAL WELFARE YEAR

The period from August 1976 to August 1977 has been officially designated as "Animal Welfare Year" in the United Kingdom. Approximately 70 organizations are coordinating their activities to enhance public awareness of abuses and needs arising from Man's impact on animal life of all kinds. Some radio and television programs are scheduled to fit in with the activities proposed. Area organizers have been appointed throughout the country to channel the considerable interest aroused into constructive projects.

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