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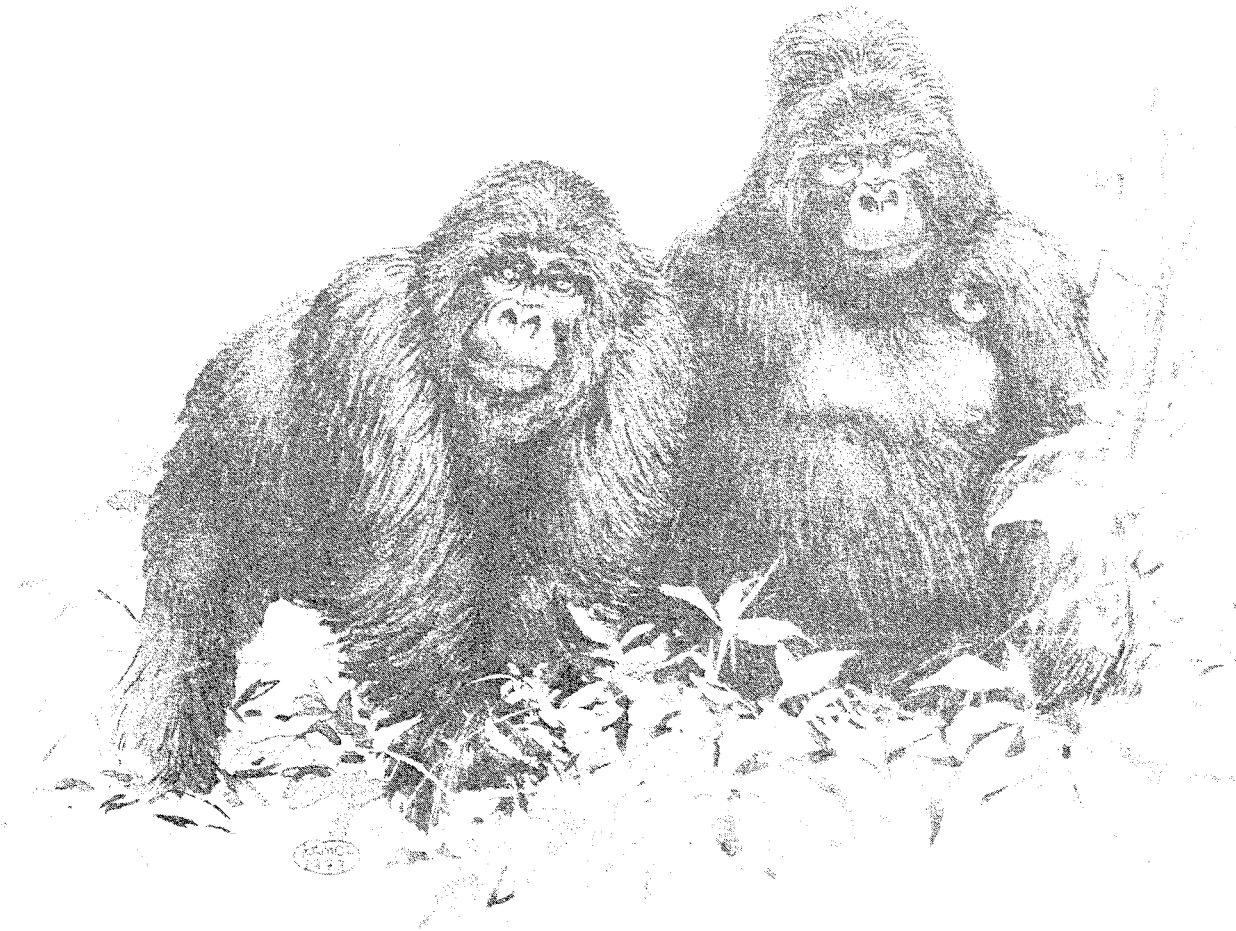
NEWSLETTER



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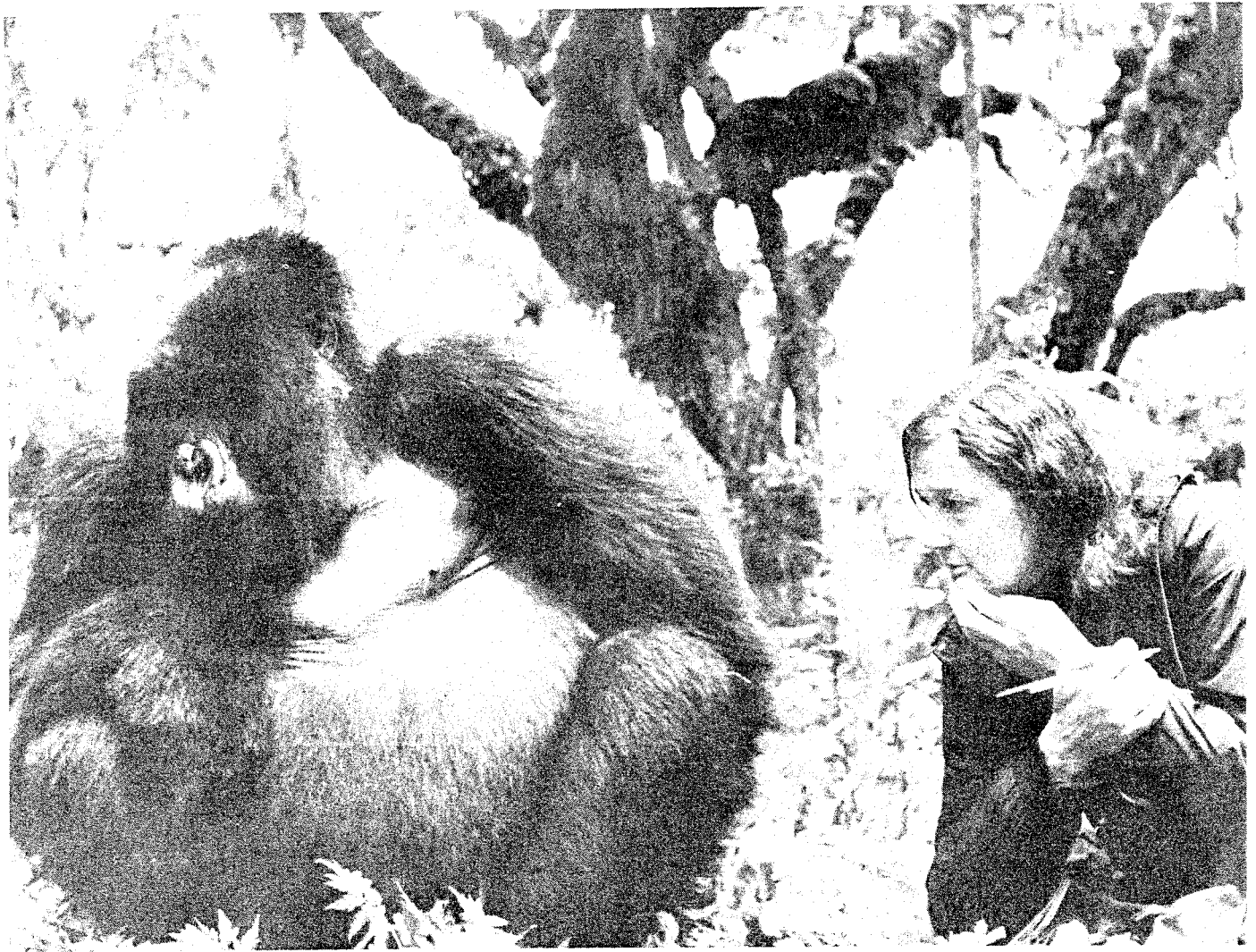
AUGUST 1978



Gorillas by Kamol Komolpalin

SPECIAL — HIS NAME WAS DIGIT
by
Dian Fossey

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HIS NAME WAS DIGIT

Digit was 2½ years old when I first met him in September 1967 on the slopes of Mount Visoke within the Parc des Volcans of Rwanda. He was then a playful little ball of disorganized black fluff from which protruded two button-like velvet brown eyes full of mischief and curiosity.

I had come here to continue my study of the behavior of free-ranging mountain gorillas which had started seven months previously on Mt. Mikeno within the Parc des Virungas of Zaire where George Schaller had conducted his memorable gorilla study in 1958-60. Digit was one of 14 individuals in Group 4, a typical gorilla group, though one about to undergo dramatic changes during the first year of observations. Group 4 was Digit's home group, the group into which he was born. His father, most likely the aged dominant silverback of the group, Whinney, was to die of pneumonia in May 1968: his mother, also aged, disappeared and was assumed to be dead in October 1967. These losses left Digit orphaned, but because of the manner in which gorillas organize their familiar group structures over prolonged periods of time, Digit remained within his group surrounded by half-sisters, uncles, aunts, and cousins. The cohesiveness of the gorilla group structure has no other parallel in nonhuman primate societies.

Following his mother's loss, Digit shared the night nests of his father, Whinney, until the latter became too old to keep up with the group in March 1968. Then Digit sought proximity with a second silverback within the group. Amok, but he too left the

group a year later. With the exception of the eldest sons of dominant silverbacks, maturing gorilla males outside of the main bloodlines of the central hierarchy of a group, have thus far always left their home groups in order to form their own groups by obtaining females from other sources. In time, this would have been Digit's role. There was yet a third silverback in Group 4, Uncle Bert, who took over group leadership following Whinney's death. Although Uncle Bert was, several years later, observed stringently protecting and "mothering" a young female orphan neither he nor Digit shared much proximity and, it seemed obvious, even at a young age, that Digit would, upon maturity, become a peripheral male to Group 4.

During the first two years, observations of gorilla groups on Mount Visoke were greatly hampered by the animals' fear of humans, a fear they had justifiably gained throughout the years of encroachment by cattle grazers and poachers, though gorillas were at that time usually poached only for reasons of "sumu." The tradition of "sumu" (poison) is deeply entrenched in the cultures of both Rwanda and Zaire.

Certain parts of the silverback's body, the ears, tongue, distal phalanges of the small fingers and testicles, are cut off and used in a potent which the Africans say will either kill or induce virility dependent upon the amount used. It was only in later years, when Europeans and tourists began flocking into the country, that gorillas began to be killed for their skulls and hands which were

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sold as trophies or souvenirs. This intolerable practice concentrated more on silverbacks whose massively crested skulls appealed to the warped individuals who purchased them.

Because of their deep-seated fear, it took about 2 years to habituate the gorillas on Mt. Visoke, to earn their trust and confidence, and to finally become completely accepted by them. During that time, and even now, I have purposely not habituated gorillas to the Africans who so loyally work at camp and without whose help the study could never have succeeded. The reasons for this policy should be apparent: that split second that it takes a gorilla to try and identify and recognize the African who approaches him as observer or poacher is just the time needed to cost the gorilla his life from a bow or spear. Gorillas within this area of the Virungas know Africans only as poachers. This practice should continue only until the very last poacher is driven out of the area so as not to further endanger the animals. Digit's group, like the other three main study groups, consisting of a total of 48 animals, usually ranged only on the steep slopes of Mt. Visoke between 10-12,000 feet elevation, (3000 to 3650 meters) during the initial years of the study. Although some 30 square kilometers of ideal gorilla habitat lay in the saddle terrain adjacent to the mountain and unquestionably had been utilized by the predecessors of these groups, none of the animals would risk leaving the relative security provided by the steep slopes to go off and range within the saddle domain of poachers, their traps, and dogs, countless hundreds of cattle herds and their grazers, honey gatherers and wood-cutters. As a result, the ranges of the four main study groups overlapped considerably within a heavily

overused slope area of 19 square kilometers. Therefore, because of spatial restrictions, interactions between groups occurred frequently. Group 4, under the new leadership of young, inexperienced Uncle Bert, was constantly harassed by two other groups who sought to "kidnap" four young females maturing within Group 4. The four females were Digit's closest peers and ranged in age from 2 years 8 months older to 3 years younger than he. Following the death of Whinney, and the departure of Amok, Digit was constantly in their company in playing, grooming, feeding, and nesting activities. The other group members were either too old or too young to provide the types of social interactions required by the maturing young male, but the four females accepted him completely.

As habituation progressed and Uncle Bert felt that his group was no longer threatened by the observer, the fear of the young adults gave way to intense curiosity and playful antics directed towards the observer. This type of response behavior consisted of showoff chestbeats, exaggerated struts, branch breaking, and foliage whacking. The young females gave every evidence of enjoying these activities and seemed almost to be trying to outdo one another in obtaining attention. Digit, not one to be left behind, mimicked their actions and soon became equally bold and playful.

In late 1969, because of the close proximity provided in observations, it was noted that the third finger of Digit's right hand was swollen, pink, and held in an extended position. It was then that he obtained the permanent name of Digit after 2 years of a various assortment of names, none of which seemed to fit. The injury

probably resulted from his hand having been caught in a trap. We had greatly increased our poacher patrols and continually herded cattle out of the saddle, thus the gorillas were able to extend their ranges away from the overcrowded mountain slopes into the gently rolling saddle terrain filled with an abundant variety of lush food sources. The range expansion minimized interactions between the groups, though it did subject them to some poacher dangers which I and my limited camp staff could not immediately eradicate within such a large area.

In January 1971, Bravado, one of Digit's closest peers, was taken from Group 4 into another group (Group 5): in June 1971, the other two females closest to him in age were taken into yet another group (Group 8). The two interactions involving the losses of the three females occurred on the slopes of Mt. Visoke. There had apparently been a lack of female births between 1960 and 1970, thus other groups with silverback leaders more experienced and mature than Uncle Bert sought the three females, adults when they left their group, for breeding purposes. During the interactions, Digit, still a young adult, did not participate by backing up Uncle Bert in defense of the females. Frequently juvenile and adult males who share close blood links with the dominant silverback of the group, do assist him by contributing supportive charges and similar threatening actions against the males of the infringing group. Digit, not in the same position as the above males, had spent his formative years occupied with the maintenance and strengthening of his affiliations with his peers rather than being shaped for a leadership role, thus his lack of assertiveness at a young age was not surprising.

The loss of three of his four closest relationships within the group altered Digit's behavior considerably. Amongst the remaining group members, then reduced to only eight others, Digit found little companionship with the silverback and even less with the three remaining older adult females who were fully occupied with their own young infants. So he spent the majority of his time with the fourth remaining female, young Papoose, who, like him, had also been orphaned at an early age. Simultaneously, he increased his observer-oriented behavior to an amazing degree, although this was in no way encouraged. He began soliciting play with observers just as he had previously done with his gorilla companions, by rolling on his back, kicking his feet up in the air, beating lightly on his chest and grinning at the observer. If the first invitation to play met with no response, he would move closer and repeat the entire repertoire until tickled, groomed, or lightly cuffed. His curiosity, one of the most remarkable aspects of the gorilla's personality, compelled him toward complete and prolonged proximity with human observers, even strangers providing they were accompanied by someone from camp known to Digit. He approached to examine both familiar and strange individuals alike, gently pulling hair, beards, ears, clothing and to handle thermos flasks, cameras, binoculars, gloves. One received the subjective impression that he was "relieving the tedium of an otherwise boring day" now that he had only one close companion to play with within the group. The National Geographic Special television film captured several such poignant scenes, the most memorable being Digit examining first my pen and then my notebook before carefully returning each to me and rolling over to go to sleep by my side. That was the nature of Digit-gentle, inquisitive, and trusting.

In October 1971, Digit was observed for the first time attempting to back up the still inexperienced Uncle Bert during an interaction with Group 5, Bravado's new group. The combined displays of the two males of Group 4 appeared more bothersome than worrying to Beethoven, the leader of Group 5, who only occasionally took the trouble to deliberately charge them in annoyance. The interaction, however, provided Bravado with an opportunity to briefly rejoin the members of her home group, all



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of whom, especially Digit, showed unrestrained delight at seeing her again. Their exuberant play behavior lasted for nearly two days and occasionally some of the young animals of Group 5 crossed the intervening 150 feet separating the two groups and joined in the chasing and wrestling play. The interaction was terminated on the second day when Beethoven, possibly somewhat apprehensive about Bravado's reuniting with her home group, forcefully strutted over to Group 4 and, with no small commotion, herded an obedient Bravado back to his own group. To my knowledge, that was the last time the two companions were ever to see one another.

In January 1972, at the age of 6 years, 8 months, Digit was first seen in somewhat unpractised attempts at copulation behavior with the young female, Papoose, of whom he had become quite possessive, and the same type of behavior was again seen several months later with the even younger female, Simba. Neither of these two females, both juveniles at the time, were old enough to be sexually interesting to Uncle Bert, thus Digit had full access to them.

In February 1972, during an interaction, Digit was critically wounded under his right eye and near the center of his neck under the jaw. The eye wound healed slowly, its scar visible for many months afterwards. The neck wound, typical of most severe canine puncture injuries, was still draining a foul-smelling exudate 5 years later. It was last clearly observed as a deep, circular

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indentation surrounded by a lattice work of scar tissue in March 1976. The draining infection was considered to have become systematic when Digit's general physique and behavior deteriorated markedly, and he began to maintain increasingly distant travel and nesting positions from the group. At such times, he could usually be located by a chronic cough which had also developed. However, when interactions with other groups were imminent or when females within his own group came into estrus, Digit resumed his proximity to the group and reacted much as he always had before his injury. So, although Digit was still capable of participating in the more outstanding social interactions of his group, his body developed a permanent "hunched" appearance with his back abruptly rounding off to his rump as though he were always on the immediate verge of sitting down. This development, plus a frequently-worn "morose" facial expression, were infinitely remindful that Digit was no longer the healthy youngster I once knew.

As he matured, his interest in the observer naturally decreased as he became more aware of his own social status within the group and the dynamics governing his relationships with others. He still was extraordinarily tolerant of the proximity of observers he knew well and spent long hours every day resting very closely to us when he was otherwise alone on the periphery of his group. His behavior began to alter somewhat towards new male observers whom he sometimes singled out for small bluff displays but this

~~was never gone for long periods.~~

In June 1974, the fourth and last of the close companions of his youth, Papoose, left Group 4 to take part in the formation of a new group of a lone silverback male with whom she was later to bear her first offspring. Though still an integral member of Group 4, this loss possibly left Digit more "alone" than ever, but he soon developed a close and somewhat possessive relationship with the youngest female adult, Simba, and actively remained between her and other males once she began to attract sexual attention.

In January 1976 an unusual event occurred when Uncle Bert went to considerable effort to obtain a young blackback male, estimated to be approximately 2 years 10 months younger than Digit. The new male named Beetsme, had been previously traveling with just one silverback: his immigration into Group 4 marked the first, and only, thus far, time a male has been known to transfer into an established gorilla group. It was a puzzle as to why Uncle Bert had sought an additional male in his group which already contained six males giving it a male to female ratio of 1.8 to 1.

Digit's interactions with Beetsme were minimal, and, in particular, when Simba was in estrus, antagonistic. At 11 years of age, Digit himself entered the silverback stage and the time and distance spent up to 150 meters from the group lengthened. To the human observer, it was especially sad to find the once frolicsome, lively, socially inclined individual that Digit had once been now making the solo transition into a permanently peripheral animal in preparation for what should eventually have led to the beginning of his own life as the leader of a new group.

I realize the word "sad" may sound maudlin perhaps even presumptuous for me to conclude when I would encounter him sitting quietly and alone about a hundred or so feet (30 meters) from his group, many of whom were engaged in play or grooming activities in which I vividly recalled Digit so enthusiastically participating in the past. Still, Digit's spatial position apart from the group did serve a special function. In November 1976 my tracker and I were searching for Group 4 when we suddenly saw them some 40 meters away off to our left, day-nesting in a heavy drizzle. I was debating as to whether or not to bother them when out of the brush to our right ran Digit to inadvertently meet the tracker at a distance of 8 meters. Digit immediately stood upright and gave two prolonged screams exposing his upper gums and all canines. At that moment, he seemed undecided as to whether to charge or to flee until I stepped up into his view and pushed the tracker down behind me. At once he dropped to all fours and fled towards his group who had already taken off and had rapidly run over 100 feet with Uncle Bert bringing up the rear. Digit caught up with them instantly, leaving a strong, pungent, fear odor that remained in the air for over 15 minutes. Here again was graphic reconfirmation of the value of the peripheral silverback and other maturing males who have the responsibility to serve as "watch dogs" in assisting the dominant male in the protection of the more defenseless members of their group.

It was in this service that Digit was killed by poachers on December 31, 1977. On that day, Digit took 5 mortal spear wounds into his own body, held off six poachers and their dogs, allowing the entire family group to flee 4 kms away to safety. Digit's last lonely battle was a valiant and courageous one in which he managed to kill one of the poachers' dogs before dying. I cannot allow myself to think of his anguish, his pain, and the total comprehension he suffered of knowing what humans were doing to him.

The harmless, beloved Digit was killed for the sole purpose of his head and hands which had been hastily hacked off and taken away leaving his mutilated corpse lying on its side in the corner of a flattened, blood-soaked area roughly 50 feet in diameter. We brought his body back to camp and later buried him in front of my cabin where he will remain permanently.

The following days were spent trying desperately to remember that nothing I could ever do would bring Digit back to life, but that I must not have allowed him to die in vain. Correspondence was initiated with responsible officials within this country and abroad as well as with many others who had known Digit over the years and also those known to be deeply concerned with the fate of the few remaining mountain gorillas, estimated as probably no more than 230 within the Virungas.



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A young doctor came up with an assistant and kindly performed an autopsy which indicated that all of Digit's organs were apparently overtly healthy except for a 3 cm cyst in the spleen. It appeared that Digit had overcome the effects of the neck wound he suffered in 1972 which was of little consolation now.

On the same day as the autopsy, I was in my cabin when the woodman, working some 50 feet from the cabin, began yelling "Poacher, poacher." This brought the houseman running to say that a poacher with bow and arrows had been spotted directly behind my camp attempting to kill an antelope. I told all four of the camp staff to chase him and ran after them myself. Just above camp, there is a large meadow which lies between the steep slopes of Mt. Visoke and the vast saddle terrain leading to two other volcanoes. I kept to the middle of the meadow so that the poacher would not be able to cross over and disappear into the saddle, and my men rapidly gained on him against the Visoke slopes and finally caught him. So rarely is a poacher caught in the park that this event truly seemed miraculous. When they brought him out of the forest on to the meadow, I could see that he was one of the Twa from what is basically a poacher village near the park boundary. I saw something else as well which froze my blood and nearly caused me to lose all sense of reason. Both the front and the back of his tattered yellow shirt were sprayed with fountains of dried blood, far more than could result from an antelope killing.

Within a minute he admitted to having been one of Digit's killers. During the following 24 hours, when he remained our captive, tied up in my cabin, I could not permit myself to be left alone with him and concentrated solely on the cause of Digit.

Not long after we had returned to the cabin, the woodman again began yelling "Poacher" and we ran out to find that one of the Twa's hunting accomplices had sneaked up to camp to check on his friend. Another chase started, but it proved fruitless as the poacher disappeared into dense forest where he was lost in a maze of footprints made that day by three other poachers. This is the first time the poachers had been in this area for over three years. The reason for their presence now is that they have killed and poached virtually unchecked in the distant areas of the park, and have nearly decimated the antelope population elsewhere. Simultaneously the duiker and bushbuck population around my camp and immediate working area has increased enormously because of the protection we fought so hard to win for them. The poachers of this area, most with shambas (farms) of their own, kill the antelopes essentially to sell to Europeans and wealthy Africans living in and around Ruhengiri and use the money to purchase pombe (native beer). It is not a matter of being "meat-starved."

My men and I began a long examination period with the Twa

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we had captured and gleaned the names of all six of Digit's killers, many of whom I had endeavored to have imprisoned previously: 1) KANYARUGANO (the one we caught); 2) MUNYARUKIKO (the leading poacher of the Virungas known to have been responsible for multiple elephant and gorilla killings over at least a 10-year period); 3) GASHABIZI (works constantly with Munyarukiko); 4) NTANYUNGU (has since been caught and imprisoned); 5) RUBANDA (has since been caught and imprisoned); 6) RUNYAGU. In addition, we also obtained the names of the three antelope hunters out around camp that day who escaped us but have since returned to hunt.

What stuns me almost beyond the actuality of Digit's death is the reason he was killed. An African by the name of SEBUNYANA-ZIRIMWABAGABO, who also lives in the small village near the base of the mountain, offered to pay MUNYARUKIKO the equivalent of \$20 for a silverback's head and hands though he had, as yet, no ready customer for them. This is not the first time he has instigated such a crime. To think that the life of Digit could be snuffed out for the sum of \$20: a life that was beyond value. It is an irreconcilable thought.

Here again we have a parallel to the antelope situation in that it seems likely that the majority of gorillas outside the camp's working area have already been slaughtered for their heads and hands, and that the only relatively "abundant" gorilla population remaining consists of the study groups worked with over the years thus protected by the frequency of observations and regular patrols against the poachers. That the poachers had the nerve to attack one of our study groups could mean the beginning of the end for the remaining mountain gorillas. Only if I can elicit enough interest and support will their total decimation be prevented.

I allowed the prisoner to go down to Ruhengiri the following day under the maximum security of the Chef de Brigade of Ruhengiri and three armed commandoes. The Twa had told all of us he knew where the head and hands were buried underneath a

bamboo clump outside of MUNYARUKIKO'S house: however, when the chef went to that spot, accompanied by the Twa, the hole in which they had been buried was found empty. They have yet to be recovered.

My last contact with Digit took place in December 1977 after I had returned from a stay in America. As usual, he was sitting by himself some distance from the group but showed instant recognition as I crawled down to him. We sat together for nearly half an hour exchanging vocalizations, gorilla-style. I do not know what motivated me to take out my camera and snap some six pictures of him, but these were the last ever to be taken of him in life. Since his death, it is now the transferred male, Beetsme, and an even younger male, Tiger, who maintain the "watchdog" roles in protection of their group though I find myself looking still toward the periphery of the group for Digit. I am, of course, still allowed to share their proximity, enter the group bulk, and be one with them, but it is an honor and a gift that I feel I no longer deserve.

I can only very half-heartedly conclude that Digit did not die totally in vain because he gave his life for his group so that they might survive-what? A month? Six months? A year? To sit back to grieve and ignore the actual wanton inhumane reason for his death is to do Digit a grave injustice. One cannot state that he suffered more or less than the countless other nameless gorillas killed in the same manner as victims of man's greed. Perhaps, though, if the public has further knowledge of his life and personality, he can serve to protect those animals remaining, if the entire story is published factually and without bias. For this reason, I am anxious to establish a "Digit Fund" to attempt to raise money to maintain students, to train Rwandans in the patrol of the park, and for additional census work on the Rwandan side of the Virungas to locate the whereabouts and ranges of the surviving population so that stronger efforts may be made to protect them and to actively secure their survival.

Here, at camp, we wake up each morning wondering who will be next.

HELP MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR MWELU

Dian Fossey has informed IPPL that Group 4 had a new baby on 6 April 1978. Dian believes that the father must have been Digit, since Uncle Bert had shown no sexual interest in Simba, the new baby's mother, and Dian had witnessed Digit and Simba mating on 5 July 1977. The new baby was named "Mwelu" - which means "a touch of brightness and light" in Swahili.

With the death of Digit and the threat of further poacher incursions in the park, the future looks bleak for Mwelu, Group 4, and the other gorilla groups in the Virunga Volcanoes.

IPPL is therefore appealing to all members and friends to make a contribution to Ms. Fossey's work so that anti-poaching patrols can be increased and efforts made to protect all the remaining Virunga gorillas.

Please make out your cheque to IPPL, marking it clearly "For Dian Fossey." All contributions will be forwarded directly to Dian so you can be assured that every cent will go to help the gorillas. Please ask your friends to contribute as well as any conservation or animal welfare groups, local or national, to which you belong.

U.S. members should mail their cheques to IPPL, P.O. Drawer X, Summerville, SC 29483 USA; U.K. members to IPPL, Regent Arcade House, 19-25 Argyll St., London W1V 2DU, England. Overseas members should mail their cheques to the U.S. address. IN THE USA, GIFTS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By

William M. George, M.D.

Past and present experiments on rhesus and other monkeys in which the effects of massive doses of radiation are being studied by military scientists in their efforts to study the effects of the neutron bomb prompt this letter. I, as a medical doctor, cannot stay silent when in defense of these cruel experiments it is stated that the animals experience no pain. Such a foolish, non-sensical, completely and blatantly unscientific and unmedical statement was made by no less than the Director of the Defense Nuclear Agency whose component, the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFERI) in Bethesda, Maryland conducted these experiments. When details of the AFERI experiments were brought to the attention of both the scientific community and the concerned public in the September 1977 IPPL Newsletter, readers responded to the request to write letters of protest to Congress and the Secretary of Defense. In a typical response, Admiral Monroe informed Senator Hayakawa of California that the neutron radiation experiments were "essential to the medical support of the Department of Defense" and that, "to the best of our knowledge, the animals experience no pain in the radiation experiments, though some of them die." (*It must be stated that MOST of them, in the hundreds, die.*)

United Action for Animals of New York has provided summaries of radiation experiments conducted by the AFERI from 1966 to the present day. The summaries are sickening to read, even to me, a physician. Notwithstanding that one can be too anthropomorphic in ascribing human traits to non-human animals, it doesn't take a doctor to know that monkeys do feel pain and can suffer. The experiments described in very objective and detached terms make the observations even more diabolic and Frankenstein-like. I realize that these are strong criticisms, but, nonetheless, it is time that the unrestrained and rampant, often cruel, and often useless and oft repeated experiments be known to everyone. One, just one, example: 1976 AFERI, 10 monkeys. Starved for 18 hours, then trained to run on a treadmill for 2 hours per day for 8 weeks. If the monkeys did not rotate the wheel at or above 1 mph, they were electric shocked. Following training, monkeys placed in individual "squeeze" boxes and exposed to 4600 rads gamma-neutron radiation. 5 seconds after exposure, animals tested again for shock avoidance ability on treadmill. Initial testing after irradiation lasted 6 hours; monkeys then tested for 1 hour each day "until death". 4 monkeys vomited. Within about 5 minutes postexposure, "incapacitation" (inability to avoid shock) occurred in 80% of the animals. At 24 hours postexposure, 90% were incapacitated. "Survival times ranged from 7 to 132 hours with a mean survival time of 37 hours." (AD A033 513 Aug. 1976).

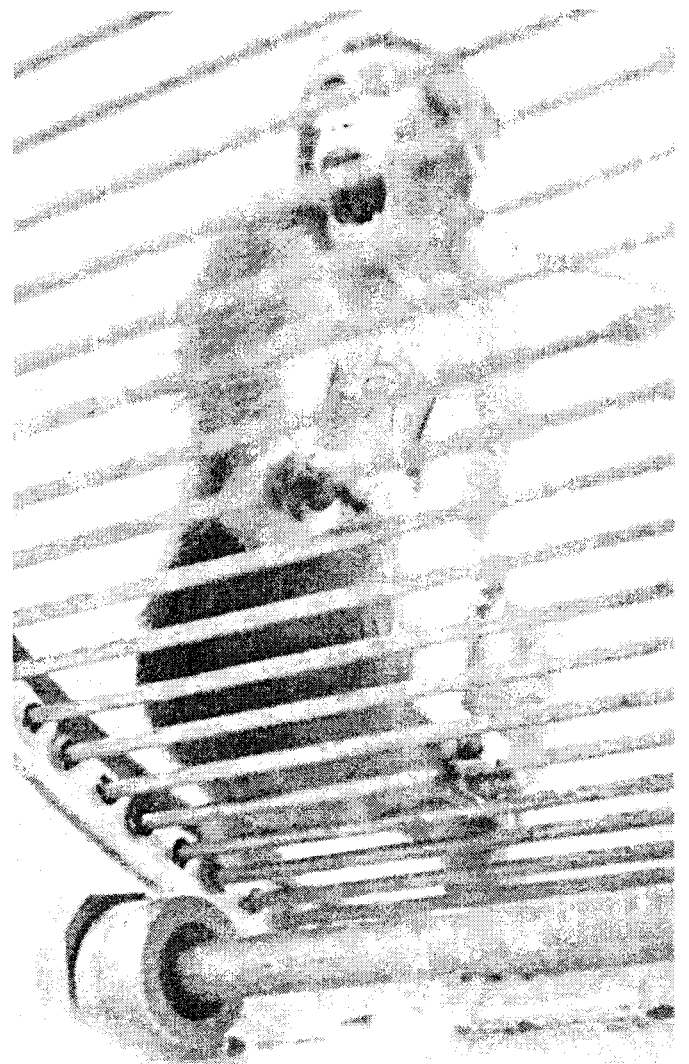
The *Times of India* in an editorial protesting the use of these monkeys obtained from India under false pretenses states: "These animals have been subjected to appallingly cruel radiation experiments. The military scientists in their diabolic efforts to study the effects of the neutron bomb wanted to learn how long it would take a monkey to die after a massive dose of radiation, and how many times it would vomit before it doubled up and died."

As a physician I feel that I am qualified to recognize feelings of pain and suffering. The fundamentals of physiology remain constant for living organisms which react to injury, whether due to physical trauma, infection, or poison by manifesting certain patterns of disruption in normal physiology. This state of disease can manifest itself in a variety of symptoms and may affect the whole body or any of its parts. Some of these symptoms include PAIN, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, loss of coordination, ap-

prehension, malaise, etc.

The monkeys in these experiments are trained to avoid painful shock (thus an acknowledgement that a thinking process and some degree of intelligence and awareness exists). It is obvious that the monkeys want to avoid pain and they, therefore, have a capacity to feel and to long for comfort, just as you and I. They are sentient, just as humans are sentient.

Physicians are dedicated to relieve suffering. This I try to do as best I can. But, I cannot remain silent to needless and cruel suffering inflicted on our non-human primates and other animals. These cruel experiments are but the tip of an iceberg of unrestrained animal experimentations which are rampant in our country (and other countries). It is time some brakes are applied. I will continue to speak out and hope that other physicians will have the courage to express their objections.



AFERI Monkey on Treadmill Copyright Henry Spira

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THE RHESUS MONKEY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Rhesus monkey certification program began in 1955, when India lifted its first ban on the export of primates, agreeing to make them available for medical research under certain restrictions.

India, a country with a deep-seated cultural, religious, and philosophical tradition of reverence for all forms of life, sought a compromise with the prevalent Western tradition of ruthless exploitation by humans of all animals. India agreed to make monkeys available provided they were used exclusively for medical research and the production of polio vaccine, that they were not used in certain types of military research, and that, above all, they be treated humanely.

India appeared satisfied that the enforcement mechanism established by the United States would ensure compliance with its restrictions. Two high-level U.S. government agencies, the National Institutes of Health and the Office of the Surgeon-General, would review each application to use Rhesus monkeys and determine compliance with India's requirements. Researchers wishing to use Rhesus monkeys would fill out an application for a certificate of need (illustrated) and submit the application, along with a description of the proposed research, to the "National Advisory Committee on Rhesus Monkey Requirements", a National Institutes of Health committee set up to monitor the certification program. Applications meeting India's conditions would be signed by the Executive Secretary of the Committee and the Surgeon-General of the United States, and returned to the applicant, who would forward the certificate, along with his order, to one of the two companies importing Rhesus monkeys (Primate Imports or Primelabs).

IPPL does not know whether a serious effort to enforce the 1955 agreement was made prior to 1964. In that year, the National Advisory Committee on Rhesus Monkey Requirements was abolished through merger into an unrelated committee. Inspection of the Minutes of this committee (the Primate Research Centers Advisory Committee) for 1976-77 reveals no mention of the certification program. Nonetheless, certificates of need continued to be submitted to the Government of India under the signature of the "Executive Secretary of the National Advisory Committee on Rhesus Monkey Requirements" (see illustration).

It is clear that proper enforcement of the agreement would have required the attention of a least one full-time employee of the National Institutes of Health, since thousands of projects involving thousands of monkeys required evaluation. Yet no full-time employee was assigned to the program. In recent years, certification procedures were the responsibility of Dr. Charles McPherson, head of the Animal Resources Branch of the National Institutes of Health.

IPPL has studied copies of certificates of need for 1976-77 provided by the Division of Research Resources. Because several institutions known to have been using Rhesus monkeys during this period appear to have no certificates, the Division of Research Resources has been asked to check whether any certificates are missing or have been withheld. Inspection of the certificates reveals that the certification procedures failed to serve the purpose for which they were designed. Most of the "research descriptions" are so brief and vague that it would be extremely difficult to evaluate whether the monkeys would be treated humanely. Only a few applications make any reference to how the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH	89 17014
<h3 style="font-family: cursive;">Certificate of Need for Rhesus Monkeys</h3> <p style="font-family: cursive;">(For medical research and production of antipoliomyelitis vaccine)</p>	

I HEREBY CERTIFY (1) that the monkeys now being purchased will be used only for medical research or the production of antipoliomyelitis vaccine, previously described, and (2) that they will receive humane treatment under our care.

INSTITUTION PURCHASE ORDER NO. USD225-77-C-0200 DATED 22 August 1977 REQUESTING THE PURCHASE OF
48 Forty-eight RHESUS MONKEYS FOR
(State quantity, sex, age and written out)
 THE PERIOD OF 30 August 1977 TO 30 August 1978

NAME OF INSTITUTION Fort Detrick	SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL	DATE
NAME OF IMPORTER Primate Imports	TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL Contracting Officer	

Upon recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Rhesus Monkey Requirements, the United States Public Health Service certifies to the Government of India, (1) that these Rhesus Monkeys shall be used only for medical research or the production of antipoliomyelitis vaccine, and (2) that regular inspections shall be made as needed to assure humane treatment of these monkeys.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE _____ DATE 7/14/77 _____
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL, U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

research will be conducted. The National Institutes of Health itself obtained a certificate in 1976 for the purchase of 4,125 monkeys for several hundred projects in its component institutes. Yet the "research description" consisted of 27 words.

The pharmaceutical companies, which used over half the Rhesus monkeys imported to the United States during 1976 and 1977, provided such vague descriptions of usage as "toxicological and microbiological investigations." Some of these companies obtained certificates for far more monkeys than they needed. For example, Flow Laboratories obtained a certificate to import 800 monkeys in 1976, but later informed Dr. McPherson that only 258 monkeys were obtained under the certificate. This would leave 542 monkeys that could conceivably be imported and sold for projects that might not comply with India's requirements. This might explain the fact that some laboratories appear to have been able to purchase monkeys without certificates (e.g. the Medical University of South Carolina, which, according to Dr. McPherson, had obtained no certificates since 1973, yet was regularly using substantial numbers of Rhesus monkeys in experiments involving experimental crippling).

The Oregon Primate Center was able to obtain Rhesus monkeys and obtain the certificate **afterwards**, with no apparent questions asked. According to a 20 June 1976 letter from Charles Phoenix, an Assistant Director of the Center, "I'm enclosing a copy of a certificate of need for your signature. It covers the animals recently purchased by us. The monkeys are here and doing well."

The U.S. Army Medical Material Agency, Frederick, Maryland, repeatedly sought and obtained certificates of need, although stating that it was unwilling to provide information on any "classified" project using monkeys. Since there were restrictions on military use of monkeys in the agreement, and much military research is not primarily "medical", no certificates should have been issued to this agency without prior consultation with Indian authorities.

The Walter Reed Hospital, which supplied the monkeys for the neutron bomb irradiation experiments (see IPPL Newsletter, April 1977), accompanied its 1976 request for a certificate for 250 monkeys with a three-line description of the proposed research:

"studies in behavioral patterns of primates as well as immunological and parasitological investigation." No mention is made of the fact that some of the "behavioral patterns" would be studied prior to and after lethal doses of neutron radiation.

The University of Michigan has been severely criticized for the inhumanity of much of its primate research program, which includes addiction of monkeys to such drugs as cocaine and heroin, and subsequent painful withdrawal, as well as car-crashing experiments, in which at least 70 Rhesus monkeys were used. The University confined its research description to the vague statement that, "The monkeys will be used by various investigators at the University."

One laboratory (Bristol Laboratories) admitted in its research description that some of the monkeys it wanted to import might be treated inhumanely, yet it received a certificate nonetheless. According to the application dated 9 December 1976, "No animal is subjected to pain without anesthesia unless the anesthesia would interfere with the results of the experiment." It is not clear how the U.S. Government could guarantee to the Government of India that any monkeys Bristol Laboratories received from India would receive humane treatment.

Tulane University, Louisiana, was able to obtain several certificates of need for studies of "acceleration-induced spinal injuries." The Battelle-Columbus Institute, Indiana, received a certificate for monkeys to be poisoned with pesticides. Neither explained how it planned to conduct the study humanely.

It is unfortunate that the media coverage of India's ban on primate exports has concentrated on a manufactured shortage of monkeys to test polio vaccine, and on recriminations against India. Responsibility for the ban lies with those occupying important positions within the U.S. health bureaucracy who made what might have been an effective compromise between two very different cultures into a failure. As far as IPPL can determine, no investigation of the administration of the certificate of need program has occurred. Congressional hearings on the matter should be held. With several other countries considering placing restrictions on the use of the monkeys they export, an investigation becomes even more imperative.

CHEMICAL WARFARE EXPERIMENTS

The Edgewood Arsenal is using Crab-eating macaques in chemical warfare experiments. The Arsenal holds a contract with Primelabs, a New Jersey importer, for the supply of monkeys. In the past, the Arsenal used Rhesus monkeys. According to Frank Bender, Chief of Public Affairs at the Edgewood Arsenal, the chemical agents are not tested *per se*, but the effects of various

prophylactic and treatment compounds against agents which are "known or suspected to be stockpiled currently by foreign nations whose military policies advocate the use of chemical weapons" are tested. Such testing would involve the exposure of monkeys to such substances as nerve gases.

CARTER APPEALS TO DESAI TO LIFT MONKEY EXPORT BAN

According to *Newsweek* (19 June 1978), "One major topic on Jimmy Carter's agenda with visiting Indian Prime Minister Desai this week is the Rhesus monkey." According to *Newsweek*, U.S. President Carter promised Desai that "the U.S. will henceforth apply stricter controls to the use of the monkeys." The results of

this intervention are not known.

In addition, the World Health Organization is exerting heavy pressure on India to export monkeys. WHO has **not** asked the United States to stop the neutron radiation experiments on monkeys, or to end other inhumane research.

NEUTRON RADIATION EXPERIMENTS TO CONTINUE

The IPPL Newsletter (April 1978) told how the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute had killed close to 2,000 Rhesus monkeys in neutron radiation experiments as part of the U.S. effort to test the effects of the neutron bomb.

Colonel Darrell McIndoe, AIRRI Director, has informed IPPL that the experiments are temporarily suspended, but will resume, using either domestically-bred Rhesus or Crab-eating macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*).

Aug 1978

BANGLA DESH TO EXPORT RHESUS

India's recent ban on the export of primates (see *IPPL Newsletter*, April 1978) received wide coverage in the U.S. media, much of it highly emotional propaganda claiming that India, by banning export of monkeys, was condemning American children to the crippling effects of polio. What none of the propaganda reported was that a U.S. animal dealer had, in March 1977, eight months before India's ban on primate exportation, signed an Agreement with the Government of Bangla Desh for the export of 71,500 Rhesus monkeys over a 10-year period, several times the number of monkeys used in current polio vaccine testing.

The agreement was signed on 20 March 1977 by Bert Viccelli, Vice-President of MOL Enterprises, Portland, Oregon, and Mr. Q.J. Ahmed, a secretary of Bangla's Desh's Ministry of Agriculture, who was subsequently removed from his position. The agreement granted MOL a "sole and exclusive 10-year franchise to be the sole and exclusive exporter of nonhuman primates from Bangla Desh." The Company was to be permitted to export 5,000 monkeys in Year 1 of the Agreement, 6,000 in Year 2, and 7,500 annually in Years 3-10.

The numbers were determined by the "Licensor" (MOL Enterprises) on the basis of an "8-month survey" reportedly made by Mr. Viccelli, based on his "residency, observations, and conversations" in Bangla Desh. MOL Enterprises failed to answer IPPL's enquiry about its data and study techniques. Officials of the Bangla Desh Conservation Division have not heard of any such survey. Yet its "results" were incorporated uncritically into the agreement.

Bangla Desh agreed to establish a company called the Bangla Desh Company to trap the monkeys, convey them to Dacca, hold

and condition them, crate them, secure export documents, and deliver them to the airport, where they would become the property of the purchaser. MOL would be paid by the purchaser and give \$30 to the Bangla Desh Company for each monkey exported, as well as pay the Government of Bangla Desh a royalty of \$15 per animal "as payment and consideration for the sole and exclusive ten-year license and franchise." With the current world price for Rhesus monkeys being \$250-450 and with MOL Enterprises currently holding a world monopoly on the trade in wild-caught Rhesus monkeys, it is clear that the company stands to make substantial profits.

The Agreement also states that MOL should place in escrow a sum of \$16 for each monkey exported, which would be used to establish "monkey breeding farms" from which the company could export unlimited numbers of monkeys in addition to its quota of wild-caught animals. It appears that no such farms have yet been established, and Bangla Desh conservationists fear they might become a front for trading in wild-caught monkeys above the quotas.

MOL Enterprises is a registered animal dealer and thus subject to inspection by veterinarians under the Animal Welfare Act. An inspector visited the Company on 2 March 1978, and was surprised to find no monkeys and no cages! He commented, "There are no facilities to inspect. All animals are sold F.O.B. Dacca and then become the property of the research facilities and their responsibility."

IPPL has learned that several shipments of Rhesus monkeys have already left Bangla Desh under the Agreement.

PROTECTION PROPOSED FOR BANGLA DESH RHESUS

The U.S. *Federal Register* (13 April 1978) announced that the Rhesus macaque of Bangla Desh would be the subject of a status review to determine whether it should be added to the U.S. Endangered List. The Endangered Species Act provides for listing of local populations of a species which may be abundant in other places.

The review of the Bangla Desh Rhesus macaque's status was brought about by a petition submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Ken Green of the Smithsonian Institution, whose 1976 survey of the primates of Bangla Desh had revealed "a paucity of Rhesus macaque populations in all habitats."

The *Washington Star* (28 April 1978) quoted Mr. Bert Viccelli of MOL Enterprises (the company which has a 10-year monopoly on exportation of monkeys from Bangla Desh) as saying that, "The Bangla Desh Government would not allow the exports if the

species was in danger of extinction." Mr. Viccelli dismissed Green's survey by saying that, "A survey by one individual can go nine zillion ways." Mr. Viccelli did not tell the *Post* that his own "survey" was the basis of the export figures agreed to by the Government of Bangla Desh.

Listing of the Bangla Desh Rhesus macaque as "Threatened" (its most likely placement if it is listed at all) would mean that permits would be required for importation. To obtain a permit, an institution would have to state how it planned to use the animals, and to justify such use. Interested parties could submit comments as to the validity of the planned use, point out any duplication or available alternatives, etc. This appears a desirable change from current practise in which commercial importers bring in tens of thousands of primates and sell them to unknown buyers for unspecified projects.

ISLAND PRIMATES IN TROUBLE

IPPL has learned that plans are under way either to kill or ship to laboratories the entire population of approximately 600 Crab-eating macaque living on Angaur, one of the Palau Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Some conservationists contend that the monkeys, which were introduced to the island about 80 years ago, are a threat to the indigenous wildlife.

The island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean has a population of

vervet monkeys which traces its origins back to the days of the African slave trade when monkeys from Africa were brought along with the slaves and released on the island. Since this time, their descendants have prospered. Recently, an organization called the Behavioral Science Foundation has been exporting hundreds of St. Kitts vervets to Primate Imports, a New York animal dealer.

Aug 1978

CONTROVERSY OVER MONKEY MAIMINGS

A group of residents of South Carolina, USA, has won a temporary reprieve for a Rhesus monkey awaiting crippling by scientists at the Medical University of South Carolina. The scientists are planning to drop a weight on the monkey's spine, but have postponed the experiment due to public concern.

The weight-dropping is part of a project which began in 1969, and has been funded by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke since 1974, with grants averaging approximately \$250,000 per year. The title of the project is "Fundamental Studies of Spinal Cord Injury."

On learning of the experiments, a group of Charleston-area residents led by Diane Donato studied reports on the project submitted to the Institute by the project's team members. Although the reports contain no detailed accounting of monkeys utilized, it appears that at least 30-50 monkeys have been killed annually in this project.

Prior to injury, each monkey is heavily instrumented with recording and measuring devices. The monkey, with its spine surgically exposed, is placed under the weight-dropping apparatus, and a plastic impounder laid on the spinal dura. Then the weight is dropped, producing paralysis ranging in degree up to total paraplegia. The crippled monkeys are kept alive 2-3 weeks during which time the scientists make recordings and observations. Those still alive are then killed.

Ms. Donato considered the research to be cruel and inhumane and in possible violation of the U.S. - India Agreement of 1955, which requires that Rhesus monkeys exported from India receive humane treatment in laboratories. She therefore formed a group called "Rhesus Rescue" with two goals: 1) to rescue any monkey awaiting trauma at the University, and 2) to get the dropping of weights on monkey's spines permanently eliminated from the project.

The funding Institute was contacted in order to obtain its justification for the experiment. In a letter dated 6 June 1978, Ms. Sylvia Shaffer, Chief of the Office of Scientific and Health Reports at NINCDS, stated that funding for the project would continue as long as the findings were scientifically acceptable. Ms. Shaffer noted that, "The primate model set up at the University of South Carolina and the procedures used there are being duplicated throughout the world." A further enquiry has been sent to the Institute to obtain the names of other laboratories performing projects which involve the crippling of monkeys.

In response to an enquiry as to whether Certificates of Need for Rhesus monkeys had been obtained by the Medical University of South Carolina for the purchase of animals to be used in this project, Dr. Charles McPherson, Chief of the Animal Resources Branch, National Institutes of Health, stated in a letter dated 24 May 1978, that no certificates of Need had been issued to the Medical University since 1973. "Rhesus Rescue" is seeking further clarification on this matter, in view of the fact that the University is known to have had some dealings with Primelabs, a

PURCHASE ORDER

Medical University of South Carolina
173 ASSEMBLY AVENUE, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403

PURCHASE NUMBER OR SUPPLIER'S AND INVOICE No. P.O. 22206A
DATE 08 26 77

TO PRIME LABS
1734 SOUTH COUNTY AIRPORT
FARMINGDALE, NJ 07727

SHIP DEPT. OF LAB ANIMAL MEDICINE
Bldg. 100, ROOM 200/200B
CHC, REC. U. S. C.

VENDOR NO. 55707 TERMS CODE

Quantity	Unit	Commercial Code	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
2	EA	990-09	RHESUS MONKEYS, 5-8 LB., EITHER SEX	205.00	410.00	
1	EA	990-08	RHESUS MONKEY, 4-5 LB., EITHER SEX	165.00	165.00	
			40 SC SAFETY GAG		25.00	
			CAGE TO ASSEMBLY		7.50	
			EST. FREIGHT		30.00	
			SHIPPING LABEL AND REQUEST			
			GRAND TOTAL TO ORDER		637.50	

Include only above items on invoice

Prepared by: J. A. Edwards, Director, Dept. of Lab. Animal Medicine
Reviewed by: J. A. Edwards, Director, Dept. of Lab. Animal Medicine

ATTENTION

Items do not ship until they are received and will be included above by including the quantity. To not receive items progress as if different from quantities ordered. All items are shipped by air. Upon receipt of items, please inspect them immediately. If any items are damaged or missing, please notify the supplier within 48 hours of date of delivery. Payment will be processed by A/C check. Payment in 30 days of date of delivery.

Check below Payment by check Payment by A/C

By: *J. A. Edwards* *J. A. Edwards* *J. A. Edwards*

primate importer located in Farmingdale, New Jersey, USA. The **Chronicle of Higher Education** (17 April 1978) quoted John Malott, an officer on the U.S. State Department's India desk, as suggesting that the weight-dropping and other inhumane experiments at U.S. universities "probably churned (the Indians') stomachs even more (than the radiation experiments)" and may have contributed to India's decision to ban further exportation of primates.

"Rhesus Rescue's" efforts to save further monkeys from being placed under the weight-dropping apparatus have received wide newspaper and television coverage. Readers wishing to express their concern may contact their congressmen since this is a tax-funded project, and also, since the Medical University is a state-supported college.

Governor James Edwards
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

"Chimpanzee Rehabilitation" and "Zoo Primate Babies of 1977" Available

Copies of "Chimpanzee Rehabilitation" by Stella Brewer and "Zoo Primate Babies of 1977" are available from IPPL, P.O. Drawer X, Summerville, SC 29483.

Copies of either report are available at \$1.00 each or \$0.75 per copy for orders of 10 or more copies.

Aug 1978

CYNOMOLGUS MONKEYS ENRICH CHARLES RIVER STOCKHOLDERS

According to the *Wall Street Journal* (9 June 1978) the Charles River Laboratories (owners of Primate Imports and the Key Lois Rhesus breeding facility) have a "winner" in the *Cynomolgus* monkey, also known as the Crab-eating or long-tailed macaque *Macaca fascicularis*. The company expects 1978 sales of the "cyno" to be 6,000 compared with 3,000 last year.

Mr. Henry Foster, President of Charles River, explained that the *cynomolgus* monkey is easily available from any of 3 countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines) and so "we don't have all our eggs in one basket." In addition, the "cynos" are cheap, retailing at \$150-200 each. Foster explained, "we're going after

the world market in cynos."

Because of the "cyno", Charles River was expecting profits and dividends to increase in 1978, despite India's export ban on Rhesus monkeys.

The **National Primate Plan** noted the relative abundance and easy availability of the species, and considered that no more than 300 need be captive-bred annually. However, the **Plan** makes no reference to any reliable census of the species. Some field primatologists claim that the abundance is more superficial than real, and that massive trading could lead to eventual decimation of the species.

PROPOSED DELISTING OF THREE PRIMATE SPECIES

The U.S. **Federal Register** (19 April 1978) announced that the Office of Endangered Species of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had proposed the removal from or reclassification on the Endangered List of 3 primate species, the Hanuman langur *Prestbytis entellus*, the Capped langur *Prestbytis pileatus* and the siamang *Symphalangus syndactylus*. Sixty-two nonprimate species were also proposed for delisting.

All three primate species were placed on the U.S. Endangered List on 14 June 1976, along with 156 other wildlife species listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Strong opposition to the delisting of the siamang has been expressed to the Fish and Wildlife Service by Mr. Prijono Hardjosejono, Indonesia's Chief of Wildlife, Mr. Jeffrey McNeely of the World Wildlife Fund (Indonesia) and Dr. Kiew Bong Huang for the Malayan Nature Society. Dr. S.M. Mohnot of the University of Jodhpur, India and Dr. Sarah Blaffer Hrdy of Harvard University, U.S.A. expressed their support for continued protection of the langurs. IPPL expressed opposition to the entire proposal.

Although the expiration date for comments was 18 June 1978, the proposal will take a long time to process, and IPPL therefore suggests that readers continue to submit comments on the proposal, which should be addressed to:

The Director (OES)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington D.C. 20240

Rapid action is unlikely since the Office of Endangered Species is currently preoccupied with its proposal to reclassify or remove from the Appendices to the Endangered Species Convention all U.S. species now listed.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has denied allegations that it is yielding to pressures to dismantle international wildlife protective legislation and agreements. However, there is no doubt that such mass delisting proposals place a heavy burden on national and international conservation groups, as well as foreign wildlife officials, who may not be able to produce within a 60-day deadline information to support continued listing of 30 or more birds, mammals, and reptiles. The proposal, on the contrary, places absolutely no burden on those who wish to exploit endangered wildlife for profit. The proposal presented no evidence whatsoever for delisting of a single one of the 65 species but merely stated that none were threatened by trade. No evidence was presented to support this contention however. IPPL, in its comments, suggested that the entire proposal be withdrawn and separate proposals, properly documented, be submitted for each individual species.

BABOONS KILLED

The IPPL **Newsletter** (April 1978) told how the Highway Safety Institute, University of Michigan, USA, planned to kill seven baboons, reportedly purchased from Primate Imports, a New York animal dealer, in car-crash experiments. The animals were to be strapped in an "impact sled" and slammed into a device similar to a car's dashboard.

The first baboon was killed on 3 February 1978, in spite of public protest, newspaper articles about the "car-nage" and a poll taken by the Detroit **Free Press** which showed 80.2% of those polled opposing the project.

The "Committee to Save the Baboon Seven" changed its name to "Save the Baboon Six" and continued its protest. As a result, further experiments were cancelled. Mr. John Melvin, a researcher involved in the project, informed the Michigan **Daily**

that the results of the first experiment "fit in well with other statistics."

However, the reprieved baboons were hastily assigned to another experiment, to be conducted by Richard Malvin, a member of the Physiology Department at the University of Michigan. The tests involved "the regulation of salt and water in the blood." Each experiment lasted one day. Within a few weeks, all the Baboon Six were dead.

Dr. Malvin was asked by the Animal Protection Institute to justify his experiment. He stated that the question was "impossible to answer" since research is like "piling grains of sand on a beach until you get a large sandy beach." He did note that the cancellation of the car-crashes had presented him with a "golden opportunity."

Aug 1978

CHIMPANZEE EXPERTS MEET

A small group of chimpanzee experts and U.S. Government officials was invited to a meeting at the National Institutes of Health on 30-31 March 1978. The purpose of the meeting, which was organized by the Interagency Primate Steering Committee, was to discuss the population status of wild chimpanzees.

The experts (Dr. J.S. Gartlan of Victoria, Cameroun, Dr. C. Jones of the Fish and Wildlife Laboratory, Washington, D.C. USA, Dr. T. Struhsaker of Fort Portal, Uganda and Dr. A. Kortlandt, of the University of Amsterdam) submitted the following estimates of chimpanzee populations by country:

Senegal: less than 100.
Gambia: 0.
Mali: less than 50.
Guinea: relatively abundant. Some smuggling on the border.
Sierra Leone: very few. Most exports of Guinea origin.
Liberia: a few thousand. Mainly in east.
Ivory Coast: some 1000s in Tai area. Most exports of Guinea origin.
Upper Volta: extinct.
Ghana: few. Relic populations.
Togo: rare. Probably extinct.
Congo: unknown, possibly good.
Benin: exterminated in 1930s.
Nigeria: few. Relic populations.
Cameroun: locally relatively abundant.
Rio Muni: unknown.
Gabon: relatively abundant.
Central African Republic: 1000-3000 in southwest.
Zaire: largest extant population.
Sudan: low hundreds.
Uganda: fewer than 5000 and local.
Burundi: extinct.
Rwanda: extinct.
Tanzania: less than 1000 along shore of Lake Tanganyika.

The experts proposed that a pan-African survey of wild-living chimpanzees should be performed as well as an exhaustive survey of the numbers and reproductive potential of chimpanzees currently held captive in the United States. Should the latter survey reveal a genuine shortage of animals, then the experts suggested that limited cropping should take place, preferably in areas destined for logging operations or plantation development, and that such operations should be conducted by trained scientists rather than commercial animal dealers and hunters. The experts also emphasized the importance of immediate research aimed at developing efficient and humane methods to capture chimpanzees, to replace the traditional mother-killing method.

In a separate report, Dr. Struhsaker expressed reservations over establishment of breeding programs in habitat countries, feeling that such programs might encourage illegal traffic and poaching of chimpanzees. In addition, Dr. Struhsaker recommended a complete moratorium on importation of wild-caught chimpanzees into the United States until more precise population data was available. He warned that chimpanzee densities are subject to seasonal variation and variation in different areas within single forest blocks, and stated that repeated nest counts in a wide range of localities would be necessary before any valid statistics could be prepared. Dr. Struhsaker also noted that the most important function of any census would be to identify sites for national parks and chimpanzee reserves and that preparing management plans was of secondary importance to this.

ENDANGERED SPECIES PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR CHIMPANZEES

Applications by 13 U.S. circuses and small exhibitors to import chimpanzees have been turned down by the U.S. Federal Wildlife Permit Office.

No decision has yet been taken on the application by the Merck, Sharp and Dohme Company to import 125 chimpanzees from Sierra Leone. IPPL has learned that Sierra Leone wildlife authorities are likely to refuse an export permit for 125 chimpanzees, even if the United States were willing to issue an import permit. The Endangered Species Scientific Authority has asked Merck, Sharp and Dohme to produce further information about the status of wild chimpanzees in Sierra Leone, and the methods of capture to be used by its supplier, Dr. Franz Sitter, but the company appears unable to provide the information. Thus the application is dormant pending further input by Merck.

The Federal Wildlife Permit Office is now considering an application by the Albany Union Medical College to import 30 chimpanzees annually for its International Center of Environmental Safety, which currently owns 280 chimpanzees, of whom 55 females and 10 males are in a breeding colony, the rest being used in experimentation. The chimpanzees would apparently be provided by Dr. Franz Sitter, although Albany Union Medical College has refused to name its supplier.

LABORATORIES REFUSE TO PERFORM DANGEROUS SURGERY ON CHIMPANZEES

The NIH *Guide for Grants and Contracts* (18 April 1978) announced that the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) was seeking "statements of capabilities" from laboratories holding chimpanzees for a project entitled "The Physiology of Adrenarache." NICHD stated that it was planning a sole source contract with the International Center of Environmental Safety (ICES), Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, USA, unless another capable organization could be identified.

Six adult male chimpanzees and six 2-3 year old males would be used in the study. All chimpanzees would undergo hypophysectomy (which involves the removal of the pituitary gland). Hypophysectomy is a difficult operation since the pituitary gland is situated in a tiny bony cavity attached to the brain by a stalk or neck. It is well-protected and difficult to reach. The surgeon must pass through the roof of the mouth and the sinuses. Consequences of hypophysectomy may include diabetes, deficit of adrenocortical function, sensitivity to physical stress and infection, as well as frequent episodes of collapse and unexplained severe illness. The chimpanzees would be dependent on synthetic steroids for the rest of their lives.

IPPL has learned that two of the major chimpanzee laboratories in the United States have expressed to NICHD their objection to this part of the proposed study. One scientist informed NICHD's Contracting Officer, "We do not consider hypophysectomy of such an invaluable primate resource as a reasonable scientific method at this stage of limited primate availability."

IPPL applauds the stand taken by these laboratories and has asked officials of the International Center of Environmental Safety to explain their apparent willingness to participate in this project.

Aug 1978

SIERRA LEONE WILDLIFE LAWS

The recent application by the Merck Sharp and Dohme Company, Rahway, USA, to import 125 chimpanzees from Sierra Leone has focussed attention on this small West African country.

According to the May 1978 **Bulletin** of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Sierra Leone is a "happy hunting ground" for foreigners. The country has as yet no national parks and forests are being rapidly destroyed. Wildlife hunting and trading laws are weak and not enforced.

Under Sierra Leone's Wildlife Conservation Act (1972), all Colobus monkeys are officially declared "Prohibited Animals" (Second Schedule). Chimpanzees and cercopithecoid monkeys with the exception of the baboon are classified as "Protected Animals" (Third schedule-genera of which the young are specifically protected). Galagos, pottos, and chimpanzees are classified as "Game Animals" (Fourth Schedule with hunters permitted to kill 2 of each per permit). Diana, Spotnosed, Mona, Patas, and Mangabey monkeys are also on the Fourth Schedule, with unlimited hunting, except of young animals, permitted. Baboons, vervets, and mangabeys, are classified as "Vermin" throughout the whole country.

The law appears somewhat confusing and contradictory in places, with some animals appearing on more than one schedule, and no precise definition of "young" being given. To complicate matters further, the Minister of Agriculture may grant permits for any activity, "notwithstanding anything in the Act contained."

Sierra Leone has an active Nature Conservation Association founded in 1976. The Association is working to establish national parks and to halt the decimation of the country's wildlife. Recently, the Association appealed to the President of Sierra Leone to ban further chimpanzee traffic.

REPRIEVED CHIMPANZEE DOING WELL

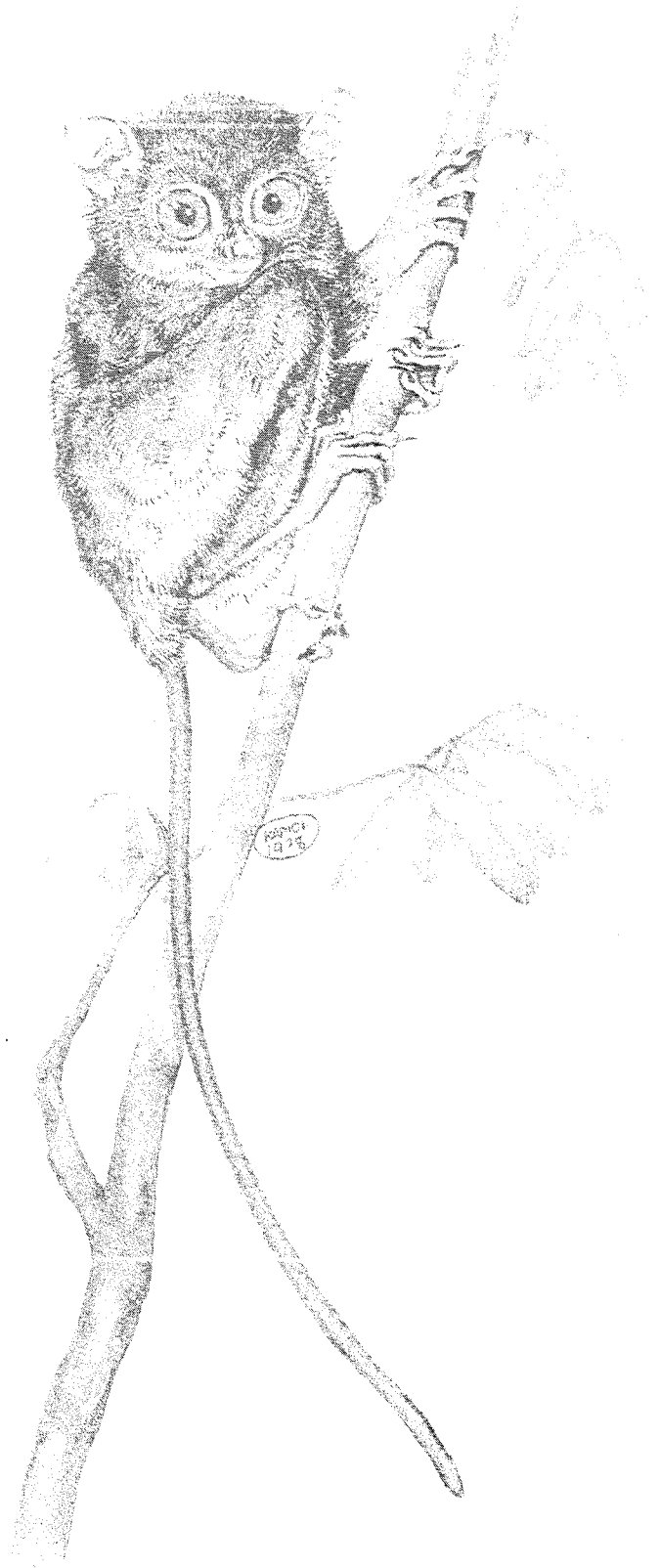
When Dr. Christian Barnard of Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa, cancelled a second chimpanzee heart transplant operation in the wake of the death of the first recipient of a chimpanzee heart and a storm of local and international protest, the survivor of the two chimpanzees he had imported was sent to the High Noon Game Farm, which owned a lone female chimpanzee.

IPPL has learned that the two chimpanzees are getting along well and are very happy together. The information was provided by John Spence, Director of the Tygerberg Zoo near Cape Town, who visited the Game Farm in May 1978.

It appears that the Director of the TNO Laboratory in Rijswijk, the Netherlands, who had written off the two chimpanzees he shipped to Barnard as "useless" was wrong in his evaluation of this chimpanzee. The animal reportedly showed great grief at the death of the first chimp, screaming and shaking the bars of his cage to such an extent that members of the hospital staff felt guilty and ashamed. Now he appears to have made a good adjustment to his new life and it is likely he will breed.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS SEIZE MONKEYS

The New Orleans **Times-Picayune** reported on 25 March 1978 that the U.S. Customs had seized 3 Diana monkeys (*Cercopithecus diana*) from the Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo in Monroe, Louisiana. The Zoo's Director, Jacob Yelverton, was charged with illegally importing the monkeys at New Orleans Airport and making false and fraudulent statements about the animals' country of origin.



Tarsier by Kamol Komolphalin

Aug 1978

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