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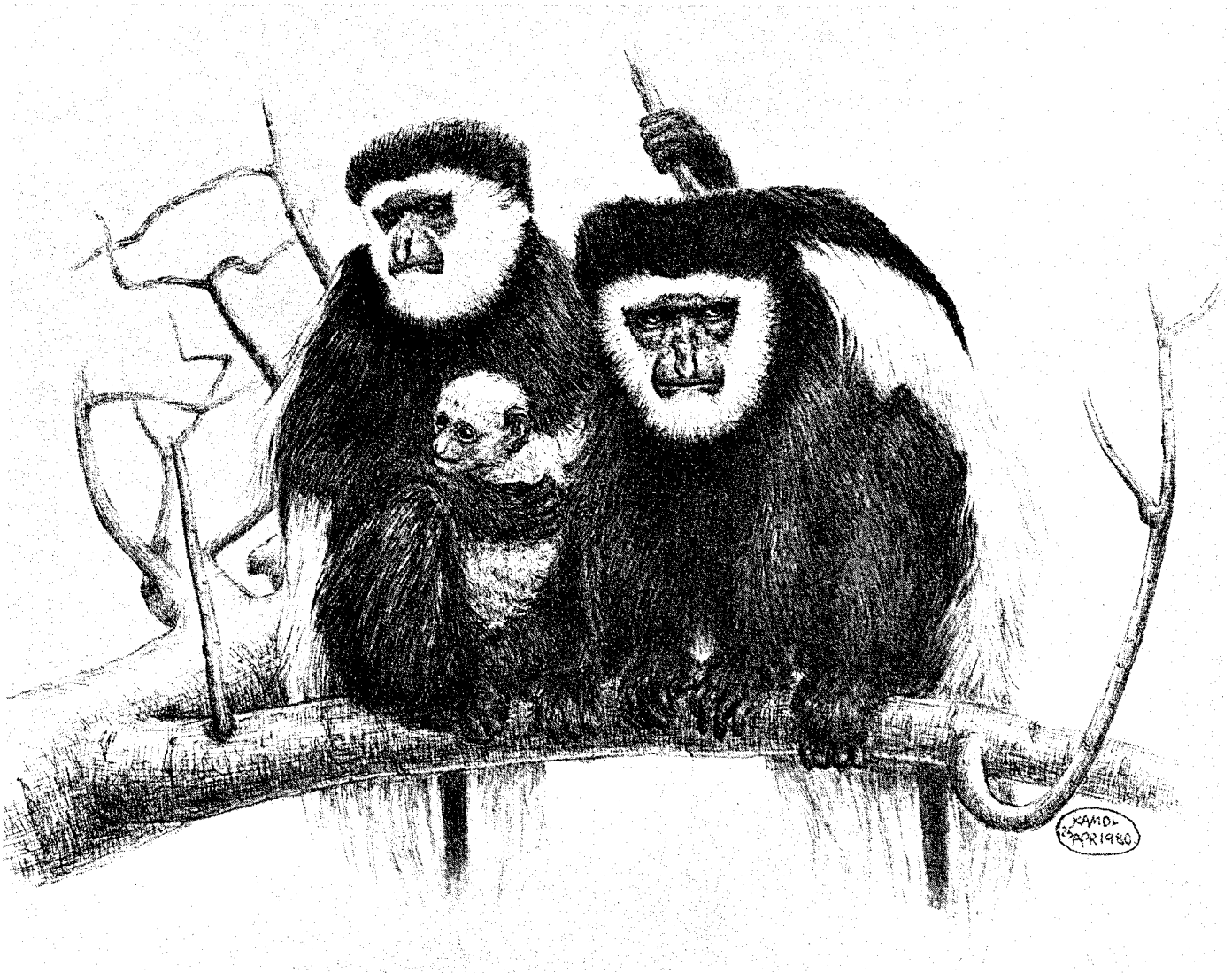
# NEWSLETTER



INTERNATIONAL  
PRIMATE  
PROTECTION  
LEAGUE

Vol. 8 No. 2

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Black and white Colobus monkeys  
by Kamol Komolphalin

## INSIDE: STORM OVER KENYA PRIMATE CENTER

# KENYA'S PRIMATE CENTER

## 'LEGACY OF LOUIS LEAKEY' or 'DESTRUCTION OF FOREST'?

The International Primate Protection League has received a copy of a letter dated 26 January 1981, written by T. C. Noad, an attorney with Daly and Figgis Advocates, Nairobi, Kenya, to James Else, Director of the Kenyan "Primate Research Center," in which Mr. Noad raises serious questions about plans to destroy part of a Kenyan Forest Reserve to set up the Center's permanent facilities.

In his letter, written on behalf of the Olulua Forest Preservation Society, Mr. Noad asks Else to "take immediate steps to stop the destruction of the Olulua Forest at Ngong," (10 miles west of Nairobi), by Center contractors. According to Mr. Noad, the "Primate Research Center" had taken over exclusive rights to a one-hundred acre section of the finest part of the Olulua Forest Reserve, which, "although pitifully small, contains some of the best indigenous forest in Kenya." Several primate species occur in the Reserve.

According to Mr. Noad, the effects of construction of the Primate Research Center's facilities inside the Forest Reserve will include:

- 1) Loss to the public of 100 acres of pure forest.
- 2) Massive clearing of the forest around the perimeter of the site, "to allow for construction of a prison-like electrified chain link fence."
- 3) Further clearing for establishment of cages for 1,000 primates to be used in disease studies.
- 4) Construction of buildings **inside** the forest area to provide luxury accommodations for 20 senior staff, along with "their families and servants," as well as housing for 20 junior staff and their families, a two-story Conference Center, a laboratory, a surgery, and various out-buildings.

Mr. Noad asked, "Why do these buildings have to be inside the Forest Reserve? What possible justification can there be for ruining the forest?" He alleged that the contractor clearing the path for the security fence had been cutting down large, mature trees that would never grow again, and that two boreholes had been sunk, in an area where the water table "is already chronically low." In addition, Noad alleged that the Primate Center had "hacked down" a completely different site two years ago, and that the site was subsequently abandoned.

Noad also questioned the secrecy with which the project had gone ahead and commented, "It does not seem to us that any such project should ever be allowed without a properly publicized public enquiry."

According to **Primate News** (Summer-Fall 1980), the Kenyan Institute of Primate Research is "part of the legacy of Louis Leakey." (Louis Leakey, the distinguished investigator into the history of early man, died in 1972 and so is not in a position to contradict this statement). **Primate News** is the publication of the Oregon Regional Primate Center, Oregon, U.S.A. The Center was involved in the Kenya Primate Center project from 1977-1980, when it dropped out, reportedly because of friction with Richard Leakey of the National Museums of Kenya, who was "facilitating" the project with the Kenyan Government. In fact, Louis Leakey and his friend, Cynthia Booth, did start a small Primate Center in the Tigon area in 1958, where African monkeys, especially rare species, were maintained in captivity for behavioral and husbandry studies. The Center was never involved in harmful, invasive research on its animals, nor did it export animals, in contrast to what is planned for the expanded Primate Center, which will be in a completely different location. Studies at the Center included hybridization, although Ms. Booth reportedly destroyed all the hybrid animals when she left Kenya suddenly in 1965. She was followed at Tigon by a series of short-term directors.

After Louis Leakey's death in 1972, the Tigon Center became associated with the National Museums of Kenya, directed by Louis Leakey's son, Mr. Richard Leakey. (Another son, Jonathan Leakey, is an exporter of Kenyan wildlife.) The Center was then renamed the "Institute of African Primatology." According to the **Primate News** article, Richard Leakey sought advice from the Oregon Primate Center on how to keep the Institute alive and expand it. As a result, the Animal Resources Branch of the U.S. National Institutes of Health provided funds for maintenance and expansion of the colony, and sent James Else, a veterinarian specializing in developing "animal models of infectious diseases" to Kenya to direct the Institute. In order to attract funds, the emphasis of the Center was redirected from behavioral research to biomedical research: according to **Primate News**, problems to be studied include "human reproductive failure" (hardly a problem in Kenya, with its burgeoning human population), parasites, schistosomiasis, and the role of high cholesterol diets in heart disease. **Primate News** notes that "The Institute of Primate Research is working to implement a broad program that will include census studies, applied and behavioral field studies, assessment and alleviation of primate pest problems, **COMMERCIAL TRAPPING AND EXPORTATION**" [emphasis added, perhaps the latter is envisaged as a solution to the former problem], "field management, domestic production, and conservation of indigenous species."

IPPL has learned that exportation of primates by the Center has already begun, with 80 vervet monkeys being shipped on 2 April 1978 to Primate Imports, a commercial animal dealership in New York, and an unknown number of shipments subsequently.

It is not clear whether the United States Government is still funding the Kenyan Primate Center. The World Health Organization and the Government of Kenya have committed some funds, but the origin of these funds is not clear, since WHO has in the past "laundered" U.S. money to fund a U.S. government "Primate Center" in Peru.

It would appear that, if those establishing the Center were as seriously interested in conservation as they claim, they would not be involved in destroying a lovely forest tract close to Nairobi, an area with potential educational value for teaching Kenyan school-children to appreciate their wildlife heritage. Since there are no Kenyan primatologists at this time, most of the Center's senior staff will be Western. While one can appreciate that they would like to live in luxury in a wooded area, nonetheless other accommodations are available in the Nairobi area and destroying a Kenyan forest for the convenience of expatriates is unacceptable. It is highly doubtful whether Louis Leakey would have approved of what is going on, even though the Primate Center project is conducted under the umbrella of his name and one of his sons is deeply involved.

It is also strange that the Government of Kenya, faced with massive conservation problems brought about by an epidemic of elephant and rhinoceros poaching, should even consider committing substantial funds to establishing a Primate Center of doubtful necessity which will inevitably be dominated by foreign interests.

**LATE DEVELOPMENTS:** IPPL has learned that the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) has contacted Dr. Else, Director of the Primate Research Center, expressing shock at the selection of the Olulua Forest Reserve as the site for the Center's new facilities. The ICBP statement, dated 23 March 1981, pointed out that the Olulua Forest is extremely important habitat for several rare birds of prey (including the Crowned hawk eagle and the Black Sparrow hawk). ICBP also pointed out that the wastes from the Center could contaminate the Mbagathi River and have an adverse effect on the health of humans and

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animals in the area, a result hardly consistent with the goals of the World Health Organization, which is sponsoring the project. The ICBP statement noted that, "The Forest would make an outstanding field station for the National Museums of Kenya and could also serve as a centre for public education about the values of irreplaceable forests: the plans of the Primate Research Center indicate that the importance of forests is evidently not sufficiently appreciated by scientists."

IPPL has learned that a third Leakey brother, Philip, is deeply involved in the Primate Center project. He serves as Kenya's Assistant Minister for the Environment, and, in this capacity, might have been expected to make an effort to protect the Olulua Forest. Instead, the Ministry of the Environment transferred the land to the Ministry of Home Affairs to facilitate the project.

The **Nairobi Times** (30 March 1981) reported Leakey's expression of "shock" that a "reputable Nairobi lawyer" should have taken up the cause of the Olulua Forest Preservation Society, which was informally organized and, therefore, according to Leakey, "illegal." Incredibly, Leakey informed the **Times** that the Primate Center was acting to "preserve the forest rather than destroy it," a statement clearly belied by the photograph of a scene of devastated forest that accompanied the article.



Vervet monkey

## PERUVIAN PRIMATE PROJECT EXAMPLE TO EMULATE OR FIASCO TO AVOID?

The International Primate Protection League has learned that the United States government's Primate Steering Committee and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been proclaiming to governments in primate habitat countries that their primate project in Peru is such a great success that other countries should follow Peru's example and allow the establishment of similar projects.

IPPL contends that the Peruvian project is a fiasco and that countries should be extremely cautious before accepting any primate projects proposed either by the Primate Steering Committee or the World Health Organization, which recently hired Benjamin Blood, retired Executive Director of the U.S. Primate Steering Committee, to direct WHO's new "Primate Resources Program."

The Peruvian project has been marked by heavy mortality of primates in both the capture process and captivity. The breeding performance of the tamarins in the station established at Iquitos, Peru, has been negligible. Several thousand primates have been exported through the project to the United States, the Soviet Union, West Germany, and Japan. Almost all of these animals were removed from the wild. The "conservation" component of the project has consisted mainly of selecting trapping areas for monkeys for export.

Among the many examples of suffering caused to monkeys by this project were:

- \* Losses of infant White-moustached tamarins in the course of efforts to trap their parents.

- \* Deaths of large numbers of owl monkeys when the paralytic drug curare was used to catch them. Monkeys died painful deaths from respiratory paralysis.

- \* Deaths of 200 Squirrel monkeys in 1977 and 1978.

- \* Heavy losses of tamarins due to "wasting disease," a disease usually caused by inadequate nutrition and captivity-induced depression.

IPPL has recently learned that the fate of monkeys exported to the United States through this project has been grim. Several shipments arrived at Miami Airport with substantial numbers of dead and dying animals. Many of the monkeys were sent to the Delta Primate Center, where the mortality has been appalling, as reflected in Table I.

It is doubtful whether Dr. Blood and his associates will tell the governments in faraway countries the dismal facts behind the project which they are promoting as an example to the world.

IPPL has learned that Peruvian authorities are now taking a "second look" at the entire project.

Table I

Mortality of South American primates at the Delta Primate Center, 1979. Source: Delta Primate Center Annual Report, 1979.

Species	Colony no. 1 January 1979	Deaths in 1979	% animals dead
Squirrel monkey	143	53	37%
<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>			
White-moustached tamarin	210	182	87%
<i>Saguinus mystax</i>			
Red-bellied tamarin	17	12	71%
<i>Saguinus labiatus</i>			
Total:	370	247	67%

## CONVENTION PARTIES MEET

The Third Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species took place in New Delhi, India, from 25 February to 8 March 1981. Sixty-one Convention member nations sent delegations, as well as several non-member nations, which sent observers. Many conservation organizations sent delegations. Anne Doncaster of IPPL (Canada) and Dr. S. M. Mohnot, IPPL's Indian Representative, represented the International Primate Protection League. Dr. Shirley McGreal attended as Representative of the Animal Protection Institute. Lobbyists for many commercial interests also attended, including the fur, leather, ivory and pharmaceutical trades, as well as several big game hunting and falconry associations.

The Convention remains strong. Efforts to weaken it by making listing of species more difficult and dropping the proposed guidelines for humane shipment of animals were defeated. Considerable progress was made on such issues as harmonization and standardization of Convention documents, (making them harder to forge), and preparation of an identification manual for species protected by the Convention.

Several proposals to upgrade primate species by adding them to Appendix I (thus barring commercial trade) were offered. The Republic of Panama, formerly a center for the redistribution of wildlife smuggled from Colombia, has now joined the Convention, and proposed the addition of *Saguinus geoffroyi* (Geoffroy's tamarin) to Appendix I. Since the Geoffroy's tamarin resembles the Cottontop tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*), listing of both species on Appendix I will help end the past practise of Cottontop tamarins, which occur only in Colombia, and are highly endangered, being exported out of Panama with export documents identifying them as Geoffroy's tamarins. The proposal was accepted.

The United States proposals to upgrade the Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus diana*), mandrill (*Papio sphinx*) and drill (*Papio leucophaeus*) were accepted.

The U.S. withdrew three of its primate proposals, those to upgrade the Yellow-tailed Woolly monkey (*Lagothrix flavicauda*), the Black colobus (*Colobus satanas*), and the Preuss' Red colobus monkey (*Colobus badius preussi*). Although admitting the rarity of all species, the United States justified withdrawal of its proposal by saying that the main threat to each species was habitat destruction. Several countries objected strongly to the U.S. withdrawing its own proposals and offered to "adopt" them. Peru and Brazil felt extremely strongly in the case of the Yellow-tailed Woolly monkey, a recently rediscovered species once thought to be extinct. However, the Chairman ruled that one country could not "adopt" another country's withdrawn proposal, but could submit a new proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties. In fact, the

Convention does not specify that a species must presently be in trade to receive Convention protection, and habitat destruction makes rare species more vulnerable than ever to poachers, so the motive for the U.S. withdrawal of its proposal is unclear.

This incident shows how important it is for one country not to rely on another country's proposal if it wishes to see a species protected by the Convention. It is possible that a country could, for devious tactical reasons, propose for protection a species it did not wish to see protected, in order to withdraw the proposal at the last moment, or, as in the case of these primate species, a new U.S. administration could reverse a proposal initiated by its predecessor. In fact, the U.S. government also withdrew its proposal to place most parrot species under Convention protection. Fortunately, the United Kingdom had submitted a similar proposal, which went through easily.

The major problems still facing the Convention are: inadequate financing, the failure of many wildlife trading nations to join the Convention (including Belgium, Austria, Spain, Singapore, Thailand, Colombia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Bangladesh), and continued acceptance by some Convention nations of forged documents.

The next Convention conference is tentatively scheduled to be held in Botswana in 1983.



Conference delegates (left to right): the Maharaja of Baroda, President of WWF (India), Dilip Matthai (WWF India), Fran Lipscomb (Society for Animal Protective Legislation), Shirley McGreal, and Digvijay Singh (M.P.)

## IPPL TEAMS CHECK CRATES AT BRUSSELS AIRPORT

Belgium has long been a smuggling center for endangered wildlife, including gorillas, chimpanzees, gibbons and other primates, as well as wildlife products such as ivory and furs.

In order to study the extent of the wildlife traffic and the conditions in which it is conducted, Dr. Roland Corluy, IPPL's Belgian Representative, organized teams of university students who began to make inspections at Zaventem Airport, Brussels, in late 1980. The students discovered many irregularities in documents accompanying shipments, and many violations of the International Air Transport Association's "Live Animals Regulations."

Unfortunately, the Belgian Minister of Agriculture banned the students from the airport cargo areas in January 1981, presumably because their investigations were casting an

unwelcome light on Belgium's disgraceful activities. Dr. Corluy is trying to get permission for the inspections to continue, but has so far been unsuccessful, although he has many volunteers anxious to work at the airport.

IPPL wishes to extend its thanks to Dr. Corluy and the student teams, whose members included:

Louisa Blommaert  
Piet Boekaerts  
Philippe Decock  
Anne de Wijs  
Jules de Wijs  
Sabine Gadeyne  
Willy Ingels  
Jan Laurens

Philippe Leemans  
Frank Scholliers  
Walter Scholliers  
Patsy Slabbaert  
Alain Sohier  
Elly Verstappen  
Line Vreven

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## U.S. TRIES TO FORCE BANGLADESH TO EXPORT MONKEYS

An article entitled "No Banana Republic, U.S. Struggles to End a Monkey Embargo" appeared in the financial newspaper, the **Wall Street Journal** on 26 March 1981. The article described efforts, as yet unsuccessful, by the United States Government to force Bangladesh to reopen the trade in live monkeys for laboratory use. Although the title is unclear, a "banana republic" is considered to be a small, weak country completely under the dominance of the United States Government, as used to be the case with several of the Central American countries where bananas are grown. Apparently, the United States would like to see Bangladesh compliant with its wishes, and is frustrated that several years of constant pressure and harassment have not brought about Bangladesh's re-entry into the monkey traffic.

In January 1979, Bangladesh cancelled an agreement which would have allowed a U.S. dealer, MOL Enterprises of Portland, Oregon, to export 71,000 monkeys from the country over a ten-year period. The Government of Bangladesh alleged that MOL had broken its agreement by failing to set up a monkey breeding farm as promised, and by selling monkeys to the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, which uses monkeys to test the effects of atomic weapons, including exposure of monkeys to neutron radiation.

According to the "Wall Street Journal" article, "The Government of Bangladesh has thrown a wrench into the machinery of America's National Primate Plan." According to an American diplomat not identified in the article, "the monkey file is one of the more highly classified that we have." This diplomat then provided material from this file to the **Journal**. Any such "classification" appears improper to IPPL, since classification is only permitted when revelation of a document would cause identifiable damage to the national security of the United States and NOT in an effort to conceal activities that might embarrass the government. Clearly, unless the U.S. government planned to harm or corrupt Bangladesh officials, there should be nothing to hide.

The **Journal** told how a second U.S. dealer, Mr. Scott Campbell of Scotty's Roadside Zoo in Oregon, appeared in Bangladesh in 1978, seeking a "cut" of the monkey business for himself. Although MOL Enterprises had been granted a monopoly by the government, Mr. Campbell felt he had a good chance of breaking into the monkey market, because, as he claimed, "I know some of the élite in Bangladesh, I had done some real favors for some of the families there." Mr. Campbell sought the help of the U.S. Embassy in Dacca in his campaign to get the right to export Bangladesh monkeys. When the Embassy refused to help him, he sent off an irate telegram to President Carter in December 1978, "broadly suggesting that some palms at the Embassy had been greased by Bert Viece [of MOL Enterprises]," according to the **Journal**.

Just a month later, the Government of Bangladesh cancelled MOL's contract. Since that time, only three shipments of Bangladesh monkeys have reached the United States, including one sent to the Primate Imports Company of New York in January 1981 by the Dacca Zoo.

The **Journal** notes that, "Ever since MOL lost its contract, the U.S. Embassy has tried mightily to get the monkeys flowing again." The State Department sent a telegram to the Government of Bangladesh stating that, "No Bangladesh monkeys have been used in neutron bomb or atomic weapons development." This statement is false. Even if it were true, this means that the monkeys would have come from India and were used in violation of the U.S. Agreement with India (1955) barring use of Indian monkeys in weapons experimentation. The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute has used over 2,000 Rhesus monkeys in its radiation experiments, and the School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, has used a similar number.

So far, Bangladesh has courageously resisted U.S. pressure to re-enter the monkey trade. The authorities of that country are to be commended for standing up to such pressure and bullying tactics. At this point, the State Department is getting ever more frustrated and belligerent. The **Journal** quotes an Embassy official as saying, "Aid could be cut off. We don't want to threaten, but there's a stage when this has to come into play."

The **Journal** article makes no reference to the rapidly dwindling numbers of Rhesus monkeys in Bangladesh. At the request of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh and Dr. Ken Green of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. U.S.A., the United States Department of the Interior even considered the listing of the Bangladesh Rhesus population as "threatened" in 1978. The proposal was not accepted, partly because of opposition from the U.S. Air Force, whose spokesman, Colonel Thomas Butler, who performs military experiments on primates at the School of Aerospace Medicine, protested to the Department of the Interior that, "The lack of imported animals would have an adverse effect on the Air Force's ability to meet mission requirements of national defense."

IPPL strongly commends the Government of Bangladesh for not yielding to this harassment by the U.S. Embassy in Dacca. We also feel that these Embassy activities are deplorable and should be stopped immediately. Bangladesh has a perfect right to protect its monkey populations free of foreign interference. Although the country is poor, Bangladesh is making a gallant effort to save its remaining wildlife and deserves encouragement rather than efforts to subvert this policy.

IPPL has contacted the State Department and the American Embassy in Bangladesh, asking them to respect Bangladesh's wildlife laws and cease their efforts to overturn the country's policy of legal protection for monkeys.

### CHIMPANZEE PROJECT T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

The Appalachian Zoological Society is selling T-shirts to help the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation project in the Gambia, West Africa. Shirts are available in small, medium, and large sizes. The cost is \$5.50 (U.S.) per shirt, plus \$1 postage and packing for each shirt. Send your order to AZS, PO Box 283, Knoxville, TN 37901.

## IPPL WORKS TO CURTAIL WILDLIFE SMUGGLING

In 1979, Henry Heymann, IPPL's Washington Representative, led an effort by conservation organizations in support of a bill before the U.S. Congress to strengthen the Lacey Act. The Lacey Act makes it a federal violation to import wildlife taken or exported contrary to the laws of a foreign country. Enforcement of the act, especially in cases where the wildlife has been smuggled to the United States from a developing nation, has been severely handicapped by easy penalties and difficult-to-prove culpability standards. The "Lacey Act Amendments," as the bill was termed, would have corrected these shortcomings. The result of passage of the bill would have been a reduction in the cruel and massive destruction of wildlife through illegal trade and the poaching which supplies this trade.

The illegal trade in wildlife is estimated to amount to over \$300 million (U.S.) per year. Lacey Act violations have included importation of baby gibbons packed in snakes' crates, importation of cotton-top marmosets from Paraguay, where they do not occur, having probably been smuggled there from Colombia, the only country where this species occurs. None of these shipments led to a prosecution. The trade in illegal wildlife includes heavy bird smuggling, as well as trade in wildlife products such as spotted cat fur coats, ivory, and rhinoceros horn.

Thus, the weakness of the Lacey Act has not only allowed for extreme cruelty in capture and trading of wildlife, but has also accelerated the drain of wildlife from the jungle, by helping provide a market for poachers' products. The market consists not only of the smuggler and his customers, but also the tourists who purchase from wildlife markets and curio shops, which are frequently poachers' outlets.

The Lacey Act Amendments passed the House of Representatives in July 1980. After a series of delays and modifications, which lessened penalties, particularly those applicable to poachers, the bill seemed ready to pass the Senate in December.

However, on 10 December 1980, the Safari Club International

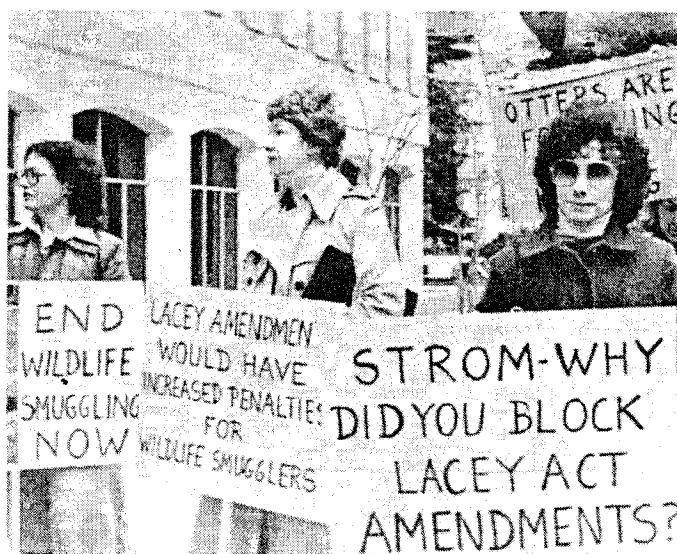
came out in the open to kill the bill. The Club had never taken advantage of the opportunity to testify on the bill, but preferred a quiet "kill." In 1978, the Safari Club, an organization composed of 2,000 wealthy trophy-hunters, had applied for a U.S. Endangered Species permit to import to the United States "trophies" of such animals as gorillas, orang-utans, and Zanzibar Red Colobus monkeys, falsely claiming that it had obtained hunting licenses from the relevant countries to hunt these and other species including the tiger, white rhinoceros, cheetah, and clouded and snow leopards.

Most senators ignored the Safari Club's last-minute opposition; however, Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, acting at the behest of staff members contacted by the Safari Club, placed a "hold" on the bill, thus destroying its chances of passage. The reasons for the Club's concern over making violations of foreign wildlife laws a felony appear obvious in terms of the 1978 application. The closer a species comes to extinction, the more the big game hunters desire trophies, even at the risk of violating foreign laws. The countries where these rare species occur try to protect them, but most have long boundaries and are unable to enforce their laws effectively without the cooperation of the importing nations.

Legislation to amend the Lacey Act has been introduced into the 97th Congress, which convened in January 1981. Mr. Heymann has already testified before both House and Senate subcommittees studying the bill. The Safari Club is again trying either to block passage or make the Amendments weak and ineffective. This time the Club has found some allies among the extreme pro-hunting groups and gun lobbies. Therefore, support for the bill is greatly needed. U.S. members may contact their Representative (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senators (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510), requesting their support for amendments to the Lacey Act which will curtail wildlife smuggling from the tourist to professional smuggler level, as well as limit illegal hunting and importation of trophies of animals killed contrary to the laws of a foreign country.

## DEMONSTRATORS PICKET THURMOND'S OFFICE

On 6 February 1981, wildlife activists from all over the State of South Carolina, U.S.A. held a demonstration outside the Federal Building in Charleston to protest Senator Thurmond's blocking of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1980. (See "IPPL Works to Curtail Wildlife Smuggling," this issue). Members of



the International Primate Protection League, the International Cat Conservation Committee, the Fund for Animals, and the Spay not Slay League of Charleston participated in the demonstration, which received wide coverage on United Press International, and on television and radio all over the State.

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## RESEARCH MODERNIZATION ACT INTRODUCED

On 5 January 1981, the Research Modernization Act was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressmen Robert Roe, Harold Hollenbeck, and Frederick Richmond. The bill is similar to one that never came to a vote in the last Congress.

The principal points covered by the bill are:

1) 30-50% of each government agency's animal research funds would be diverted to development of alternative methods of research and testing not involving use of live animals.

2) No federal funds could be spent on research duplicating work already performed.

3) Programs would be established to train scientists in use of alternative methods.

4) Information on alternative techniques would be disseminated to the scientific community and the public.

So far, the bill has not found a Senate sponsor.

U.S. members wishing to comment on the bill may write their Representative (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515). The more mail received, the more likely the chance of hearings and an eventual vote on the bill. Members should also contact their Senators (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510), asking them to introduce H. R. 556 to the Senate. Please send IPPL a copy of the replies you receive.

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## GIBBONS POISONED BY INSECTICIDE

On learning that the Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester, New York, U.S.A. had applied to the U.S. Federal Wildlife Permit Office for a permit to purchase three White-handed gibbons for "conservation" purposes from the International Animal Exchange, a Michigan animal dealer, IPPL obtained a copy of the application (filed on 13 November 1980) in order to prepare comments for the Permit Office's consideration.

Study of the documents revealed that the zoo had lost two gibbons, a mother and baby, on 25 November 1979, and that the animals had died of insecticide poisoning. IPPL therefore strongly opposed issuance of an Endangered Species permit to the Seneca Park Zoo. On receipt of IPPL's comments, the Federal Wildlife Permit Office contacted the Zoo Director, Mr. Daniel Michalowski, for comments, and received the following explanation for the deaths:

The County of Monroe contracted the services of a local company for our pest control problems at the Seneca Park Zoo. This proved to be very unsatisfactory because of the deaths of some animals (marine and fresh water fish) that were attributed to their poor controls/procedures. At that time, the zoo administration recommended to the County of Monroe that our own zoo staff carry on the pest control program in house. That in house program worked very satisfactorily for

about 2 years until an incident occurred on November 25, 1979 when monkey chow that was soaked in an insecticide was placed on our primate employees' service area by the Orangutan exhibit. The Orangs could not reach this food because of construction of the cage and their large hands. Through an unfortunate accident, however, the keeper shifted the Gibbons into the Orang enclosure and with their small arms they easily reached this toxic food which resulted in the death of the female and her baby.

It is obvious that human negligence caused the deaths of these gibbons as the contaminated food should never have been left lying around, but should have been destroyed immediately. IPPL believes that such gross negligence should be illegal and that those responsible for causing such agonizing deaths to two animals should be prosecuted and punished.

However, the Federal Wildlife Permit Office saw things differently, and issued the permit to the Seneca Park Zoo to purchase the gibbons. In justifying issuance of the permit, Mr. Larry LaRochelle of the Permit Office informed IPPL in a letter dated 2 April 1981 that, "based on the information presented in Mr. Michalowski's permit application for the White-handed gibbons, we determined that it was **in the best interests of these animals** [emphasis added] that they be purchased by the Seneca Park Zoo."

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## GIBBON EATEN BY PYTHON

Dr. Shirley McGreal, Co-Chairwoman of the International Primate Protection League, visited the Primate Facility at the Universiti Pertanian, Malaysia, on 6 March 1981. The facility was set up as part of the workscope of a half million dollar (US) contract between the National Cancer Institute and Cambridge University, England. In the course of her visit, Dr. McGreal learned that one of a group of gibbons on loan to the project from the Malayan Game Department had been EATEN BY A PYTHON. It appears that far too much of the half-million dollars has been spent on travel and benefits for the Western participants in the project and far too little on the care and protection of the primates incarcerated under the project.

Study projects at the facility included one involving dropping food pellets down a chute into a cage of crab-eating monkeys to see who got to eat first, (a study of "dominance"). Observations were made for one hour a day when the expatriate associated with the project was not on holiday, explained a Malaysian veterinarian. Such a study appears to IPPL to be insignificant, repetitive of work done many times already, and totally irrelevant to the care of cancer victims, which is the mission of the National Cancer Institute. There was no sign on the premises of anyone doing any research, which may be fortunate for the primates concerned: however, it appears that U.S. taxpayers' money is being wasted on this project.

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# MONKEY DEPRESSION EXPERIMENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Experiments using Rhesus monkeys as "animal models of human depression" are being conducted at the Primate Laboratory, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, U.S.A. by a team including Drs. Stephen Suomi and Susan Mineka. These experiments are extremely controversial. Dr. Kenneth Shapiro, a practising clinical psychologist, from Lewiston, Maine, U.S.A., comments, "I have not learned anything of significance about depression from these studies to date. . .they take place in an ingrown, artificial, and horrifying world from the point of view of the experience of these animals."

The University of Wisconsin has been performing experiments involving the production of insanity and depression in monkeys since the 1950s. Many were conducted under the direction of Harry F. Harlow. Many readers will be familiar with the wire and cloth artificial "mothers," the "mothers" that blew compressed air at infant monkeys, the "mother" with the built-in ejecting device, the spiked "porcupine mothers," and the rocking "mother" that rattled its baby's head. Female monkeys driven insane by this kind of treatment in infancy, unwilling to mate normally, were tied to "rape-racks" to get them pregnant. These animals later became brutal and violent mothers, in some cases killing their offspring. (See IPPL Newsletter, May 1975).

One experiment had disastrous results: a mechanical, artificial "mother" was devised whose surface temperature could be varied from 250°F (121°C) to just above freezing, 35°F (0.5°C). Exposure resulted in the death of one infant and the near-deaths of three more. Grant reports indicate the scientists' excitement at these results, on which they plan a "major research effort." (Progress Report, 1972).

According to project documents, the University of Wisconsin Primate Laboratory holds 450-500 Rhesus monkeys at the present time. The laboratory is equipped with eight social isolation units, ten vertical chamber apparatuses, several "primate shuttleboxes" for "learned helplessness" experiments, and various other depression-producing gadgetry.

In recent years, the University of Wisconsin scientists have changed their emphasis: rather than producing monkeys driven insane by isolation, fear, or separation, they are trying to develop monkeys with symptoms of "depression" as observed in humans. Adolescent and adult monkeys are being exposed to depression-producing techniques since depression is relatively rare in human children.

Several techniques for producing "depression" have been developed at Wisconsin, the principal one being "chambering." Monkeys are placed in vertical, straight-sided units (also known as "pits") and left there completely alone for weeks on end, with no visual contact with either monkeys or humans.

The "pit" was developed as part of the scientists' "search for ways to augment depression produced by physical social isolation or social loss, i.e. privation as contrasted to deprivation." (Research Plan, 1969).

Within just a few weeks, report the scientists, the "chambered" monkeys exhibit "severe behavioral disturbances" which may be irreversible, including "elevated levels of self-clasp and huddle and severely diminished levels of locomotion, exploration and social activity of any kind." (Progress Report, 1972). According to the scientists, in just 4-6 weeks, "chambered" monkeys develop states of depression comparable to those resulting from 6-12 months of total isolation.

In 1975, Wisconsin scientists separated 5-month-old Rhesus infants from their mothers for 4-5 days, then killed them to study the "biochemical correlates of behavioral reaction to separation." Control monkeys were killed immediately on being

separated from their mothers. (Progress Report, 1975).

Drugs have also been used at Wisconsin to produce severe behavioral disturbances. In one experiment, hydroxamine was injected into several monkeys over a four-week period. Then, "the animals were sacrificed by decapitation" for brain analysis. Control monkeys were also killed. (Progress Report, 1972).

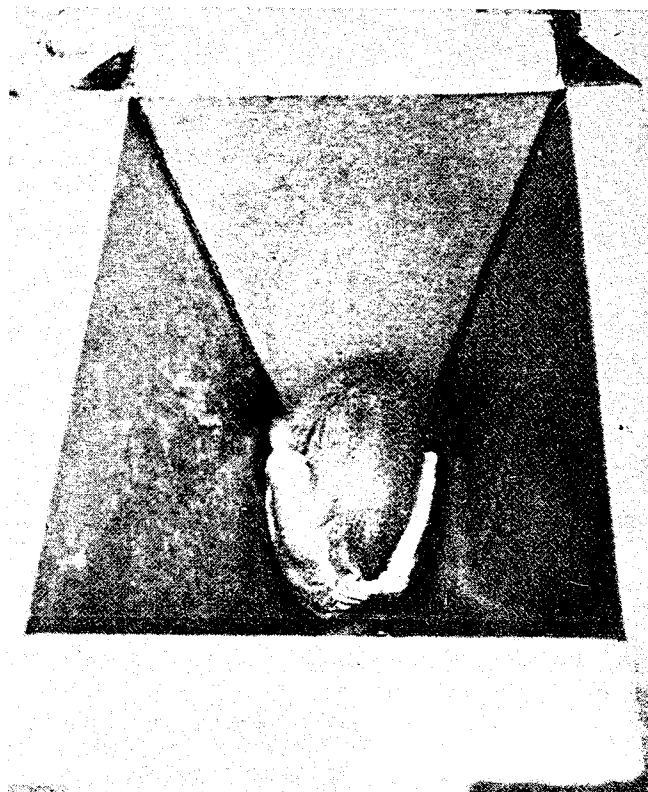
Another technique found to produce depression was repeated separations from, followed by reunion with, monkey friends. Such a traumatic series of events produced "despair reactions," report the Wisconsin scientists and "we are excited." The despair was so severe that "one of these infants died and a second nearly expired as well." (Progress Report, 1977).

Efforts were also made to combine techniques of producing depression. In a 1973 article, Dr. Stephen Suomi reports how he combined repetitive peer separation with chambering, which further increased the monkeys' despair.

Recently, two new techniques to bring about depression have been developed at Wisconsin:

1) Observing that established monkey groups frequently attack newly-introduced monkeys, scientists placed monkeys in cages which they lowered into gang cages of strange monkeys. This was found to produce extreme stress.

2) "Learned helplessness," a technique found to cause psychological trauma in dogs, was applied to monkeys. According to the 1977 Wisconsin grant proposal, fifteen adult monkeys would be divided into three groups, "Escapable Shock," "Inescapable Shock" and "No Shock." Monkeys finding that there was no way to avoid painful electric shock were expected to become "chronically helpless." Later, they could be treated by human antidepressant drugs, or by "dragging therapy" in which the monkey would be forcibly shown how



Infant monkey huddled in despair at bottom of pit

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shock could now be avoided. Plans were also made to develop "learned helplessness" in monkeys by subjecting them to extremely loud inescapable noise, and forcing them to try to solve insoluble problems.

Many aspects of the research at the University of Wisconsin Primate Laboratory are of concern to the International Primate Protection League. The laboratory has received over a million dollars from the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health, which presumably hopes that the monkey experimentation will help solve the problem of human depression. Unfortunately, this appears highly unlikely, since many of the factors that tend to cause depression in humans (fear of war, economic worries, fear of death and disease, etc.) do not affect monkeys. The techniques used to produce "depression" in monkeys such as "chambering" and production of "learned helplessness" by severe electric shock are unrelated to any events that cause human depression. In addition, studies similar to the Wisconsin studies have been conducted at other locations using other species of monkeys (squirrel, bonnet macaque, pigtail macaque, Patas monkey) and results have differed from those produced at Wisconsin. If it is impossible to extrapolate from one monkey species to another, then extrapolation to Man, with his completely different chromosomal structure, becomes hard to justify.

In a critique of the Wisconsin depression studies prepared for Friends of Animals (5 December 1980), Dr. Kenneth Shapiro, who has analysed the grant applications and progress reports, comments that, "the short shrift given to an ethical justification of this research is a critical shortcoming." In their 1974 grant proposal, the authors address themselves to the question of ethics, commenting:

Human depression data regarding etiology must, for ethical reasons, be retrospective: biochemical monitoring of the human disorder must, for ethical reasons, be peripheral: and therapeutic studies must, for ethical reasons, be based upon patient, not experimental, considerations. **These ethical restrictions are not applicable to work utilizing nonhuman primates** [emphasis added].

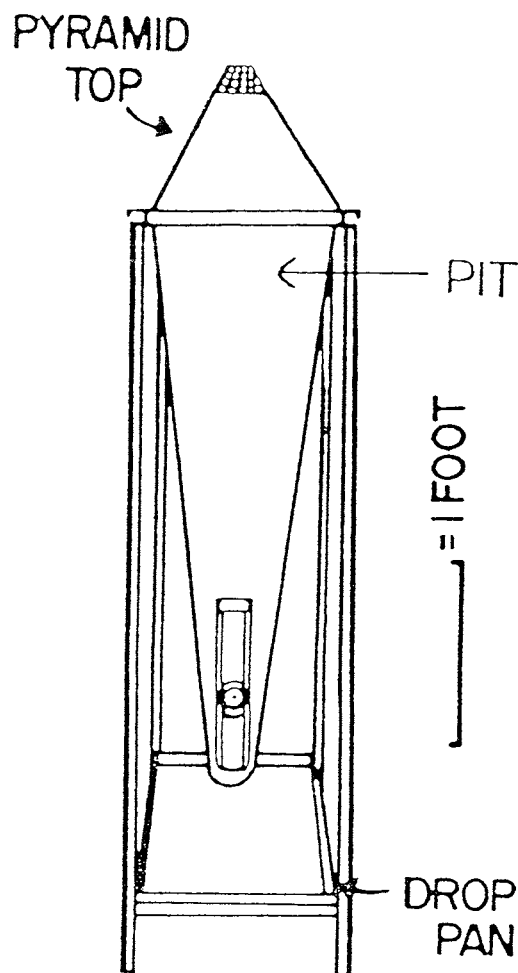
Shapiro comments that the grant proposal authors note that "the Rhesus monkey is close to humans in physiology, but then do not defend exposing it to such prolonged and excessive deprivation and pain." Shapiro concludes his analysis of the grant by stating that:

This is largely exploratory research: it approaches what is called "shot-gun" research. Although directed by theory and previous research, it largely proceeds by looking at a broad set of variables, by trying out various measures, interventions, etc. Such research must have more stringent ethical constraints. Again, much of it is to test the construction of a model, with eventual advances via this model far down a road that may dead-end. Again, much of it takes place in an ingrown, artificial, and horrifying world from the point of view of the experience of these animals, and I think, from that of any sensitive and reflective human.

William George, M.D. a member of IPPL's Advisory Board, also objects to the Wisconsin experiments. In a statement to IPPL dated 1 February 1981, he commented:

As a physician, I fail to see the logic of the production of a "monkey model of human despair". . . the addition of "learned helplessness" to their repertoire is ghastly, unpardonable, and gruesome.

Dr. George is also critical of the use of human antidepressant drugs on the "depressed" monkeys, noting that, "there are too many drugs on the market now that sedate, tranquilize, relax,



A sketch of the "pit of despair"

and calm, and our nation is 'hooked' on drugs." According to Dr. George, the drug in use at Wisconsin (imipramine) had already been tested on animals before being cleared for human use, at least eight varieties of the drug being on the market today.

Dr. George sees no relevance between the extreme and grotesque deprivations administered to the Wisconsin monkeys and actual human situations, and concludes his statement by saying:

If these experimenters feel they are doing an indirect service to benefit people, they should know that they are causing great and untold disservice to thousands of people who feel anguish, sorrow, hurt, and anger, in knowing that these cruel experiments are being performed on helpless, captive, sentient animals. I object strongly to these experiments being conducted at the Wisconsin laboratories.

U.S. members wishing to express their concern about the treatment of monkeys at the University of Wisconsin may contact the Director, National Institute of Mental Health, 5600 Fisher's Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, their Representative (House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515) and their senators (Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510). Overseas members may contact the U.S. Embassy in their country of residence.

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# FREDDIE'S STORY

by Stella Brewer

Freddie is a three year old chimpanzee who was born wild in the forests of Guinea. Sometime in 1980 his mother was callously murdered so that Freddie could become one more orphaned chimpanzee to be hawked on the black market. His captor shut him in the squalid darkness of a plywood box and firmly nailed down the lid. Barely able to move in this confined space, Freddie endured endless dusty hours of travel on the rough bush roads. He was fed any leftovers that could be pushed through the small opening in the side of his prison. Unable to move very much, he was forced to sit in his own excrement and as a result his anus became badly infected. He also developed gingivitis, a painful condition which causes the gums to recede and become soft and tender.

In November 1980, Freddie's captor smuggled him into the Gambia with the hope of selling him. Fortunately, before a sale could be arranged, word of Freddie's presence in the Gambia reached the Wildlife Conservation Department and he was lawfully seized under the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1977. When he was rescued, Freddie was suffering from severe stress as well as his physical ailments. He was placed in a large room-sized enclosure, which adjoins the Director of the Wildlife Conservation Department's house, to recover.

At this stage, Freddie could be excused for considering all humans as vicious terrifying creatures for they had killed his mother and caused him indescribable misery and suffering.

However, with kindness and understanding, a regular balanced diet and medical attention, the nightmare experiences of the past few months began to recede. Freddie's health improved and his distrust and hatred of humans began to give way to hesitant confidence. Slowly his remarkably good-natured personality began to emerge and he came to trust his new human friends totally. Each day he was taken for long walks in the Abuko Nature Reserve, where he was free to climb and forage for wild foods. This was all excellent practise for his future, as Freddie was not, like most orphan chimps, to remain a captive for the rest of his life. It was planned that, as soon as he was well enough, he would join a chimpanzee rehabilitation project. Here, under surveillance, he, and others like him, would complete their education in the ways of wild chimpanzees which they would normally have received from their mothers and the others in their native communities, so that eventually they would be equipped to live out their lives independently in their own environment.

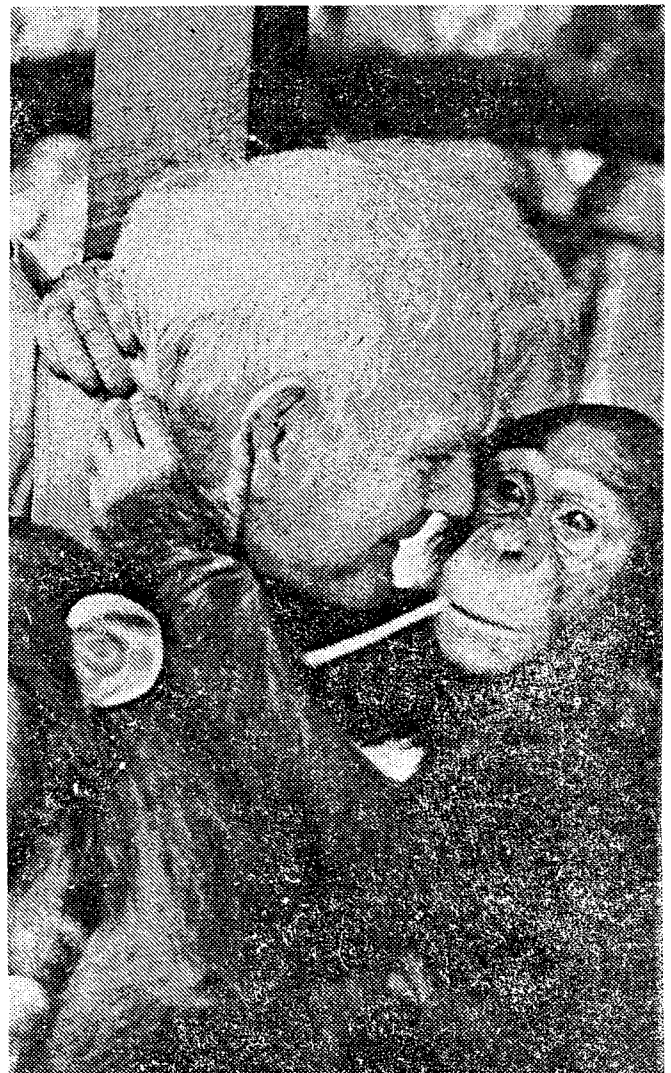
It is ironic that in November 1980, at the time when Freddie was recovering from the misery of losing his mother and the ensuing ordeal, someone visited the Gambia who profited from causing such suffering as Freddie had endured. He was an Austrian by the name of Horst Blaich, an animal dealer and purported owner of a "pet shop" and "private zoo." Whilst in the Gambia, he visited the Wildlife Conservation Department and enquired whether it was permissible to buy and export chimpanzees and other primates. He was informed very categorically that trading of wildlife in the Gambia was prohibited by law. Whilst at the Wildlife Conservation Department, Blaich saw Freddie in the enclosure next to the house, and asked whether he might be allowed to enter and photograph him. Permission to do so was readily granted. Despite the earlier conversation, Blaich had the audacity to enquire whether Freddie was for sale. He was told, rather more emphatically than before, that the Gambian law totally forbade such sales. Blaich left the Department and returned to Vienna the following day.

On the 1st February 1981, at approximately three o'clock in the morning, a single scream was heard from Freddie's enclosure. Those that hurried to investigate the sound, found the enclosure empty. Very soon afterwards, a car door was heard being slammed and a car on the main road accelerated violently away with the escaping thief or thieves.

For almost two weeks searches and investigations continued to no avail. All Police and Customs posts and the Airports and docks both in The Gambia and Senegal were alerted, but no trace of Freddie could be found. It was concluded, therefore, that whoever had stolen him had fled the country immediately after the theft.

We all felt tremendous frustration and despair at the injustice of it all. With freedom only weeks away, Freddie was once more the sad captive of another ruthless trafficker. We dwelt on how confused and bewildered he must be feeling for, just when he had begun to trust humans again and his life had regained some semblance of stability and contentment, he was suddenly thrown into yet another nightmare ordeal.

Hope of recovering Freddie was beginning to wane when on the 17th of February news came our way that gave us direction and hope. Mr. Brewer, Director of the Wildlife Conservation Department, was shown an Austrian newspaper article, concerning an incident which had taken place on the Montana Austria flight which had left Yundum International Airport, Gambia, on the 1st of February 1981, only hours after Freddie had been stolen. This article in essence stated that a passenger by the name of Horst B. (who subsequently proved to be Blaich) had come to the Gambia on a Montana Austria package holiday. He



Happy reunion: Mr. Brewer and Freddie meet in Austria

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had brought with him a three-month old Dalmation puppy which he had carried in a large basket as cabin luggage. About two days before the end of his stay in the Gambia, Blaich was observed by two Montana Air stewardesses attempting to abandon the Dalmatian puppy on a deserted beach near Fajara. By persistent threatening and aggressive actions, he managed to drive it away and then hurriedly departed, leaving the bewildered and cowering puppy on the beach. The two stewardesses, who had observed this despicable incident, hastened to the beach and rescued the puppy, which they kept and took with them on their return flight to Austria on the 1st February.

Shortly after their flight had taken off, one of the stewardesses recognised Blaich as being the same man she had seen abandoning the puppy on the beach. At his feet was the same large basket that had contained the puppy on the outward flight from Vienna. When these observations were conveyed to the captain of the Aircraft, Captain Hans Jorg Stockl, he became suspicious. During the flight further observations on Blaich were maintained. When the plane had safely landed at Vienna Airport and before the passengers had disembarked, Captain Stockl confronted Blaich and demanded to examine the contents of the basket. Finally Blaich reluctantly conceded. In the basket lay a drugged infant chimpanzee. At this point Blaich completely lost his self-control and physically attacked Captain Stockl, in the presence of no less than 164 other passengers. It is possible that Blaich's fury was due to the fear that he risked losing the substantial amount of money that a young chimpanzee can bring on the black market. No less than 69 countries are now members of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species which affords legal protection to this species against unscrupulous dealers such as Blaich, and so the black market price is high.

Upon reading the newspaper cutting, Mr. Brewer sent a cable to the Chief of Police in Vienna conveying details of Freddie's theft only hours before the Montana Austria Flight had departed from the Gambia on the 1st of February, and stated that the primate referred to in the article could well be Freddie and so should be well protected. This cable was followed by a more detailed letter describing Blaich's previous visit to the Gambia in November and other possibly pertinent facts. Letters were also written to Captain Stockl requesting details of what had taken place, and also to the Director of The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Austria, seeking his assistance. The Inspector General of Police for the Gambia was informed of these new developments and speedily requested Interpol support. The net began to close around Blaich.

In the meantime, a phone call was made to Bavaria seeking the assistance of Dr. and Mrs. Jahn who had stayed in the Gambia for three weeks over Christmas and who had frequently accompanied Freddie on his daily excursions into Abuko Nature Reserve. Subsequently, Mrs. Jahn and her son Andy proceeded to Vienna where they were allowed to see the chimp in question and were able to identify him positively as Freddie. News of this positive identification was quickly relayed to Dr. Faust, Director

of the world famous Frankfurt Zoological Society, whose attention had already been drawn to the article concerning Blaich's smuggling attempt, and he was instrumental in having Freddie withdrawn from Blaich's police surveyed custody, to the care and security of Vienna State Zoo.

News of these happenings was relayed to the Gambia by friends through phone calls and cables from Germany, Holland and Austria. The last cable received indicated that Freddie's return following judicial action against Blaich was assured and that the Austrian WWF, with the assistance of Austria's largest newspaper, *Kronenzeitung*, would cover the cost of Freddie's return to the Gambia.

The stimulating conclusion which may be drawn from this real life drama is that the shared concern and initiative of a relatively small number of dedicated persons who genuinely care about animals, have led to the detection and downfall of an unscrupulous and experienced illegal animal trafficker. It represents a decisive victory from which we can all draw strength. Whilst it is true that Blaich is but one who will be brought to book out of many, the adverse publicity he has provoked against illegal wildlife trafficking has produced widespread repercussions which will serve to inspire a more positive and concerted public attitude. The true character of Blaich behind his "pet shop" and "zoo" facade may be clearly seen. No animal lover would deliberately and callously abandon a three-month old puppy on a beach in a strange land, or contemplate the theft and smuggling of a young chimpanzee, particularly when he already knew it to be still recovering from the effects of ill treatment at the hands of other animal traffickers. It would seem that personal monetary gain is his greatest concern and the suffering inflicted on innocent animals to acquire such profit, his least concern.

NOTE: It is sometimes said that truth is stranger than fiction, make of the following what you will for it is the truth. When extensive investigation through all official channels had drawn a blank, a member of the Wildlife Conservation Department advised that the services of a Marabou should be sought. His advice was taken and a Marabou, (Muslim holy man), was consulted. This is what he said.

"The chimp has been stolen by a white man, assisted by a black man. The thief though white is not of the same nationality as you (referring to Mr. Brewer's daughter - i.e. not English). He has visited your house and your father has met him but does not know him well. The chimpanzee has been taken over water but do not despair, within three weeks you will receive news which will guide you to his whereabouts. There is no doubt that you will find your chimp alive. God will help you.

Freddie was stolen on 1 February 1981, and the newspaper cutting conveying the information that Blaich had been apprehended by Captain Stockl at Vienna Airport with a drugged chimpanzee in his possession reached Mr. Brewer on 16 February 1981.

**The IPPL Chimpanzee Fund will remain open for the duration of 1981. Contributions should be sent to IPPL, P.O. Drawer X, Summerville, SC 29483, U.S.A. Janis Carter and Stella Brewer both thank all IPPL members and friends who contributed in 1980.**

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