IPPL
INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE

# News

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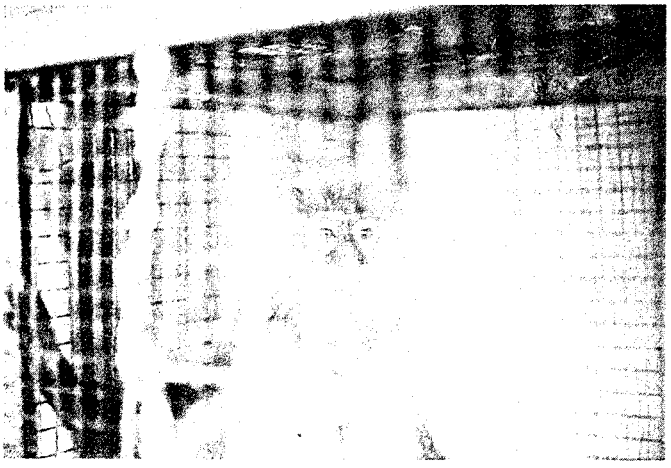
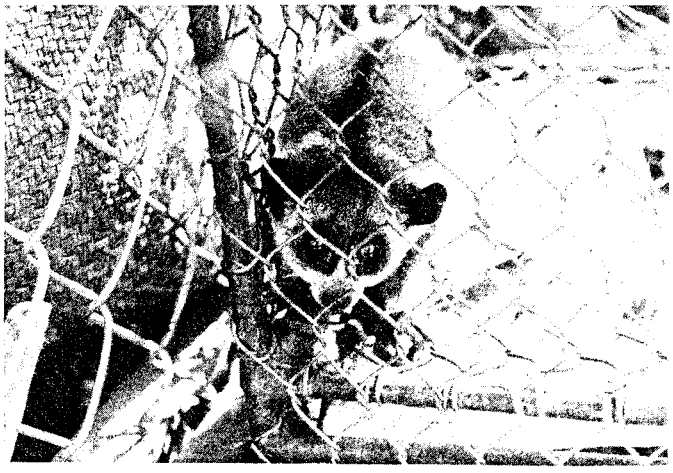
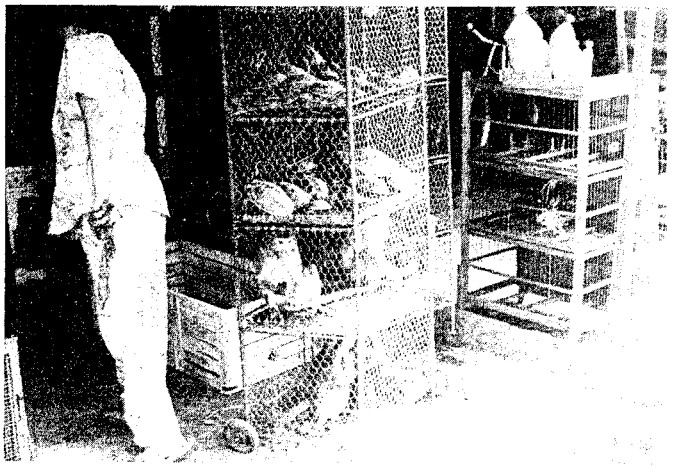


Silver Langur for sale
Saigon Market



Slow Loris for sale
Saigon Market



Macaques for sale
Saigon Market

Concolor Gibbons for sale
Saigon Market

## INSIDE: VIETNAM'S ANIMAL MARKETS

## DIAN FOSSEY'S EARLY DAYS

# SHIRLEY McGREAL RECEIVES UNITED NATIONS AWARD AT EARTH SUMMIT

Shirley McGreal receives award from
Earth Summit Convenor Maurice Strong
with Princess Sirindhorn of Thailand looking on

Dr. Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman and founder of the International Primate Protection League, received the prestigious Global 500 Award at a ceremony held in Rio de Janeiro's Municipal Theater on Earth Day, 6 June 1992.

Dr. McGreal received her award from a line-up of dignitaries that included Princess Sirindhorn of Thailand, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Dr. Maurice Strong, Convener of the Earth Summit and Dr. Mostapha Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

On 2 June 1992, Mr. Michael Howard, Secretary of State for the Environment of the United Kingdom, sent a congratulatory letter to Dr. McGreal. Mr. Howard wrote:

> ***I am writing to congratulate you as a recipient of one of this year's Global 500 Awards. This is a pleasing and timely recognition of your distinguished environmental achievements. Your work on protecting endangered species is extremely important and I am delighted that UNEP is adding your name to its roll of honour.***

Dr. McGreal was able to attend the Rio Global Forum thanks to the efforts of our generous Patron members who helped make sure she got there. Our warmest thanks go to everyone who helped make it possible for our Chairwoman to attend this exciting event and speak up for the cause of primate protection.

## IPPL T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Michelle Martin wearing IPPL Chimp T-Shirt

IPPL has the following T-shirts for sale:

**Gorilla T-Shirt**: Sizes XL, L, M and S, white, grey, beige and aqua. XXL available in white and aqua only.

**Chimpanzee T-Shirt** (back and front design): XL, L, M and S, white and aqua. XXL, white only

**Gibbon T-Shirt**: XL, L, M and S, silver, beige, aqua and pink. Not available in XXL.

IPPL T-shirts cost $12 each, please add $2 per shirt for postage and handling.

**••• Please provide a second color choice •••**

IPPL also has gorilla sweat-shirts in XL, L and M, all in sea-green. XXL gorilla sweat-shirts are available in white only. IPPL sweat-shirts cost $22 plus $3 postage and handling.

By wearing IPPL T-shirts and sweats, you help carry the message of "Primate Protection" wherever you go, and your gift helps IPPL carry on its work.

**••• IPPL T-shirts make wonderful Holiday gifts •••**

# ECO-DETECTIVES VISIT VIETNAM ANIMAL MARKETS

*In the spring of 1992, a dynamic duo of eco-detectives travelled around Vietnam using public transportation, and sometimes even bicycles, to check out the country's animal markets. The results were two hours of videotaped horror, hundreds of chilling photographs - and the fascinating story you are about to read. One of the investigators, who were helped by an IPPL grant, tells the story of this remarkable investigation.*

This report on wildlife trading in Vietnam is based on information collected in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), Nha Trang and Hanoi.

**Ho Chi Minh City**

Ho Chi Minh City, the largest city in Vietnam, is changing a great deal as a result of Vietnam's liberalized economic policies. Foreign businesses are beginning to move into the city and tourism is also becoming an important part of the city's economic base.

One of the results of Vietnam's "open door policies" has been the growth of wildlife trading businesses, and Ho Chi Minh City is the center of the trade.

Products made from endangered sea turtles are widely available in Saigon. Ivory products made from endangered Asian elephants are freely sold. Tiger and leopard skins are for sale in many places. Stuffed specimens of every imaginable species of wildlife are being offered to tourists. Wildlife meats and medicinal products derived from wildlife are common-place. A thriving wildlife market specializing in live animals is continuing to support a cruel and vicious trade.

There appears to be no effort to regulate wildlife trading - even government controlled businesses are involved.

**Cho Cau Mong (Saigon Wildlife Market)**

There is a large animal market in the middle of Saigon on the edge of the Saigon River. In the open market a number of small shops (about 20) have been set up in order to sell dogs and cats, and live wild birds, reptiles and mammals.

Individuals and families are buying and selling wildlife at this market on a large scale. Apart from being the main place where Vietnamese people buy wildlife "pets," this market also serves as one of the main sources of live wildlife specimens that are exported to other countries.

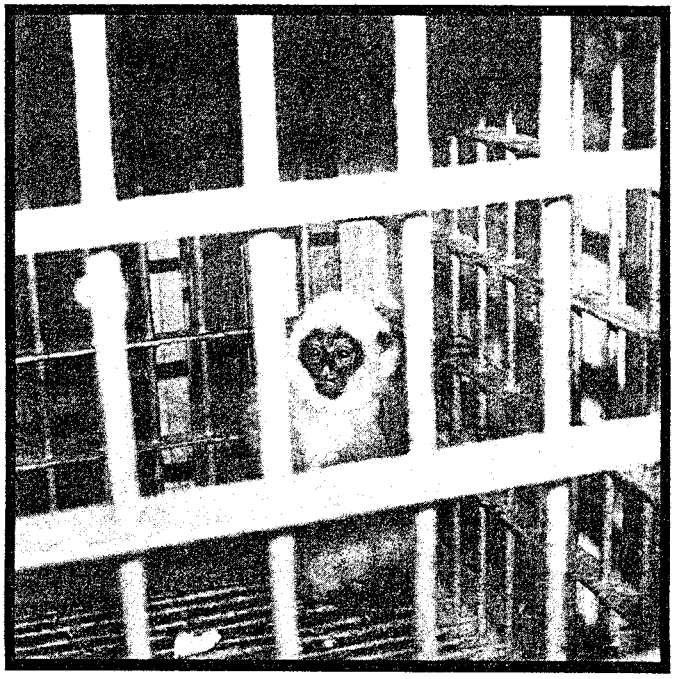
The following is an inventory of live primates for sale at the market on 14 February 1992.

| | |
|---|---|
| Shop 9: | 3 Rhesus macaques<br>1 Concolor (white-cheeked) gibbon<br>1 baby macaque |
| Shop 10: | 1 macaque |
| Shop 11: | 2 macaques<br>1 concolor gibbon<br>12 slow lorises |
| Shop 13: | 1 concolor gibbon |
| Shop 14: | 13 macaques |
| Shop 15: | 3 stumptail macaques |

On the next day, one macaque and one slow loris that had not been seen on the market the previous day were observed.

On 26 February 1992, another survey of the same market was performed in order to get a better idea of the kind of turnover that is going on at the market.

| | |
|---|---|
| Shop 2: | 1 macaque |
| Shop 8: | 8 macaques |
| Shop 9: | 3 macaques<br>1 concolor gibbon |
| Shop 10: | 1 macaque |
| Shop 11: | 3 macaques<br>15 slow lorises<br>2 baby slow lorises |
| Shop 13: | 3 baby concolor gibbons |
| Shop 14: | 21 macaques<br>1 silvery langur |
| Shop 15: | 3 stumptail macaques<br>1 large macaque with skin disease<br>6 small macaques |
| Outside shop: | 10 macaques |

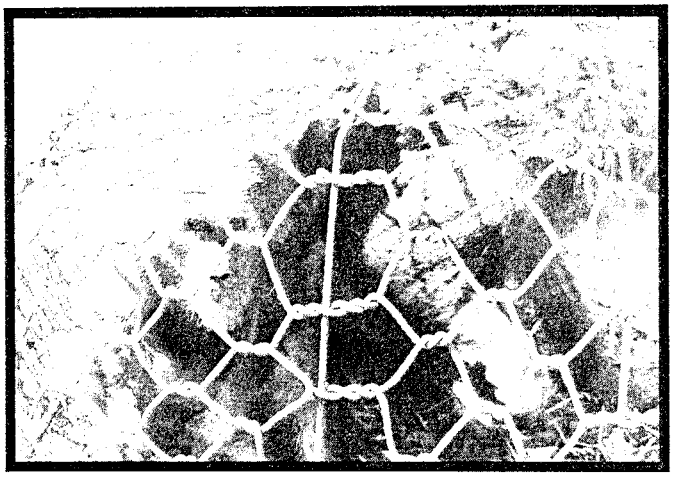


**Baby gibbon on sale at Saigon Market**

On 29 February, a baby concolor gibbon, 3 slow lorises, and 1 macaque, not seen before, were observed on the market.

*Continued overleaf...*

Also on 29 February, the 3 stumptail macaques in Shop 15 were sold in our presence to a Vietnamese woman who stated that their brains would be eaten. We were able to videotape the sale. The 3 monkeys were taken from their tiny wire cage and stuffed into sacks.



**Macaques at Saigon Market later sold for "monkey brains"**

Prices of primates were $150 for the silver leaf monkey, $150-200 for baby gibbons, and $15-20 for macaques.

Other species seen on the market included a variety of birds, live reptiles, reptile skins, palm and Indian civets, Asiatic black and Malayan sun bears (some with horribly mangled feet as the result of being caught in leg traps), flying foxes, live otters and otter skins, tiger skins, mongooses, pangolins, and leopard cats.

One of the dealers said that the macaques he was selling came mainly from the Vietnamese provinces of Song Be, Tay Ninh, and Dong Nai. Some are also said to come from Cambodia and Laos. The same dealer also said that macaques were exported to Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

When asked about Douc langurs (a highly endangered species of Indochinese primate), one dealer said that, if we wanted to order any, he would get them. He did admit, however, that they were rare. He wouldn't give a price, but did say that he had obtained them from the Dalat area of central Vietnam before. Unfortunately there was one Douc langur for sale at the market between the 16th and 26th February, when we were away, but it wasn't long before a Vietnamese man bought the animal.

Gibbons and bears apparently come in from many different areas, but the Nha Trang and Dalat areas were mentioned by the dealers as areas where many came from.

On the 26th of February we met a man (born Indonesian but living in Taiwan) who is directly involved in smuggling wild animals from Vietnam into Taiwan. He told us that he had taken 150 monkeys into Taiwan over the last three months. He also said that he sometimes smuggled gibbons and baby bears too.

He apparently buys all the animals he smuggles from dealers at the Saigon market. He claimed that he worked for a shipping company called Reach Shipping S.A. He wrote the address of the company down as: Room 1, 7th Floor, Ming Shin Building, 50 (or So? Road), East Sec. 4, Taipei, Taiwan.

This man told us that he took the animals on one ship he worked on and smuggled them into Taiwan at Kaohsiung. His ship normally leaves from Cantho, which is a port city near Saigon, and takes 5 days to arrive in Kaohsiung where he said it was easy to get the animals past Customs.

On the first day we met the man, he was only asking the prices for bears, monkeys and gibbons. However, on the second day I actually saw him buying two of the baby bears that were for sale. He paid $250 for one animal and $300 for the other. He smiled and said he made good money from the business.

It would be advisable to inform the Taiwanese Customs Department about the ships belonging to Reach Shipping S.A. Others should be informed and pressure should be put on the Taiwanese and Vietnamese governments to stop this trade.

It is not known how many free-lancer traders are doing the same sort of thing, but they are certainly willing to pay a lot of money for the animals (by Vietnamese standards), and this has encouraged, and probably will continue to encourage, animal hunting and trapping in order to get the animals to supply this trade.

We saw a number of animals and birds being delivered to the market by hunters and traders while we were there.

We also heard that this market used to be located near a food market in the middle of the city, but was relocated to the new location in early 1991. It was apparently moved for health reasons. The smell is sometimes bad.

None of the small dealers in the market admitted to having any connections with any large trading companies, although they sell animals to whoever has the money.

It also appears that many of the animals come from Laos and Cambodia or from border areas near these countries. Reports from Southern Laos indicate that Cambodian traders have been encouraging villagers to get them otter skins. In that very few Cambodians can afford luxury items like otter skins, it seems possible that they are being transferred through Cambodia to Saigon where they are being exported to foreign markets. It is probably also true that some of the otter skins for sale in Saigon come from Cambodian and Vietnamese animals.

In conclusion, the Saigon Market is one of the most active places for trading animals and birds in Southeast Asia, if not the world.

**Other Places in Saigon**

We have heard that there are some restaurants that sell wild animals, including tigers, bears and monkeys. There are some Korean restaurants there that may also be selling wild animals like the ones mentioned. However, most of the restaurants selling large rare animals will only sell to "people they know." Other animals like deer, wild boars, snakes, bats and tortoises are openly offered at many restaurants throughout the city. One hotel restaurant called the Vien Loi had a number of the more common kinds of animals on their menu, but they wouldn't admit to selling rare animals.

In Saigon there is also one place in town where about six small shops sell wildlife meats. One shop sells animal products and

stuffed animals. The meat stands sell mainly deer meat, wild boar meat, barking deer meat, pangolin meat and [illegible] meat. There are also some snakes and small mammals for sale.

Unlike the other market, which caters mainly to people wanting live animals, this group of shops sells for culinary purposes.

**Large Cats and Stuffed Animals**

There were a large number of tiger, leopard and clouded leopard skins for sale in shops in Saigon. They sold for $150-200. Most of the skins looked fairly new. We also saw tiger-skin purses and 2 stuffed leopard cats.

**Nha Trang, Central Highlands**

There appears to be a lot of wildlife trading going on in the Nha Trang/Dalat region. Although we were unable to go to Dalat during our trip, we did hear that there are a number of wildlife traders in this city, and that live bears and a number of species of primates are on sale at a market there.

There are at least two stores in Nha Trang that deal exclusively in wildlife products, and, to a lesser extent, live specimens.

At the first store, we found lots of skins and many stuffed animals for sale. There were stuffed gibbons, douc langurs,

**Stuffed animal shop in Nha Trang**

macaques, bears, tigers, clouded leopards and sea turtles. One live clouded leopard was for sale, and two clouded leopard babies. One young concolor gibbon was for sale also.

The second shop was offering stuffed tigers, clouded leopards, bear cubs, gibbons, macaques, full-grown bears and sea turtles for sale.

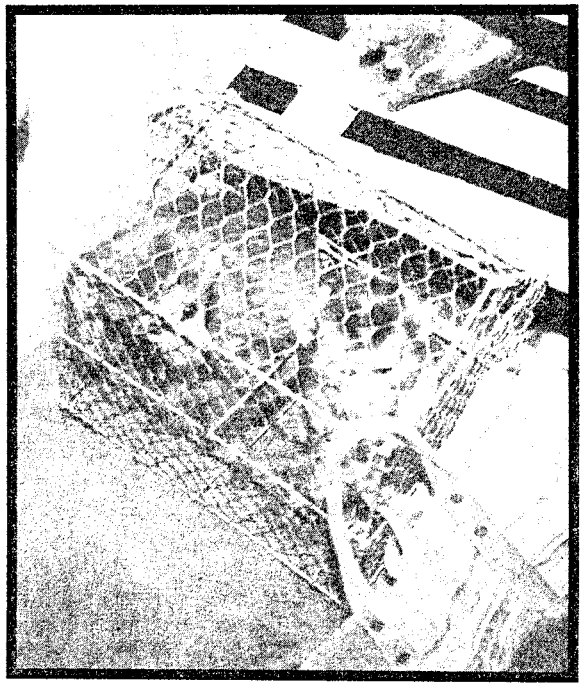
We also saw stuffed wild animals and skins for sale in a few smaller shops.

**Cho Dong Xuan - Hanoi Wildlife Market**

Unlike Saigon's live specimen wildlife market, which is in a different area from the regular food and clothing markets, Hanoi's market is mixed with shops of all kinds. It is not exclusively a wildlife market. It is also smaller and apparently less active than the market in Saigon. This may have to do with the amount of ship traffic around Saigon and a relatively large supply of wildlife from areas near Saigon. In any case, Hanoi's market is smaller.

There are about 10 small shops set up in the market that deal almost exclusively in wild birds and animals. There are also a few domestic animals for sale.

The dealers in the market may be selling animals to dealers who export them to other countries, but it appears that many of the animals are sold for food or as pets to Vietnamese people. Unlike the Saigon sellers, the Hanoi market sellers are anxious to avoid foreigners, and don't seem to regard them as serious customers.



**Monkeys on sale at Hanoi Market**

The attitude may, however, have more to do with cultural differences between the South and North of the country more than they do with selling patterns in the market.

In any case, there are many animals for sale at the Hanoi Market. We saw large numbers of macaques, slow lorises, pangolins and parakeets for sale. We also saw one live otter and a baby Asiatic black bear. In addition, dozens of otter skins were being offered.

Although we didn't see any gibbons, langurs or large cats for sale, it seems likely that all these kinds of animals have been sold at this market before. It appears that there has been no attempt to limit the trade of endangered species at this market.

**Other Places in Hanoi**

Although some wildlife products, including skins and stuffed specimens, can be found in the shops and markets of Hanoi, outside of Cho Donh Xuan there appears to be a relatively small amount of animal products available.

Certainly there is only a fraction of the number of sea turtle products, tiger and leopard skins available, compared to Saigon. Nevertheless, we did find one tiger skin for sale and another stuffed leopard.

*Continued overleaf...*

It doesn't appear that the government is enforcing the law in Hanoi better than anywhere else, but market conditions regulate the growth of the business.

**Rhino Horn in Nha Trang**

There was a picture of a full rhinoceros horn in a tourist shop on the beach in Nha Trang. It was being offered for sale at $4,000 US. It is not known whether the horn is old or new and we were not able to see the actual horn - we could only see the picture. That was the only rhino horn we came across in Vietnam.

**Khanh Hoa Monkey Island**

The Cong Ty 18 (April 18th Company) is based in Khanh Hoa Province. The company operates five monkey breeding islands. These islands are close to the city of Nha Trang. The monkeys are bred for export.

According to an article about the monkey islands written in a Vietnam business publication:

> ***The monkeys which do not satisfy live-selling requirements are utilized as material source for preparations such as: monkey balm, and monkey balm alcoholic tonic. All these products are used for restoring the health of old people and weak post-partum women...at present, demands on monkeys are still great. Even in Vietnam, monkey brain dishes are also appearing on the menu of several big hotels. And the products processed from monkeys can be exported to some Asian nations.***

A package of "monkey balm" weighs 100 grams. It costs the equivalent of $1.50 US. It takes ten kilograms of monkey to make one kilogram of "**Macaca solida extract**," which is dissolved in water and taken as a drink.

We also saw bottles of monkey brain wine. One macaque brain is used to make ten bottles of wine. A bottle sells for the equivalent of 66 US cents. We were offered a bottle as a gift, but didn't have the stomach for it.

About 50 monkeys are used to make "**Macaca solida extracta**" and "monkey brain wine" every three months. The brain is used for the wine and the rest of the skin, organs and bones are ground up and made into the balm, which is 100% "pure monkey."

We were told that they are raising monkeys on five islands with the total monkey population being 2000-2500. We were able to visit Lao Island where we saw scores of rhesus monkeys which gathered at a feeding station when a bell was rung.

Many macaques (rhesus, stumptail, pigtail and crab-eating) are shipped to Hong Kong from Cau Da, six kilometers south of Nha Trang City, where there is a port.

The macaques are shipped by ocean to a Hong Kong company called Vanny Chain Technologies, a five-day ride, from where some proceed to England and France. We were told that many macaques have also been shipped to Singapore, Japan and China. Prices per monkey ranged from $150-300, according to species.

The company is owned by the provincial government and deals in monkeys only.

Vietnam has not signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), but certificates of export are issued by the Ministry of Forestry.

We also learned that there is a monkey island in Quang Binh province called Reu where Rhesus macaques are raised exclusively for Vietnamese laboratories.

**Naforimex**

In Vietnam, there are three government-owned companies called Naforimex. They are called Naforimex I, Naforimex II and Naforimex III. They are government owned enterprises dealing primarily in large-scale logging operations and marketing of forest products in Vietnam. Each company operates independently and has wildlife trading interests.

Naforimex (Nha Trang) is a division of Naforimex II which is based in Danang. The director stated that the company no longer dealt in animals but had sent large numbers of live wild animals overseas in the past, mainly to customers in Eastern Europe and Cuba. Among the animals he had trafficked were Asian elephants, macaques, langurs, gibbons, tigers, bears, leopards, crocodiles and civets.

The director expressed interest in getting back into the animal trade. All he needed, he said, was a good "capitalist customer" to buy them. Fortunately, he hasn't found one yet.

**Naforimex I - Hanoi**

We posed as wildlife traders to investigate the operations of Naforimex I which had always claimed that it did not deal in wild animals.

We met with the Director of Naforimex I's International Marketing Division. He said that his company dealt in many species of wild animals and birds, including bears, gibbons, monkeys, and large cats.

Unlike the people at Naforimex (Nha Trang), he said that his company deals with many wildlife dealers in Asia including ones from Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and especially Singapore.

He also said that most animals exported by them were sent out by air. He claimed that animals could easily be taken past Customs in Asian cities. He said that sending animals to Europe or North America was difficult, if not impossible, due to tough customs checks in these countries. He continued by saying that Singapore was a favorite place to send animals.

When asked about getting documents to export animals, he told us that he could provide all the necessary documents. He gave us a brochure which advertised, in English, a number of species of wildlife, including bears and gibbons, that his company sold. He

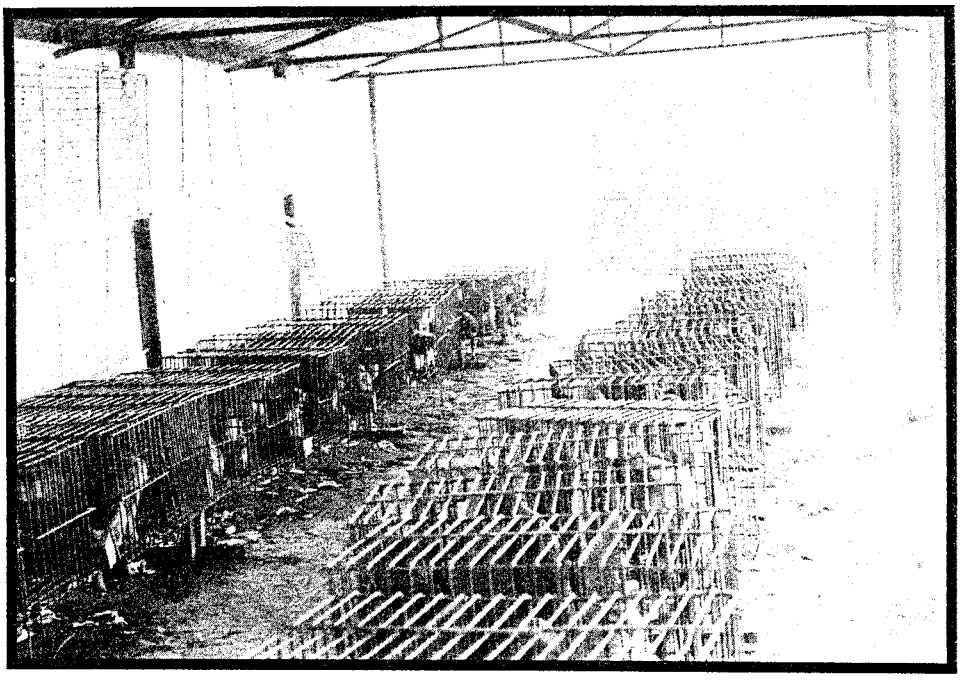
said that he had a number of wild animals, including gibbons, on hand and was preparing to export them soon.

As of January 1992, two months before we visited Naforimex I's office, a law was passed protecting a large number of Vietnam's native wildlife species. Many species that were advertised in the company's brochure and were offered by its representative cannot legally be exported.

More follow-up work is needed on this company. Local conservationists suspect that permission to export animals is being granted to Naforimex I by associates in the Ministry of Forestry, although this cannot be confirmed at this time.

**Naforimex III, Hanoi**

Little is known about this company. However it appears to be developing an interest in the wildlife trade, including monkey breeding.



**Monkeys awaiting export at Nha Trang**

**Conclusion**

Although it would be very easy to simply condemn Vietnam for the way it is exploiting its natural resources and wildlife, it must be remembered that much of the country's population is living on the edge of starvation.

When people's families are hungry and no other obvious means of making their livings are available, it is hard to blame the poor of Vietnam for the small role they play in the trade.

It must also be remembered that the "economic and political" war that the US government has continued to wage against Vietnam has also been a major cause of poverty within the country.

Although it is difficult to accept what is going on in Vietnam, it is also hard to blame the country for engaging in damaging activities, when they aren't given many options for taking part in legitimate trade.

The governments and people of the countries that are encouraging the wildlife trade, unsustainable logging and other damaging activities should also bear much of the responsibility and blame for the destruction that is taking place. It is certainly true that most of these countries are either rich, or not so poor that they need to be involved in activities that devastate Vietnam for quick profits.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

1) Please send a letter to:

**The Council of Agriculture**
**Executive Yuan**
**37 Nanhai Road**
**Taipei, Taiwan 10728.**

Request that an investigation be made of reports that an employee or employees of Reach Shipping Company S.A., reportedly based at Room 1, 7th Floor, Ming Shin Building, 50 (or So? Road), East Sec. 4, Taipei, Taiwan, may be smuggling wildlife from Cantho, Vietnam into Taiwan through Kaohsiung.

2) Please send a letter to Vietnam's Prime Minister and Minister of Forestry, expressing your concern at the brutal exploitation of wildlife at Vietnam's animal markets. Note that endangered species such as gibbons are being openly sold. Ask for an investigation of the activities of Naforimex I, Hanoi. Request that Vietnam join the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Add other comments based on this article.

Addresses:

**Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet**
**Prime Minister's Office**
**Hanoi, Vietnam**

**The Minister of Forestry**
**People's Department of Forestry**
**Hanoi, Vietnam**

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

# MEET "HELP"

In 1991, IPPL made a small grant of $1,000 to a wonderful project based in Pointe-Noire in the Congo Republic named "HELP," which stands for "Habitat Ecologique et Liberté des Primates." We thought you'd like to know more about this wonderful project so that you can see how well our wonderful grantees spent your money.

HELP's goals include the rescue of baby primates, including chimpanzees.

HELP was founded by Aliette Jamart and André Pique. Besides rescuing primates, they have worked to improve life for the animals at the notorious Pointe-Noire Zoo and have opened their home to unwanted primates.

**Members of the "HELP" family**

By 1991, they had a large collection of primates, mainly chimpanzees, who had taken over their home!

On 28 August 1991, the young chimpanzees were transferred to an island in the Conkouati Reserve. Leaving Pointe-Noire at 10 a.m., the chimpanzees started their trip to freedom by truck. Ms Jamart and Mr. Pique travelled in the back of the truck to reassure the animals!

At 4 p.m., the truck was loaded on a ferry-boat leaving for the island, where it arrived safely a few minutes later.

The animals immediately started to eat bamboo and a local fruit called "aframoumoun."

When night fell, Mr. Pique stayed on the island, and fell asleep with the chimpanzees, staying with them until 8.30 p.m.

The next morning, all the chimpanzees were lined up waiting for their bottles of milk, then they went into the forest with their caregivers to explore and learn natural chimpanzee ways.

Fears that the chimps would get diarrhea proved unfounded, and several animals with skin problems showed immediate improvement.

At present, 20 released chimpanzees are living on the island. Some of them have already started nest-building.

Mr. Pique and Ms Jamart extend their hearty thanks to IPPL for our grant to HELP. Any members wanting to make restricted donations for transfer to HELP, please contact IPPL Headquarters. HELP urgently needs funds to maintain the reserve and to rescue more primates.

# RECOMMENDED READING

**Directory of Primatology**

The **International Directory of Primatology** is now available. This 225-page spiral-bound directory contains the names and addresses of major primate centers, laboratories, educational foundations, conservation organizations and primate sanctuaries.

It also identifies current primate field study sites and how to contact them, and names and addresses of members of groups working on primate issues such as the World Conservation Union's Primate Specialist Group. Also listed are professional primate societies and major information sources on primates.

An index makes the directory very easy to use.

Copies of the **International Directory of Primatology** are available for $10 inside the United States, $18 for overseas addresses. To obtain a copy, contact:

*Larry Jacobsen, IDP Coordinator*
*Wisconsin Regional Primate Center Library*
*1220 Capitol Court*
*Madison WI 53715-1299, USA*

**Housing Manual Available**

**Applying Ecological Principles to Captive Primate Environments** is a manual about design of enclosures for captive nonhuman primates. The manual was prepared by Bruce C. Clark, senior zoo keeper at the Toledo Zoo, Ohio, USA.

Mr. Clark notes that the purposes of the manual include promoting better understanding of captive primate needs, and to increase awareness and precipitate action that will result in more physical space and psychological stimulation for captive primates.

The cost of this useful manual is $15.50 (USA) and $17.00 in US funds (other countries). Please address your order to:

*Bruce Clark*
*1958 Brame Road*
*Toledo OH 43613-4515, USA*

**Cheering up the Pointe-Noire Zoo Chimps**

# REMEMBERING KHUN BOONLERD ANGSIRIJINDA

*by Shirley McGreal*

Everyone at the International Primate Protection League is devastated to hear of the tragic death on 18 July 1992 of Khun Boonlerd Angsirijinda, Director of Law Enforcement of Thailand's Wildlife Conservation Division. While a guest in the United States, Khun Boonlerd died in a Washington DC hospital of complications following a stroke.

Although he was pencil-thin, Khun Boonlerd was truly a giant in his dedication to Thailand's beleaguered wildlife. He worked night and day, and was not deterred even by incidents such as regular death threats from Thailand's notorious wildlife smugglers and having venomous snakes thrown into his yard, presumably by people who thought their infamous activities could be conducted more easily with the ever-vigilant Khun Boonlerd out of the way.

Khun Boonlerd represented Thailand at international wildlife conferences. A serious man, he always attended all sessions. Outside the sessions, he was always anxious to discuss wildlife problems and possible solutions, and he was looking forward to visiting the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Forensic Laboratory in Oregon to learn more about applying scientific methods to the solution of wildlife crime.

At the February 1992 meeting of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which was held in Kyoto, Japan, Khun Boonlerd's intervention at a crucial moment helped save a threatened species. There was a proposal on the floor to add the black bear to CITES' list of protected animals. The United States, in spite of massive bear poaching even in national parks to supply the international gall bladder market, was strongly opposing this proposal. The proposal was originally defeated in committee, but revived in the Plenary. In a touching speech from the floor, Khun Boonlerd described movingly the horrible scene of cruelty and abuse he had recently found when confiscating seven live bears and parts of the carcasses of four bears freshly slaughtered for their paws and gall bladders. Many delegates were deeply moved by Khun Boonlerd's deep sincerity, and the proposal to protect the black bear went through.

Khun Boonlerd will also be remembered as the Confiscating Officer of the famous "Bangkok Six" orangutans. These animals had been smuggled out of Singapore in bird crates, and were seized on Don Muang Airport, Bangkok, after the crates were x-rayed when officials became suspicious after hearing cries that sounded like the crying of human babies coming from the crates.

The BBC made a one-hour special about this appalling shipment, and Khun Boonlerd appeared on the program which has been aired world-wide. Describing why he seized the baby orangutans, Khun Boonlerd commented that all of them would have died if allowed to proceed on their way to the Soviet Union via Yugoslavia.

This confiscation unravelled a nest of shocking international intrigue, and Matthew Block, an animal dealer based in Miami, Florida was later indicted in connection with the incident.

I know that the ever-courageous Khun Boonlerd was willing and anxious to testify at the trial of this animal dealer scheduled for August in Miami.

All of us at IPPL extend our condolences to Khun Boonlerd's family, his friends, and the people of Thailand on the loss of a decent and honorable public servant. We are sure that, if they could speak, the beleaguered wild animals of Thailand and the world would lament the loss of one of their best protectors.

**Khun Boonlerd Angsirijinda (right) with colleague and Ollie, one of the "Bangkok Six"**

## PRINCE PHILIP PAYS TRIBUTE TO KHUN BOONLERD

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has told Dr. Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, in a letter dated 30 July 1992, of his regret at the passing of Khun Boonlerd Angsirijinda. His Royal Highness stated:

***I was very said to hear of the death of Khun Boonlerd. There are not all that many "goodies"*** **[in wildlife protection]** ***and conservation can ill afford to lose such a "goody" just at this time.***

# MEET HELEN STRETTON!

Helen Stretton, an IPPL member living in Yeovil, Somerset, England, has devised some unique fund-raising ideas which have been of great help to IPPL (UK).

First, Helen sat down and allowed members of the public to dump pots of spaghetti over her!

Helen is frightened of spiders but, in March 1992, she sat in a cage at Bristol Zoo, and let a huge Mexican red-kneed spider crawl all over her. Sponsors donated £150 to support IPPL projects.

**Helen Stretton with Mexican Red-Kneed Spider**

Simon Garrett, Education Officer at Bristol Zoo, told the press:

***She was absolutely brilliant. At first I could feel her shaking and see her palms sweating, but fairly soon she had the spider sitting on her head!***

Helen reports that the British press is asking her what she'll do next. Reporters have suggested that she go into a cage full of snakes!

All of us at IPPL greatly appreciate Helen's efforts, which have earned national publicity in the United Kingdom for the cause of primate protection and raised funds to help IPPL projects, including Leonie Vejjajiva's primate rescue center in Thailand.

# DLE CHIEF ASKS "WHAT'S AN ANIMAL DEALER?"

On 8 January 1992, IPPL member Craig Westfall of Atlanta, Georgia, requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (DLE) provide him with "a list of all animal dealers operating internationally in the last four years that have been investigated, arrested, charged and/or penalized by Region 4 officials."

Region 4 of the US Fish and Wildlife is based in Atlanta, Georgia, and the region includes the key port of entry of Miami.

On 8 January, Mr. Westfall received a reply from Monty Halcomb, chief of Region 4, who told him that he had forwarded Westfall's FOIA to John Doggett III, Chief of Law Enforcement, Arlington, Virginia.

However, Mr, Halcomb cautioned:

***These records, if they exist, are not open for public perusal. The Privacy Act protects the rights of private citizens against routine disclosure of confidential information by Federal officials. Additionally, the Freedom of Information Act contains provisions for denying public access to certain categories of information.***

Mr. Halcomb suggested that "If I can be of further assistance to you, please contact me." It is not clear however what "assistance" Mr. Halcomb had actually provided.

On 12 May 1992, four months later, Mr. Westfall received a letter from John Doggett, Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement, who stated:

***Please provide a written description of what is meant by the term "animal dealer." Specify exactly what type of private, corporate or business entities are included under this term. Please be aware that Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act privacy exemptions may apply. In addition, specify in writing what you mean by the term "operating internationally," exactly what kinds, size and frequency of conduct or activity is to be considered within your definition of an operator.***

After 4 months of this stone-walling nonsense, Mr. Westfall got totally disgusted and gave up.

This obstruction of a private citizen's attempt to get information about DLE-Region 4's "track record" in prosecuting wildlife crime stands in stark contrast to DLE's rapidly providing Matthew Block's criminal defense lawyers with the names of public-spirited people around the world who had met with DLE agents.

It appears that DLE is not really serious about applying the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act in a consistent manner (see **DLE Betrays IPPL Network** on page 22).

DLE happily betrayed its sources to an indicted animal dealer alleged by the prosecutor to be making "threats," yet refuses to provide information about its accomplishments, or lack of them, to members of the public who support the agency with their taxes.

IPPL also considers it unfortunate that the Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service feels it necessary to seek guidance from a member of the public in defining an "animal dealer operating internationally."

# DEVELOPMENTS IN CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST MATTHEW BLOCK

On 19 February 1992, a Miami Grand Jury filed a four-count indictment against Matthew Block, on four felony charges pertaining to Block's alleged role in the smuggling of six infant orangutans (The "Bangkok Six") in February 1990. The animals were confiscated at Bangkok Airport in appalling condition, and three of them later died.

The orangutan case was assigned to Judge Kehoe and Magistrate Barry Garber, who excused himself and was replaced by Magistrate Ted Bandstra.

The first case report notes that Block was born on 7 December 1961, and arrested on 20 February 1992.

On 20 February 1992, Benedict Kuehne of the extremely expensive Miami criminal defense firm, Sonnett Sale and Kuehne, filed as Block's counsel. Later, Jon Sale and Paul Bass entered the case as co-counsel. Block was released on a $150,000 personal signature bond (this meant that he did not have to post an actual bond) co-signed by his wife and mother, and was required to surrender his passport to the Pretrial Services Office. He was also ordered to report to Pretrial Services once a week by phone and once a week in person.

Block was also instructed not to have any direct contact with "a Mr. Schafer" i.e. Kurt Schafer, the German animal dealer who carried the baby orangutans. Contacts with Kurt Schafer could however, be made "through counsel." Block was also ordered not to "commit any act in violation of state or federal law." Block's wife Brooke was also ordered to surrender her passport and restrict her travel to the "Southern District of Florida."

The initial appearance hearing was held before Magistrate Bandstra on 20 February 1992. Bandstra informed Block of his right to remain silent in court, and offered him a free lawyer if he could not afford to be represented.

Mr. FitzGerald requested that a $100,000 company bond be required of Block. He commented that:

*It appears...that there has been a total lack of information forthcoming on the subject of the company for which the defendant is effectively the sole owner. The corporate documents of the company Worldwide Primates reflect only a relative of the defendant as an additional officer.*

FitzGerald also noted that Block's arrest did not take place on the day of the indictment in order to spare Block from being detained in custody before a bond hearing. He was arrested "in his office."

Magistrate Bandstra noted that Block and his wife owned a house worth $350,000, fully paid. He noted that Block had a wife and two small children and referred to "these assets, these ties."

FitzGerald commented that:

*The violations involved here that arose two years ago involved a very sad situation where a group of highly endangered orangutans and a number of additional endangered species were seized by Thai authorities at the Bangkok Airport. Those were being shipped in violation of US law, international law and the laws of both Indonesia and Thailand, countries involved in this. The orangutans involved, virtually all of them had died in the interval because of their handling in captivity and their shipment. Some of the baby orangutans were shipped upside down, they were left without water or any means to give them comfort for extended periods of time.*

*One of the individuals involved in the shipment is a German national who is currently in custody of German authorities. In the intervening time period, including the August time frame referred to by counsel for defendant, in fact the defendant has repeatedly solicited from that person in Germany and others perjurious affidavits that would exonerate him from any involvement in this particular undertaking.*

*Additionally, as part of that the defendant apparently dispatched another attorney, not of the firm now appearing before this court and I have no reason to believe they were aware of this at all, but an attorney from California by the name of Metzger to Germany over the course of the past month who in a rather ugly way tried to confront that individual to the point where he harassed the individual's family in West Germany and was almost arrested by German authorities for that.*

FitzGerald noted that:

*The defendant, aware of his potential exposure and liability, took efforts to obstruct the investigation and obstruct the grand jury in its enquiry. I have no doubt that along with the fine letters penned by the current law firm, I would have gotten another letter with those affidavits appended if he had been successful in getting them. The efforts to suborn perjurious affidavits are part of the concern the United States has.*

FitzGerald also noted that:

*Other co-conspirators...may be named and charged in a superseding indictment at a later point.*

*Continued overleaf...*

Fitzgerald also expressed concern about the availability of the $100,000 bond, since the house would not be "collectible" under Florida law, and noted that the prosecution was very concerned that Worldwide Primates' assets might not be "readily available or pledgeable."

Mr. Kuehne proceeded to instruct Magistrate Bandstra that, under federal sentencing guidelines, the punishment for Block in any case would be only "zero to six months" probation.

Kuehne stated that he would refute the government's arguments in favor of a paid bond, but Magistrate Bandstra cut him off saying that he had already decided that Block should only have to put up a "signature bond" because of his:

> ***Ties to this community, his family support in this community, lack of a criminal record, his cooperation with government authorities, his business - although I understand that business is being questioned at this time in terms of certain of its activities.***

He therefore decided that Block should have "the least restrictive bond."

FitzGerald requested that Bandstra put as a condition of the bond that:

> ***The defendant not attempt to contact in any way the West German citizen I refer to by the name of Kurt Schafer, except through counsel.***

FitzGerald noted that Schafer was personally represented and had:

> ***Indicated to the defense in the monolithic sense, assuming the California attorney really has some relationship to this, not to contact him personally, but because of the concerns for the attempts to suborn perjury, we would request that any contacts solely be counsel to counsel.***

Mr. Kuehne stated that he would like the US Attorney:

> ***To recite for me who that lawyer is so I know that I can deal with that lawyer on those dealings.***

Mr. Kuehne, who is said to be brilliant, appears to have forgotten that California attorney Michael Metzger had sent him a copy of his letter (shown below) viciously denouncing IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal which Metzger had sent to the US Attorney's Office in Miami on 9 September 1991. It is surprising that Kuehne didn't know or pretended he didn't know exactly who Metzger was.

On 25 February, Block's criminal defense attorneys filed a "Motion to Amend Conditions of Pretrial Release," and a hearing was held before Magistrate Bandstra.

Block's lawyers asked that Block be allowed to travel outside the Southern District of Florida "for business purposes" and noted fulsomely that:

> ***Worldwide Primates is a leader in supplying research quality primates to legitimate and respected research facilities, universities, contract research houses, and governments.***

They concluded that:

> ***Without the continued personal contact with clients and suppliers, Worldwide Primates might as well close its doors which might result in Matthew Block being unable to pay the costs of defending against the government's charges.***

Block's lawyers referred to several upcoming trips, and even added that:

> ***Mr. Block had intended to attend the international CITES*** **[Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species]** ***conference scheduled in March 1992 in Japan. While Mr. Block is not a delegate to the CITES conference it is commonly understood that individuals involved in CITES matters, such as Matthew Block*** **[Emphasis added]**, ***attend the conference in order to monitor proceedings.***

Ironically, Block had been indicted for alleged activities in total violation of the spirit and letter of CITES!

Block's lawyers also noted that it would be "dangerous" for

If an indictment is ever returned against Block, an intense investigation will be made as to the role of Shirley McGreal and her organization, the methods by which "information" was obtained by them, and whether or not they received actual or tacit approval from any federal agency to engage in improper practices.

Your thoughts and comments are invited.

Very truly yours,

Michael H. Metzger

cc: Benedict P. Kuehne, Esq.
Matthew Block

Block to give advance notice of his travel. The lawyers stated that:

***On some of his travels, he [Block] was met by notorious and vocal animal rights groups, some of which maintain a very active and noticeable presence worldwide.***

Therefore, Block's lawyers argued that the judge should place "a gag order" on Block's international travel plans.

No dates, times or places were given for the purported "demonstrations" by "vocal animal rights groups" against Matthew Block. IPPL challenges Mr. Kuehne to prove his claim! We are absolutely certain there were no such demonstrations.

However, the apparently extremely gullible Magistrate Bandstra asked for no verification of Kuehne's claims, and clearly swallowed them whole! He embarked on a pattern of protecting Block's business and defense travel plans, allowing them to be filed in the court-house vault under seal.

In spite of the prosecutor informing Bandstra that witnesses had been threatened (Bandstra didn't express one word of shock or concern on hearing this) Block's travel plans still remain protected, and he has even travelled to countries where potential witnesses reside - such as Germany and Singapore - with the prosecution banned from warning them.

Clearly, the interests of the criminal suspect are given top priority by Bandstra - even when witnesses are reported by the prosecutor to have received threats.

On 26 February, there was an arraignment hearing before Magistrate Stephen T. Brown during which Kuehne noted that US Department of Agriculture employees had attempted to inspect Block's home (where he keeps animals) and were supposedly "[going] to threaten him with a warning or something for not being available." Animal facilities are required to be open for Animal Welfare Act inspection at all times, and Block keeps animals at his home.

Also on 26 February, Block's lawyers filed a "Standing Discovery Order." Block asked the prosecution for:

***Books, papers, documents, photographs, tangible objects...which the government intends to use as evidence, results of scientific tests and experiments made in connection with the case.***

The lawyers also asked for information about any immunity agreements with potential witnesses and the record of convictions of any government informant who would testify for the government, and whether Block was the subject of any "electronic surveillance" (e.g. wire-taps or other listening devices). This is standard practice in US criminal cases.

On 28 February prosecutor Thomas Watts FitzGerald responded to a motion by Block to amend his conditions of pretrial release, noting the cruel nature of the orangutan shipment. He added, in connection with Block's intention to attend the CITES Conference:

***CITES prohibits precisely the sort of conduct with which defendant is charged.***

Fitzgerald also contradicted Kuehne's assertion that:

***No other untoward activity involving proscribed trade in wildlife exists with respect to his past activities.***

Fitzgerald noted that:

***Evidence of similar illegal conduct by Defendant Block, potentially admissible at trial, is known to the United States and may be offered at trial of this matter.***

FitzGerald also noted that:

***This Honorable Court was previously made aware of efforts by the defendant to secure false testimony to exonerate him from criminal culpability in the trafficking incident underlying the indictment...The Court should be mindful of the negative impact such efforts might have in the fair adjudication of these charges.***

He stated that the government would favorably consider such travel as was necessary "to maintain the legitimate portion of (Block's) business."

He also noted that:

***The United States has no knowledge of any instance where defendant's travel was met by animal rights activists.***

On 2 March Judge Kehoe gave Block permission to travel anywhere in the world "for purposes of preparing a defense to these charges." Kehoe stated that Block should report his itinerary to Pretrial Services, and should be accompanied by his lawyer.

On 10 March 1992, the government responded to Block's "Standing Discovery Order," noting that the requested "books, papers, documents, which the government intends to introduce at trial" had been provided to Block and include "**inter alia** [among other things], documents, phone records, video tape, telefax documents, and photographs."

In the United States, prosecutors must give all documents they plan to use at criminal trials to defendants, and also the identities of all witnesses. (While helping ensure fairness to indicted people, this can cause problems in cases of really dangerous criminals, who are in effect given a "hit-list").

Defendants are not made to provide the government with documents or identify their witnesses.

The government reported that the only scientific test under way was an analysis of Block's hand-writing. The government was unaware of any immunity agreements, promises of immunity or leniency to prospective witnesses. It also noted that:

***Evidence of defendant's prior involvement in a shipment of endangered primates without lawful authority is currently being gathered.***

Once the information was gathered, it would be provided to Block's lawyers. Further, the government was not involved in "electronic surveillance" (which would include phone-taps) of Block. The government also noted that it was aware of its obligation to provide Block with all new case evidence as it came in.

On 17 March, Block applied to travel to the Caribbean from 18-22 March to handle a primate shipment.

Magistrate Ted Bandstra approved the travel. The shipment, which consisted of 50 African green monkeys from St. Kitts weighing between 2 and 4 kilograms, arrived in the United States on 20 March 1992, and only 50% of the shipment was inspected

*Continued overleaf...*

by US Fish and Wildlife Service inspector Harold J. Spencer.

On 27 March, Judge Kehoe set a trial date of 5 July 1992.

On 31 March 1992, Block applied for permission to travel to England and France "for business purposes" and "conferring with his company's European Community representatives" who were identified as Peter Savage of England and Christian Lebeau of Paris. Permission was granted by Magistrate Bandstra.

On 3 April 1992, Magistrate Bandstra amended Block's conditions of pretrial release to allow him to travel wherever he wanted, as long as he submitted a motion outlining his itinerary. Bandstra stated that Block could submit his travel plans under seal, and he placed a "gag order" on anyone who might know of Block's travel plans, including the prosecution.

On 27 April 1992, a hearing was held on Block's motion to amend his conditions of pretrial release. Magistrate Bandstra presided. Kuehne stated that he did not want to have to file a motion for each of Block's trips, and would like permission for his client to travel anywhere in the state of Florida. He noted that:

> ***We already have an order from Judge Kehoe that if Mr. Block is travelling with counsel for defense purposes, he is able to travel and obtain his passport...we're going to be taking a trip for defence purposes...Judge Kehoe did not require that I advise the government of the specific itinerary of any defense oriented travels.***

Kuehne objected to the government having authority to approve Block's business travel, stating that there was a risk that:

> ***People outside the scope of this particular case may become aware of Mr. Block's travels and give that information to people who have no reason to know where Mr. Block is travelling, and I would include in that individuals who are associated with animal rights groups who frown on, very sternly, what Mr. Block and people of his legitimate business type are doing...The last thing Mr. Block needs is negative publicity about his business and connecting it to the indictment.***

FitzGerald noted that Block and Kuehne had made an overseas trip of which he was not aware, and suggested that trips be approved case by case, because:

> ***The United States still maintains a concern about the defendant's unsupervised travel abroad...There are concerns about threats to witnesses and subornation of perjury.***

Apparently totally unconcerned about the reported "threats to witnesses" and the alleged attempts at "subornation of perjury," Bandstra announced that:

> ***As to the general motion to amend conditions of pre-trial release, I will grant that motion.***

He extended Block's unrestricted travel to the entire state of Florida, and announced that he would grant any international travel for "business purposes." All Block would need to report would be the locations where he was going, the dates he would be gone, and the purpose of the travel. These reports would be "filed under seal."

Kuehne started to make a comment that Block only had to report his travel to Pretrial Services, and not to the prosecution, but Bandstra interrupted the explanation, saying:

> ***I know what you're going to say and you're right*** **[emphasis added].** ***That should not have to - that itinerary does not go to the US Attorney's Office, that itinerary goes to Pretrial Services.***

Kuehne than asked Magistrate Bandstra:

> ***Would your Honor prefer that I prepare a proposed order?***

Magistrate Bandstra agreed that Kuehne should write the "amended order" for him.

On 1 May 1992, Magistrate Linnea Johnson granted "An Emergency Ex Parte Motion of Defendant for Permission to Travel for Defense and Business Purposes Due to Recent Development." "Ex parte" means a motion submitted by one side with no opportunity for the other side to respond.

However, both Kehoe and Bandstra were out of town. In a later court hearing, Kuehne stated that this motion had requested that Block be allowed to travel for defense purposes without counsel (presence of defense counsel was required as part of his travel restrictions) for part of an upcoming defense trip. Instead of being accompanied by his attorney, Block would be accompanied by a "defense investigator."

Magistrate Linnea Johnson is considered a "soft touch" by defendants with actual or purported "emergencies." The **Almanac of the Federal Judiciary** notes that:

> ***She is influenced by the identities of the lawyers before her but not in an improper way...*** **[she]** ***always accommodates emergency requests.***

On 4 May, FitzGerald submitted a "Motion to review Conditions on Pretrial Travel." He noted that Block was being allowed to submit his travel plans under seal:

> ***As a result of the defendant's claimed concern that animal rights groups would take steps to impede his travel due to the nature of his business.***

Fitzgerald stated that Block had undertaken travel of which he was not aware and that, on 4 May 1992, he had contacted Kuehne, who had told him that Block was off on court-approved travel, with an "investigator" retained by Kuehne's law firm. This was the travel that had been rushed through on the sealed "Emergency Ex Parte Motion" granted by Magistrate Linnea Johnson.

FitzGerald complained that defense counsel was supposed to accompany Block on overseas trips, and that:

> ***The blasé attitude evidenced by the defense with regard to the restriction on defendant's foreign travel to travel solely with his counsel is just the most egregious of the several violations.***

On 12 May 1992, Block's lawyers noted that Judge Kehoe had authorized Block to travel [illegible] defense purposes, with the only condition being to inform Pre-Trial Services: they noted that business travel was [illegible] with travel plans to be filed under seal.

Kuehne complained that:

***Notwithstanding the confidentiality of the April travel for defense and business purposes, someone apparently found out about the travel. When the defendant passed through Customs in one of the foreign countries, he was subjected to an extensive search. One of the authorities had a piece of paper containing the defendant's picture, together with information that the defendant would be travelling during the authorized time period. This piece of paper also contained the notation that the defendant was recently arrested in the United States for smuggling. The defendant is not certain how this information came to the attention of the foreign government, but the information coincided exactly with the travel dates contained in the court order granting permission to travel. This event has raised considerable safety questions on the defendant's part, as well as a concern that the defense-related travel might be compromised.***

No information was provided by Kuehne on where the alleged Customs inspection took place.

Kuehne stated that Block rejected Fitzgerald's assertion that the prosecution was entitled to know Block's location at all times. If the prosecutor knew where Block was, he stated, this knowledge might be:

***Nothing but a facade to learn of the defendant's whereabouts, perhaps to obtain knowledge of the defendant's defense strategy.***

On 20 May 1992, a hearing was held on the prosecution's motion to review the conditions of pre-trial travel. Block attended the hearing with his lawyer Ben Kuehne. AUSA FitzGerald complained of travel motions being filed in secret as he could not challenge any assertions in the motions. He also noted the complaint about Block supposedly being held up by Customs for two hours on one of his trips, and commented that:

***There could be a hundred arrest warrants or lookouts or Interpol red notices on him through the western world and I don't really care. That's the risk he takes when he decides to travel where he may have charges hanging over him or interest from other countries. The fact that he was arrested here and arraigned is a matter of public record.***

Kuehne complained that:

***When Mr. Block arrived in one of these foreign countries on a defense related part of his travel, he was held for more than two hours by foreign customs authorities who had a document. And that document had a picture of Mr. Block, it had a description of his travel dates, and it said, "Mr. Block is a notorious smuggler, didn't even say "animal smuggler" - smuggler, and we know of course when law enforcement agents hear the word "smuggler," they believe drugs are involved.***

Some people might believe that wildlife smuggling is just as serious as, if not more serious than drug smuggling, because it destroys species that have taken millions of years to evolve.

Magistrate Bandstra decided that Block had not violated any conditions of his release and that Block had made a "good faith" effort to cooperate. He said that all Block needed to do was file sealed motions for travel and, after he granted the motion, the prosecution would simply be told that Block was out of the district, without being given any details.

Kuehne stated that he wanted something in writing on reporting of travel, and Magistrate Bandstra commented:

***Why don't you just submit something, it's much easier if I can just sign it rather than having to dictate it and have it typed and reviewed and so forth...if you don't want that to appear as a document in the Court file other than under seal, that's fine.***

To which Kuehne replied, "Thank you, Judge."

FitzGerald objected that what was happening was a "unilateral request to alter the conditions of bond imposed by the court." Bandstra stuck to his position, while admitting that he was setting "extraordinary bond conditions" for Block. He added that Block was in compliance with "maybe not with the letter of the order...in compliance with the spirit of the order."

Kuehne asked, "Would Your Honor be facilitated by me preparing a draft order," an offer which Magistrate Bandstra accepted.

Bandstra also insisted that he personally handle bond questions

*Continued overleaf...*

## STOP PRESS

On 30 June 1992, Guy Lewis, the new Assistant US Attorney handling the criminal case, filed a "Supplemental Discovery Response."

The prosecution announced that it expected Kurt Schafer, the German animal dealer who had carried the orangutans, to testify for the prosecution, and that Schafer had been granted "limited immunity" by the US Government.

It also announced that:

***The Government anticipates introducing taped telephone conversations between the defendant and Kurt Schafer. The conversations were taped pursuant to a wire tap put in place by German officials.***

The US Government, which had placed no wire-tap on Matthew Block's telephone, was very lucky to be able to profit from the German government's diligence.

The "Response" also noted that an analysis comparing Block's hand-writing with that of the hand-writing on the primary case documents had been conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This analysis had shown that it was "probable" that Block's hand-writing matched the original orangutan documents, but that additional hand-writing samples were needed, which the government was trying to obtain.

The government also attached copies of two false affidavits exonerating Block, which Block had allegedly asked Schafer to sign.

## *Criminal Case Continued*

and that they not be brought to the attention of the case Judge Kehoe.

On 2 June 1992, Block applied to have his trial delayed due to a conflicting schedule of one of his lawyers. The trial was postponed until 24 August 1992.

On 5 June 1992, the prosecution filed a "Motion to Compel Early Compliance with Trial Subpoena." Part of the prosecution case was to compare hand-written memoranda with Block's handwriting. The FBI had asked for further samples of Block's handwriting. The prosecution noted that:

> ***The United States is aware, from a variety of sources, that defendant will seek to avoid conviction on the pending charges by shifting blame to other individuals, who during the period alleged in the indictment were also involved in the animal trade. Accordingly an analysis providing the greatest accuracy and reliability scientifically possible* [is needed]...**

Block had stated through his lawyers that he "will not voluntarily provide the requested [hand-writing] exemplars."

On 12th June 1992, Block's lawyers filed a "sealed motion" and on 15 June they filed a "sealed order."

On 15 June 1992, Tom Watts-Fitzgerald was replaced on the case by Assistant United States Attorney Guy Lewis, who was one of the three prosecutors in the recently-completed case against ex-President of Panama, Manuel Noriega.

On 15 June 1992, Magistrate Bandstra issued a "Further Order on Pre-Trial Travel." Bandstra praised Block for his:

> ***Good faith compliance with the spirit of prior travel orders.***

Bandstra stated that Block would be required to provide his business travel plans under seal only to Pretrial Services (meaning that the Prosecutor and potential witnesses would not be informed) and that, for defense-related travel he should submit an **ex parte** motion under seal. Thus, Block's itinerary would be kept secret from the prosecutors and everybody else. Block was to travel with his lawyer when the travel was "defense-related" but could travel without a lawyer if he filed an **ex parte** motion under seal.

Part of the basis for the secrecy accorded to Block's travel plans (Kuehne's apparently nonsensical claims of waves of demonstrations against him by so-called "animal activists" around the world) was never questioned in any way by the judge. Nobody even asked Kuehne for the time, date or place.

News of further developments will be carried in the next issue of **IPPL News.**

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome all of our new IPPL members. Without the continuing support of all of our members, we would not be able to aid and protect primates around the world.

Thank you for becoming concerned and joining with us to make the world a happier and safer place for our fellow primates!

# DOCTOR, WHAT ARE YOU TEARING OFF THERE?

On 29 January 1992, during the Worldwide Primates vs Shirley McGreal law suit, Dr. Peter Gerone of Delta/Tulane Primate Center was caught by Shirley McGreal's lawyer Bart Billbrough trying to tear off part of a document while his sworn testimony was being taken.

Mr. Billbrough asked:

> ***Doctor, what are you tearing off there?***

It turned out that the document being torn was the cover-sheet which Gerone had sent Block along with the 15 January 1989 letter from Shirley McGreal. Animal dealer Matthew Block and his lawyer Paul Bass had claimed that this 15 January letter had led to "lost credibility" with Gerone/Delta and "lost orders."

Although this document was supposed to have been handed over as case evidence by Gerone, it was not.

Why was Gerone trying to make sure that Shirley McGreal's lawyer didn't get this cover-sheet?

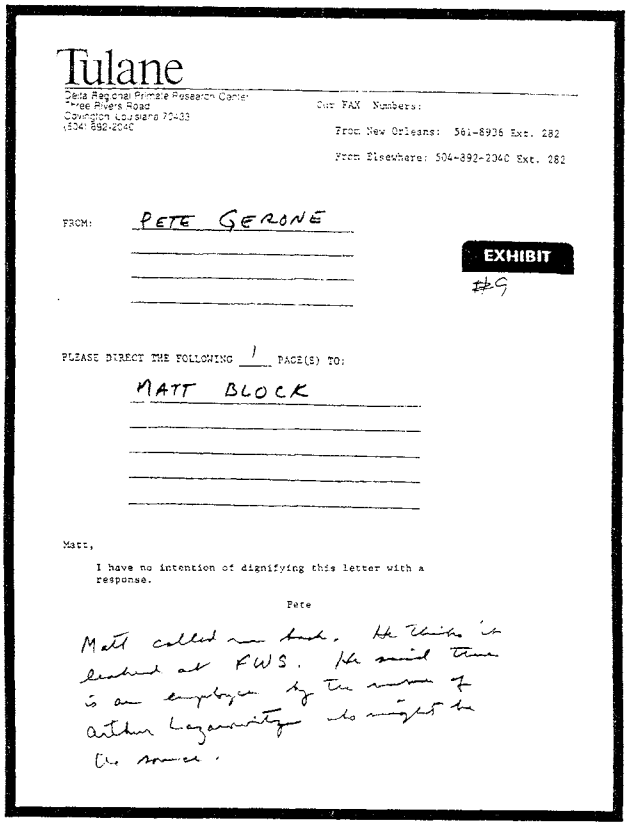
The reason may well be that the cover-sheet stated that:

> ***I have no intention of dignifying this letter with a response, Pete.***

Thus, there was clearly no "lost credibility" and there were clearly going to be no "lost orders."

The document was one of many not produced by Block and his lawyer Paul Bass under the "self-incriminating" pretext. It doesn't look very "incriminating." Rather, it shows that the claims of "lost credibility" and "lost orders" as a result of the 15 January 1989 letter were fraudulent.

***For more on this case, refer to our April 1992 issue.***



Tulane

Delta Regional Primate Research Center
Three Rivers Road
Covington, Louisiana 70433
(504) 892-2040

Our FAX Numbers:
From New Orleans: 561-8936 Ext. 282
From Elsewhere: 504-892-2040 Ext. 282

FROM: PETE GERONE

EXHIBIT #9

PLEASE DIRECT THE FOLLOWING 1 PAGE(S) TO:

MATT BLOCK

Matt,

I have no intention of dignifying this letter with a response.

Pete

Matt called me back. He thinks is [illegible] at FWS. He said there is an employee by the name of [illegible] who might be the source.

# CONTINUED FILTH AT WORLDWIDE PRIMATES

The April 1992 issue of the **IPPL Newsletter** showed the appalling conditions under which Worldwide Primates, a Miami animal dealership run by Matthew Block, maintained animals during the period 1985-86.

Subsequent inspections undertaken in 1990 by Department of Agriculture veterinarian Dr. Krystina Cox show that Worldwide Primates continued to maintain nonhuman primates in totally inadequate conditions, and that the company has also maintained primates off its registered premises at 7780 NW 53rd Street, Miami.

On 27 June 1990, Dr. Cox, accompanied by Dr. Overton, Animal Care Specialist, inspected Worldwide Primates' 53rd Street warehouse, and found that:

> ***The animal room that opens directly outside subjectively felt excessively hot and humid while we were inside. The facility has no thermometers in place to monitor the temperature nor does it monitor humidity in the rooms. Measurement of temperature in the outside room, by inspectors, showed 94 degrees F. Considering the humid weather, the "heat index" would actually be higher than 94 F. This is outside the temperature range for primates by generally accepted practice.***
>
> ***In the double stacked marmoset cages, the catch pan underneath the upper row of cages is not as wide as the width of the cages, allowing an area on either end of the cages where excreta could possibly pass through from the upper to the lower cages, and soil the primates below, or contaminate the food pans in the end cages on the bottom row.***
>
> ***Air-conditioners in animal rooms are dirty and appear to be either falling apart or in a state of non-functional disrepair. They are accumulating dirt and bugs.***

On 22 August 1990, Dr. Cox inspected the "Country Pet Supply Warehouse" at 5400 NW 84th Avenue, Miami, a Worldwide Primates site which she noted was "not licensed with USDA." She found 53 primates maintained at this location. There were 43 squirrel monkeys, 2 capuchins, 2 slow lorises, and 6 bushbabies. Following this inspection, Dr. Cox wrote up a list of "alleged violations," which included:

- ***animals housed at an undeclared, unlicensed location,***
- ***inadequate ventilation,***
- ***food not free from contamination,***
- ***food not wholesome,***
- ***cages excessively soiled, unable to keep clean,***
- ***perishables not refrigerated, inadequate protection from vermin,***
- ***animal waste not being disposed of at frequent enough intervals, trash cans lacked lids,***
- ***dirty water, dirty pans, animals receiving inadequate water (frequency and amount),***
- ***excessive soiling of cages, animals soiled,***
- ***facility's housekeeping poor,***
- ***rodent droppings and ants present, unidentified biting pests present,***
- ***employees, inadequate in number and/or inadequately supervised,***
- ***adequate program of vet care not in place,***
- ***records not available, nor supplied during a reasonable interval.***

Further alleged violations were noted on 7 November 1990. Dr. Cox notes that Block:

> ***Failed to provide the information requested on the application form. By not including other businesses in which the licensee has an interest, i.e. "Be My Pet Inc," and "Discount Pet Inc." businesses where the licensee has an interest... by not providing the information required in the application form, Mr. Block ran a business that handles animals, without a valid license for the business, as licenses are issued to specific persons, for specific reasons, and the same are not valid at another location...Mr. Matthew Block did not notify the APHIS, REAC Sector Supervisor by certified mail, nor by inclusion in the US Form 18-3 of any additional site, within 10 days of such a change in the operation of his business.***

The accompanying inspection reports reveal the conditions under which some of the primates live who make possible Block's luxury lifestyle - a lifestyle that includes a lovely home, world travel, and legal bills that must now total in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Describing the food offered to the primates at the "Country Pets" location site, Dr. Cox noted:

> ***Oranges were moldy: apple slices were stored in a dirty bucket, and were of a deteriorated and dried-out appearance. The food supplies did not meet standards for wholesomeness and freedom from contamination.***

She also noted:

> ***An excessive build-up of fecal material and debris was present in the capuchin cages. The capuchins' fur, hands and feet were soiled with excreta and debris. The cages did not have a perch, or other area, where animals could get away from the soiled cage floor.***
>
> ***There was an excessive accumulation of excreta, food debris, etc. in the catch pan beneath cages, particularly the squirrel monkey cages. Some of this waste material had turned white in color, indicating the accumulation was not recent.***
>
> ***Water pan for one capuchin was grossly soiled with brown reside and contained a film of dirty liquid. (After the caretaker's visit, the pan was still soiled). There was evidence of only one visit by the caretaker on 8.22.90. Many of the primates had defective water bottles, allowing rapid draining of the water from the bottles. Therefore, water was not accessible to these animals at all times, and should have been offered at least twice a day for reasonable amounts of time. There was evidence that water was only offered once a day. (Note, upon my first arrival, prior to the caretaker's visit, 20 of the 53 primates had no water).***

*Continued overleaf...*

*Later, after the caretaker came and went, 11 of the primates still had no water. Upon my offering water to these animals, they showed behavior indicating extreme thirst.*

*Rodent droppings on floor provided evidence of vermin harborage: ants were crawling on floor beneath animal cages. Unidentified pest was biting my legs while I was in animal area, raising pruritic whelps on my skin (one capuchin was scratching excessively).*

*Appropriate methods were not utilized to prevent, control, diagnose, treat diseases and injuries. Animals noted that were in need of veterinary care.*

- *one capuchin monkey was sneezing frequently, and was housed in close proximity to other primates in a poorly-ventilated area: this animal appeared thin, it was scratching frequently.*
- *Both capuchins exhibited areas of hair loss, 1 capuchin had a red, abraded area on its left knee, and was confined in an unsanitary cage without a perch.*
- *Shelter from rain/inclement weather: five primates and two servals lacked shelter boxes. Present enclosures are not effective protection particularly from blowing rain or storms. One serval was wet, and there was no dry area in cage, even under the partial roof.*

On 23 August 1990, Dr. Cox inspected another Worldwide Primates property at 16451 SW 184th Street (Eureka Drive), Miami. This the $350,000 estate (paid for with cash three years ago, according to the criminal case file) where Mr. Block and his family reside. There Dr. Cox found 8 primates and 2 servals, a species of wild cat, living in squalor and filth.

Following her visit, Dr. Cox prepared a "Report on "Alleged Violations" at the two locations. Reported infractions of the Animal Welfare Act included the following:

- **Storage of food**: bags of chow not adequately protected against vermin,
- **Housekeeping**: utensil and food storage shed very dirty, unsanitizable, and badly in need of cleaning out of debris and junk,
- **Rodent control**: inadequate, chow bags had holes chewed through by vermin,
- "Licensee has not yet supplied me with copies of records that I requested verbally on 8.23.90. He agreed to send them: by 9.10.90, no records have been received."

On 18 February 1991, Block sent a letter to Dr. Richard Overton of the USDA Tampa office, telling him that:

***Enclosed you will find our voluntary surrender of registration as intermediate handler for Be My Pets Inc. At this time, we wish to amend our* [Form] *18-3 which was submitted on 7 November 1990, I inadvertently left out of #26 that I have an interest in "Be My Pet, Inc." and "Discount Pet Inc." This information is to be considered proprietary business information and is not to be released under the Freedom of Information Act.***

An investigation by the US Department of Agriculture is ongoing, and results will be presented in a future issue of **IPPL News**.

## POSTAGE RATES FOR OVERSEAS LETTERS

IPPL frequently asks its members to send letters overseas. Rather than list the costs along with each article, we plan to tell you the cost of letters from the US and the UK in each **Newsletter**.

Currently, air mail costs from the United States are 50 cents for a letter weighing .5 ounce, 95 cents for 1 ounce. $1.34 for 1.5 ounces and $1.73 for 2 ounces.

From the United Kingdom, letters to Europe cost 26p. for each 20 grams: letters to anywhere else in the world cost 37p. for each 10 grams.

We would appreciate members in other countries letting us know international postage rates for [illegible]

## UPDATE ON MICHAEL METZGER

The April 1992 issue of the **IPPL Newsletter** told how Michael Metzger, an attorney based in Sausalito, California, had sent a pious letter to the Assistant US Attorney denouncing Shirley McGreal and IPPL. Metzger had threatened an "intense investigation" of Shirley McGreal and IPPL if Matthew Block got indicted.

According to an article by Michael Checchio entitled "Mad Dog Metzger" in the July 1992 issue of **California Lawyer**, Mr. Metzger is an immensely wealthy criminal defense lawyer who defends, among others, clients accused of such crimes as drug smuggling and money-laundering.

The son of a millionaire, Metzger started his law career as a prosecutor then moved to defense work. A heavy drinker, he became a heavy drug user in the 1980s when, according to the article, "he started mixing heroin and cocaine, a concoction known as a speedball, and injecting it into his arms." After a close brush with death, Metzger gave up drugs and alcohol, and now "charges a lot of money to do a small number of big cases each year."

Metzger told the **California Lawyer** that things were getting hard for criminal defense lawyers because criminals' assets are getting seized, and because of an Internal Revenue Service rule which requires that lawyers name their cash clients.

According to the article:

***Until recently*** [Metzger] ***was representing an international wildlife smuggler accused of bringing endangered orangutans into Bangkok, but he dropped the case "after my children told me they would never speak to me again."***

# IPPL CHAIRWOMAN CHALLENGES MIAMI MAGISTRATE

On 20 February 1992, Miami animal dealer Matthew Block was indicted on felony wildlife smuggling charges. Just three days later he applied to drop a lawsuit his company had filed against IPPL Chairwoman Dr. Shirley McGreal in August 1990, shortly after McGreal had requested federal authorities to investigate Block's possible role in the smuggling of six baby orangutans from Singapore.

The orangutans, stuffed into crates labelled "Birds" had been loaded on a Thai Airways flight leaving Singapore for Bangkok, where they were to be transferred to a plane leaving for Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from where they would be shipped to the Soviet Union.

Fortunately, alert Bangkok Airport officials heard sounds like the crying of human babies coming from the crates, x-rayed them and saw the orangutans. All the baby orangutans were desperately sick when confiscated on Bangkok Airport on 20 February 1990, and three of them later died.

The civil lawsuit resulted from two letters sent 19 months apart by Dr. McGreal to Peter Gerone, Director of the Delta Primate Center (since renamed Tulane Primate Center), suggesting that Gerone read official US government inspection reports revealing extremely filthy and verminous conditions at Worldwide Primates' monkey warehouse in Miami.

By that time Block dropped his lawsuit, McGreal had several dismissal motions, contempt motions, and motions to sanction Worldwide Primates in court (all stacked up undecided) and, most importantly, **had successfully protected the identities of all IPPL's network of contacts around the world.**

Under what is known as "Rule 11," attorneys and parties who file frivolous lawsuits can be sanctioned, including by having to pay all a defendant's legal bills, which in the Worldwide Primates versus McGreal case totalled well over $100,000.

On 15 June 1992, an oral argument was held on the sanctions motions before Magistrate William Turnoff. From the beginning of the case in mid-1990, when Turnoff started to assist Judges Spellman and Ryskamp, Turnoff had shown a clear pro-Block bias.

While insisting that McGreal hand over to Block every document with his name in it (which would have identified for Block the names of people around the world who had helped the US Government's orangutan investigation), Turnoff did nothing, ever, to force Worldwide Primates to turn over any documents to prove its purported case! He did this by "sitting on" Shirley McGreal's motion to compel Block to produce documents for several months, never making any decision on it.

In cases where judges for some reason want to assist one party to a lawsuit, yet the law is against the party they want to help, US judges sometimes "sit on" motions for months, even years, as the frustrated party cannot appeal a negative decision until it is made!

Magistrate Turnoff started off the sanctions conference by claiming that he had reviewed the entire case file, a claim which his apparent ignorance of the case made suspect. Turnoff noted that:

> *The voluntary dismissal came solely because* [Bass's] *client was indicted in a criminal case and, therefore, that put the issue of money in a position of lesser importance than the issue of* [Block's] *liberty.*

Block's lawyer Paul Bass gleefully commented "That is absolutely 100% correct, sir." Bass noted that:

> ***We asked for $25,000 to resolve this matter early in the litigation...we wanted to get paid our money and go on with our business. We don't want to deal with this lady. This lady's done anything she can to destroy us, and we want to be done with her.***

McGreal's attorney noted that Block and Bass had offered to drop their lawsuit for one dollar - **plus all of Dr. McGreal's documents.** Both offers were refused.

Magistrate Turnoff noted that:

> ***There's a suggestion here, and it may be a situation where a shotgun was used to kill a mosquito*** **[presumably Magistrate Turnoff was referring to Dr. McGreal as a "mosquito"],** ***I'm not sure, but my impression is that there is the possibility of an ulterior motive in the case.***

However, Turnoff then turned to Block's lawyer Paul Bass and said:

> ***I don't want anything that I'm saying to suggest any improper motive on the part of your client, who am I to suggest that?***

Turnoff then restated his sympathy for the indicted Matthew Block (of course he never expressed one word of concern or sympathy for the baby orangutans stuffed into unventilated bird crates or the six dead orangutan mothers shot to bring their babies into captivity).

> ***Also I've got to take note of the fact that there was a voluntary dismissal in this case shortly after the indictment in this case, that's a not uncommon thing, when there's somebody who gets involved criminally, the civil matter, no matter how strongly they feel about it, just pales in perspective and really does put a person with one hand behind his back in dealing with the civil matter, so I understand that situation: that's something I can take judicial notice of.***

Clearly, Turnoff felt that a party to a lawsuit indicted on criminal charges merited special "privileges" and "sympathy" from him as a judge - far more than an innocent citizen charged with no crime and whom Turnoff knew or should have known from the court record had instigated the law enforcement investigation that led to the charges.

Such an attitude in a federal judge-magistrate **supposed to be on the side of law and order in society** is extremely disturbing.

Turnoff went on to say that he thought there was "no case" for sanctions. However, he said, what he would write would be merely a recommendation, and added, somewhat crudely:

> ***It ain't over till the fat lady sings...you're going to have a review from Judge Ryskamp.***

Presumably, the "fat lady" was none other than Judge Kenneth

*Continued overleaf...*

Ryskamp, who is an extremely tall man around 6 feet six inches (2 meters) tall!

It was therefore no surprise when, on 2 July 1992, Magistrate Turnoff decided that Worldwide Primates should not be sanctioned for its misuse of the court system. Turnoff flatteringly described Block as "an importer of nonhuman primates for research."

He could equally well have described Block less flatteringly as:

***A man who was indicted for allegedly causing 6 baby orangutans to be stuffed into unventilated crates labelled "Birds" and smuggled on to a plane, causing them all severe suffering and illness resulting in the deaths of three of them.***

In contrast, Turnoff said, Shirley McGreal was "an animal rights advocate." Turnoff had been involved in the case from the start, and he was well aware from court records that IPPL is a major international organization that was founded in 1973, a decade before the animal rights movement got going. In any case, it is not a crime to be an "animal rights activist."

Turnoff had always totally ignored all the affidavits supporting Dr. McGreal from senior US government officials and primatologists like Dr. Jane Goodall and Dr. Vernon Reynolds which had been entered into the case record.

After reading Magistrate Turnoff's biassed and distorted characterization of the parties to the lawsuit, there was no need to read any further. Totally predictably, Magistrate Turnoff decided in Block's favor.

At this point, Dr. McGreal was extremely fortunate because one of Miami's leading First Amendment attorneys, Thomas Julin of the Steel Hector and Davis law firm, offered to represent her on a **pro bono** basis - and fight Turnoff's outrageous conclusions!

The first step was for Mr. Julin to submit written objections to Magistrate Turnoff's recommendations. On 16 July 1992, Mr. Julin submitted brilliant "Objections," which totally shredded Turnoff's defective reasoning. Mr. Julin emphasized four major points:

1) The Worldwide Primates lawsuit was barred by the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which protects free speech. Curiously, Magistrate Turnoff never even mentioned the term "First Amendment" in his recommendations, although he had protected Worldwide Primates' non-existent right to the "Fifth Amendment" against self-incrimination.

Julin emphasized several important precedent cases in which the US Supreme Court held that the First and 14th Amendments prohibit the imposition of damages on an individual for engaging in peaceful speech which encourages a boycott.

Julin noted that the McGreal letters to Gerone "did not even rise to the level of advocating an out-and-out boycott" and that:

***This claim, then, is in every material respect far more offensive to First Amendment values than the claim advanced by the Claiborne Hardware Company against the NAACP."*** **[In this case a store sued the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for advocating a boycott by black consumers].**

2) Mr. Julin stated that Worldwide Primates had clearly filed the lawsuit to punish Shirley McGreal for criticizing the company. He noted that the complaint was based on two letters, and that the attachments to the letters, official government reports, were conveniently omitted from the complaint.

Julin went on to quote large sections of US Department of Agriculture and Centers for Disease Control reports, which showed the filthy and verminous conditions found by government inspectors at Block's monkey warehouse.

Julin noted that:

***From reading this report it is evident that Worldwide Primates did not attach it, or the other enclosures, to its complaint because it would only demonstrate the frivolous nature of its claim against Dr. McGreal.***

All these government reports were in the case file which Magistrate Turnoff **claimed** he knew back-to-front.

3) Mr. Julin stated that Worldwide Primates knew when it filed its lawsuit that there had been no damages. He noted Gerone's sworn testimony that he was in any case not at all upset by reports of filthy conditions on Block's premises, and that therefore the claim that "damages" had resulted from the letters was false.

Julin noted that Rule 11 states in part that:

***The signature of an attorney...constitutes a certificate by the signer that he has read the pleading, motion, or other paper: that to the best of the signer's knowledge, information and belief, formed after reasonable enquiry, it is well grounded in fact.***

Rule 11 stresses the need for an attorney to make a "pre-filing enquiry" before filing a complaint. Julin noted that the plaintiff knew there was no factual basis for the claim when he filed it, and that:

***Counsel for the plaintiff participated in this charade by making the false allegations without even bothering to pick up the phone to attempt to verify, through Dr. Gerone, the claims his client asked him to make.*** **[Dr. Gerone had testified that he had never received any phone-call to confirm the "lost orders" and "damages" from Block's lawyer Bass before the complaint was filed].**

Therefore, said Julin, a serious sanction was mandated by Rule 11.

4) Julin stated that Dr. McGreal was justified in fighting to protect her records, because turning them over would have disrupted the criminal investigation of Mr. Block. He noted statements made by Block's lawyer Paul Bass in court records that Block's indictment was:

***Based upon information*** **[Shirley McGreal]** ***furnished to the United States Attorney.***

Julin also noted the various frivolous objections filed by Bass in regard to every document request McGreal made of Block - with the total number of objections totalling over 550.

If Judge Ryskamp accepts the magistrate's recommendation against imposing sanctions on Worldwide Primates, Mr. Julin intends to appeal the adverse decision to an appeals court where judges **from outside the Miami area** will have a chance to take

## Challenge Continued

a look at the unjust handling of this lawsuit.

Mr. Julin's conclusion was that:

> ***This is such an egregious case that imposition of sanctions is not only appropriate but required by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 11.***

Worldwide Primates' response to Mr. Julin's "Objections" was due on 26 July 1992, but, on the afternoon of the day when his response was due, Paul Bass had his secretary phone Mr. Julin and ask for 20 extra days to prepare his response, thus causing yet another major delay. This procrastination is typical: Bass never replied to McGreal's motion to dismiss the case, stalling for weeks.

Free copies of Mr. Julin's "Objections" can be obtained from IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA.

# WRITING GOOD LETTERS

Many IPPL members are active in letter-writing for primates and other animals. Here are a few hints for our US members to increase the effectiveness of their letters. Most of these hints also apply in other nations.

**Addressing Letters to Representatives**

Your Representative should be addressed as:

> ***The Honorable John/Jane Doe***
> ***US House of Representatives***
> ***Washington DC 20515***

Begin your letter, "Dear Mr./Ms./Mrs. Doe."

**Addressing Letters to Senators**

Your Senators should be addressed as:

> **The Honorable John/Jane Doe**
> **US Senate**
> **Washington DC 20510**

Begin your letter, "Dear Senator Doe."

**Useful Phone Numbers**

If you want to call any Representative and Senator and don't have a direct phone number, please call the US Capitol Switchboard at **202-224-3121** which will transfer your call.

If you want to learn about the status of any House or Senate bill, or the committee status of a bill, please call the Legislative Status Office at **202-225-1772.**

**Some Basic "Do's"**

1. **Do** be sure to address your letter correctly.

2. **Do** type or write very legibly.

3. **Do** state the purpose for your letter simply and clearly. Limit yourself to one-page letters that address one issue only. Congress members have large staffs, and different issues are handled by different staffers. You will cause confusion if you combine several issues into one letter.

## Letter Writing Continued

4. **Do** provide as much identifying information as possible (bill number, name, sponsor, etc.) if you are writing about a specific bill before Congress.

5. **Do** present facts clearly and thoughtfully, highlighting any expertise you may have.

6. **Do** present your views in a firm but friendly manner.

7. **Do** be constructive. Offer reasonable alternatives to problem situations.

8. **Do** show awareness of the legislator's past actions, particularly if you can say something positive. Praise and thanks are always welcome.

9. **Do** localize the issue if possible.

10. **Do** ask for specific action to be taken.

**Some Basic Don'ts**

1. **Don't** send postcards, form letters, xerox copies. etc. **unless you absolutely cannot take the time to write your own letter.**

2. **Don't** waste your time writing to congress members who have no obligation to respond to you. Avoid writing members outside your geographic area, unless they are on a committee working on an issue or bill that is important to you.

3. **Don't** apologize for writing.

4. **Don't** be vague or verbose.

5. **Don't** over-emphasize your affiliations. It is usually better to write as a concerned individual than as a member of an organization.

6. **Don't** write so often that you'll be labelled a "pen-pal!"

7. **Don't** over-dramatize. Never provide inaccurate information.

8. **Don't** make derogatory or critical comments about congressional staff: they are the people who open all mail!

9. **Don't** be belligerent or threatening to a legislator.

10. **Don't** avoid writing your congress members because you know or believe that they don't share your opinion.

# PRIMATE EMERGENCY HOT LINE

During a primate emergency immediate action is often needed. If you are willing to help by writing letters, please send your name and telephone number to IPPL Headquarters:

> ***International Primate Protection League***
> ***POB 766***
> ***Summerville, SC 29484***

We suggest that you keep a copy of the article "Writing Good Letters" handy to use as a "check list". This will help make sure that your pen is mightier than the sword!

# DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BETRAYS IPPL NETWORK

In April 1990, IPPL received documents from a senior German wildlife official that indicated the possible involvement of Miami animal dealer Matthew Block in arranging the "Bangkok Six" orangutan shipment. Later, this official informed IPPL that he provided the documents to our organization rather than the US Government because he had more confidence in IPPL's ability and willingness to get action than in the US Government's!

IPPL provided these documents to the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) of the US Fish and Wildlife Service for investigation. From the start, we had the very strong impression that DLE and the US Attorney's office in Miami had no real interest in undertaking the kind of speedy well-coordinated aggressive investigation of the orangutan case needed in this age of highly organized fast-moving international wildlife crime.

Eleven long months passed before two Washington DC-based investigators (Special Agents Jorge Picon, since transferred to Miami, and Carl Mainen, still in DC) went on a fact-finding trip to Germany, Thailand, and Singapore. It was another 13 long months after their return from overseas until Matthew Block was finally indicted on 20 February 1992.

On 16 March 1992, shortly after Block's indictment, his criminal defense lawyer Benedict Kuehne filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with DLE for all correspondence from IPPL or its Chairwoman Dr. Shirley McGreal.

Concerned about possible identification of members of IPPL's overseas network, several of whom had met with the DC-based agents, to a man indicted on criminal charges, Shirley McGreal contacted Mr. Monty Halcomb, Chief of DLE Region 4 (Atlanta) about Block's lawyer's request.

In her letter, Dr. McGreal told Mr. Halcomb:

> ***I should like to state that I am very strongly opposed to any release of my/IPPL documents provided to DLE, or correspondence with DLE, to Matthew Block's criminal defense lawyers except in strict compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. IPPL has made a good faith effort to cooperate with DLE by providing information and documents. Many of our officers have received threats as a result of our efforts to see justice done for the orangutans...***

McGreal also noted that somebody had paid a private detective firm ("Anthony's Special Investigative Services Limited" in Singapore) to get the names of all the courageous people who had met our agents in January 1991 - and that Mrs. Marjorie Doggett, IPPL's Singapore Representative, was one of these people.

Incredibly this letter was sent, along with other letters from Shirley McGreal, to Matthew Block's lawyers!

Another letter given to Mr. Block was dated 7 January 1992, and alluded to the fact that Peter Van de Bunt, IPPL's German Representative, had driven Agents Mainen and Picon around when they were in Germany.

On 21 May 1992, after learning of DLE's handing over the names of two people who had met their agents to Matthew Block's lawyers, Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, contacted John Doggett III, the Washington-based Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement, and told him:

> ***I protest most strongly that the name of Mrs. Marjorie Doggett of Singapore was not deleted under the Privacy Act...It was my understanding that DLE, as a law enforcement agency, always protected its sources of information. How can you expect people to assist in investigations when they may be betrayed?***
>
> ***Please provide me with an immediate explanation as to why Mrs. Doggett's name was not deleted from the documents provided to Mr. Block and his attorneys.***

IPPL has twice re-submitted this letter to Mr. John Doggett, but the requested explanation had not been received as of 22 August 1992.

However, during a June meeting in Washington DC, Mr. Doggett stated to Dr. McGreal that the McGreal/IPPL letters had been placed into DLE's "administrative files" - and thus were made available to Mr. Block, as only "investigative files" are protected from release to the public.

Mr. Doggett also claimed that Tom Watts Fitzgerald, the third of four Miami prosecutors on the case (itself a most abnormal procedure, as usually prosecutors assigned to cases stay on them until they are completed) had personally endorsed the release of McGreal's letters to Mr. Block and his lawyers.

Fortunately, Mr. FitzGerald was removed from the Block case in June 1992, and replaced with Mr. Guy Lewis who started to work hard on the orangutan case.

Normally, the names of people who assist US government law enforcement agencies are not handed out to any members of the public, because of the conditions of the Privacy Act.

There are obvious reasons for this: many people providing information to law enforcement authorities may not want their identities known and, if people knew that their names would be provided to criminal suspects, they might not even agree to meet with law enforcement officials.

If the public did not tip off government agencies about suspected wildlife crime because of concerns about being betrayed, the animals and ethical law enforcement officials would be the biggest losers.

In some cases, such as narcotics cases, potential witnesses, if identified to suspects, could be exposed to serious danger. In one notorious case in Miami, animal dealer/narcotics smuggler Mario Tabraue learned the name of a government informant, who was chain-sawed into six pieces and cremated in a horse-trough.

It is IPPL's understanding that the US Customs Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) do protect their sources' identities. **Sadly, people who cooperate with DLE do so at their peril.**

To check whether DLE had a "double standard" for processing Freedom of Information Act requests, Shirley McGreal submitted a FOIA request on 23 June 1992 to DLE-Atlanta which is headed by Monty Halcomb for all documents pertaining to the orangutan

shipment contained in the "administrative files" in Atlanta. McGreal added:

> ***We also request any written opinions from any source regarding the recent FOIA release of my letters by Mr. Halcomb to Mr. Block, including any authorization to release my letters received from anyone from the US Attorney's office in Miami, or any party in or out of DLE Atlanta or Washington DC or elsewhere.***

No reply was received until 17 July 1992. Weeping what seemed like "crocodile tears", Mr. Halcomb stated:

> ***The administrative files you requested have been forwarded to the US Attorney's office in Miami, Florida, under a subpoena. Therefore, the US Fish and Wildlife Service cannot provide the materials you requested until the files are returned to the Atlanta, Georgia, law enforcement office...I regret any inconvenience our inability to respond to your request at this time may cause you or your organization.***

It is quite clear that DLE had a "double standard" in this matter: open the door wide for the criminal suspect to get at the names of people working for the protection of orangutans from illegal traffickers - **and then slam the door shut in IPPL's face!**

We find it appalling that, at a time when unidentified people are paying overseas private detectives large sums of money to get the identities of those people who met with Special Agents Mainen and Picon, DLE should be giving their names away to Mr. Block and his lawyers - **for free.**

We also suspect that, if IPPL was a wealthy organization like the World Wildlife Fund, this betrayal would not have happened.

In the past, IPPL has testified in favor of increased funding for the under-funded DLE through letter-writing campaigns and congressional testimony. However, we now feel that just giving this agency extra funds may not accomplish anything at all, even though many of its individual agents are doing wonderful work in trying circumstances.

IPPL feels that an agency that betrays people who have held meetings with its agents, and then refuses even to respond to a request for an explanation, actually constitutes a danger to anyone who works with it. Before we recommend any funding increases for DLE, we have to see evidence of a thorough reorganization and house-cleaning, **especially in Region 4.**

# HOW YOU CAN PROTEST DLE'S BETRAYAL OF IPPL'S NETWORK

• IPPL asks US members to contact their representative (House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515) and senators (Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510). Tell them that the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service provided the names of people overseas who assisted in the investigation of the smuggling of six baby orangutans to a Miami animal dealer, who had been indicted in connection with the shipment in February 1992.

Request that they protest to the appropriate agencies DLE's identification to a criminal suspect of people who met their agents. Request that congressional hearings be held at which those responsible would be asked to explain their conduct. We suggest that you enclose a copy of this article to provide background information.

• Send a letter to Congressman Richard Lehman of California, (House Office Building, Washington DC 20515) who serves on a congressional committee overseeing DLE, and who is familiar with its problems, to express your concern at identification by DLE-Atlanta of the names of people who met DLE agents investigating the shipment to the animal dealer indicted for the "Bangkok Six" orangutan shipment.

• Overseas IPPL members should address their protests to the US Embassy in their country of residence.

# "TOM GIBBON" DOING WELL

The April 1992 issue of the **IPPL Newsletter** told readers about the plight of Tom Gibbon, a gibbon who had just arrived at Leonie Vejjajiva's sanctuary in Thailand. Poor Tom had been abused and had lost most of his hair, yet he retained an adorable disposition. IPPL members responded generously to our request for donations to help with the special care needed for Tom.

Thanks to our members' generosity, over $1,400 was sent to the Wildlife Rescue Center earmarked for Tom's care.

Tom is being brushed daily, and his hair has now started to grow back.

Leonie Vejjajiva extends her sincere thanks to everyone who sent gifts to help with the special care Tom Gibbon needs.

**The "new" Tom Gibbon**

# A VISIT TO THE AMAZON MONKEY JUNGLE

*by Dianne Taylor-Snow*

The Amazon Monkey Jungle (The Living Rainforest Foundation) is located outside Manaus, Brazil, a historic city on the Amazon River. It was here, accompanied by Dr. Shirley McGreal, that I met Dr. Marc van Roosmalen, his wife Betty, and their son Thomas. It was also here that I met, and lost my heart to, some very special primates.

The Amazon Monkey Jungle was created as a rehabilitation site for South American primates, and a variety of other animals, out of need. There was a real need for such a facility because of such factors as habitat destruction, hunting, animal trade, and the human population explosion.

Betty van Roosmalen met us at a boat dock in Manaus and the small Amazon Monkey Jungle camp boat collected us and took us upriver for what was to be a memorable visit.

**Betty, Thomas and Marc Van Roosmalen**

We turned off the main Amazon River into a small tributary and as we approached the shore where the station was located, we noticed a large dead tree standing lifeless in the water - except for the dozen or so wildly colored parrots perched on it. These were the first rehabilitants of the camp to greet us.

As our eyes scanned the shoreline, we spotted a juvenile spider monkey scampering across the roof of the screened-in building and there on the shore to greet us was a beautiful five month old male woolly monkey, who leapt over the water into Betty's arms as soon as she was close enough for him to execute such a leap of faith.

A gentle rain began to fall, so we moved inside the building and sat in the screened porch, chatting and sipping coffee and listening to Marc explain the need and function of the Amazon Monkey Jungle.

I shall not dwell too heavily on tropical rainforest destruction; it's an all too common theme. Here, in Brazil, rainforest destruction is occurring not only due to rampant logging activities, but also due to clear-cutting for agricultural purposes and the creation of huge hydro-electric projects that literally wipe out entire ecosystems. Of course, the animal trade still flourishes.

At the time of our visit, the station was home to 22 species of primates; 23 other mammal species; 8 reptile species; and 15 bird species.

Such a collection creates special problems and requires special solutions. The objectives of the center are:

- to provide a safe haven for orphaned primates, many of whom are infants or juveniles;
- to provide a home for confiscated individuals, many of whom are older and hard-to-handle;
- to provide a sanctuary for entire primate troops that require relocation (due mainly to hydro-electric projects or logging);
- to rehabilitate primates for group-living in the forest,
- to develop education programs for Brazilians, especially young people;
- to undertake studies of behavior and ecology.

**White Uakari carries adopted Squirrel Monkey**

## *Amazon Visit Continued*

The orphans, who are infants and juveniles, require special care. Whenever possible, these animals are introduced to mature adults of their own species in the hopes that adoption will occur.

Should adoption not occur, the orphans are cared for in the "baby zoo" until they can slowly be introduced to the open forest area where feeding platforms and shelters have been erected. After this stage, introduction to "wild" groups is attempted, where they will learn social interaction and "primate ecology."

Groups of wild-caught animals are first maintained in cages. They are observed for possible parasite infestations, wounds, diseases, etc. Should medical attention be required, it is administered at this point.

**Bearded Saki (left) with Monk Saki**

After a suitable quarantine period, the dominant males and/or females are then released to the surrounding forest where feeding platforms have been stationed. These animals learn the location and feeding times at these sites, while still maintaining contact with their still-caged troop members.

After a matter of usually a few weeks, the rest of the troop is released to the forest where the already-released members can then share the forest and feeding information they have obtained on their own.

Unsocialized captive subadults and adults present different problems. All too frequently these animals have not learned the skills which would enable them to be released into the forest, and it would be rare indeed for them to be accepted into an established wild troop. Therefore, these animals are released on specially partitioned "islands" in the forest. These "islands" are provisioned with feeding platforms constructed at different canopy levels.

These "islands" may contain several species and to me this appeared like a very happy solution for "problem" animals that otherwise might find themselves caged in sterile (at best) concrete enclosures with nothing to stimulate and enrich their lives.

Education is the most important tool we human primates possess and Dr. van Roosmalen is involving the center in this endeavor. Brazilian students will be supervised for work on their Masters' and Ph. D. degrees, and a local educator is to be hired to create a full-time environmental program for local school children. An exchange program for zookeepers has been proposed. This will enable zoo-keepers from overseas to understand more fully the needs of their South American charges back home.

Eco-tourism should also play an important role at the center. Visitors will be able to see a variety of Amazonian animals in their natural environment and learn the special relationships of rainforest plants and animals.

Marc and Betty (a nature artist) have undertaken a monumental project and are to be commended for their heroic efforts. How wonderful it was for me to be able to freely walk about the rehabilitation station and see so many primates given a "second chance" at a full and happy life.

Sitting inside the screened porch watching an emperor tamarin and a pygmy marmoset play "tag and chase" in the rafters above my head, while a sleepy-eyed owl monkey peered down wondering what all the racket was about, brought smiles to our faces.

It was also a delight to see a beautiful female white uakari, an extremely rare primate, carrying around an orphaned squirrel monkey she had "adopted."

When two young sakis decided that my head and shoulders would make a perfect place to play, I didn't mind at all. Against my protestations the two "delinquents" managed to steal a hair comb and bound off into a nearby tree with their prize, shredding it to pieces.

To sum up, it is my opinion that the Amazon Monkey Jungle/ Living Rainforest Foundation would be a very acceptable place to live if you were a Brazilian primate faced with homelessness.

***IPPL will be pleased to accept restricted donations for care of the primates at the Amazon Monkey Jungle.***

# BUAV OPENS CAMPAIGN AGAINST MONKEY TRADE

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) has just ended a year-long in-depth investigation into the trade in wild-caught monkeys. BUAV investigators concentrated their investigation on the trade in wild-caught monkeys from Indonesia, the Philippines and Mauritius. Most of the monkeys traded are crab-eating macaques.

BUAV found that 7 companies export monkeys from the Philippines: Siconbrec, Del Mundo Trading, Amo Farms, Scientific Primates Filipinas, Renaldo Uy, Ferlite and A.T. Viri. Three companies dominate exports from Indonesia: C.V. Primates, C.V. Inquatex, and C.V. Primaco.

The BUAV team found that monkeys are mainly caught by netting and laying of bait traps in crates or baskets. Losses between capture and export were estaimated to be as high as 75%.

In 1990, an internal memo from the Managing Director of a UK primate importer commented, of the Indonesian trade:

> ***I have grave doubts about our ability to make money because our primary source of Cynos*** [crab-eating macaques] ***is Indonesia from where the quality of animals is appalling. Whilst this impacts the company commercially, I am also concerned that we could have a newspaper exposé by our association with the transportation of monkeys in such poor condition.***

According to the BUAV report, very few of the animals exported from the Philippines and Indonesia are captive-bred: most are caught in the jungles.

BUAV also visited the island of Mauritius, which has a population of wild monkeys which descend from imported monkeys released into the wild. Because of the isolation of the island and its large Hindu population, Mauritian monkeys enjoyed an idyllic existence, but finally the animal dealers caught up with them.

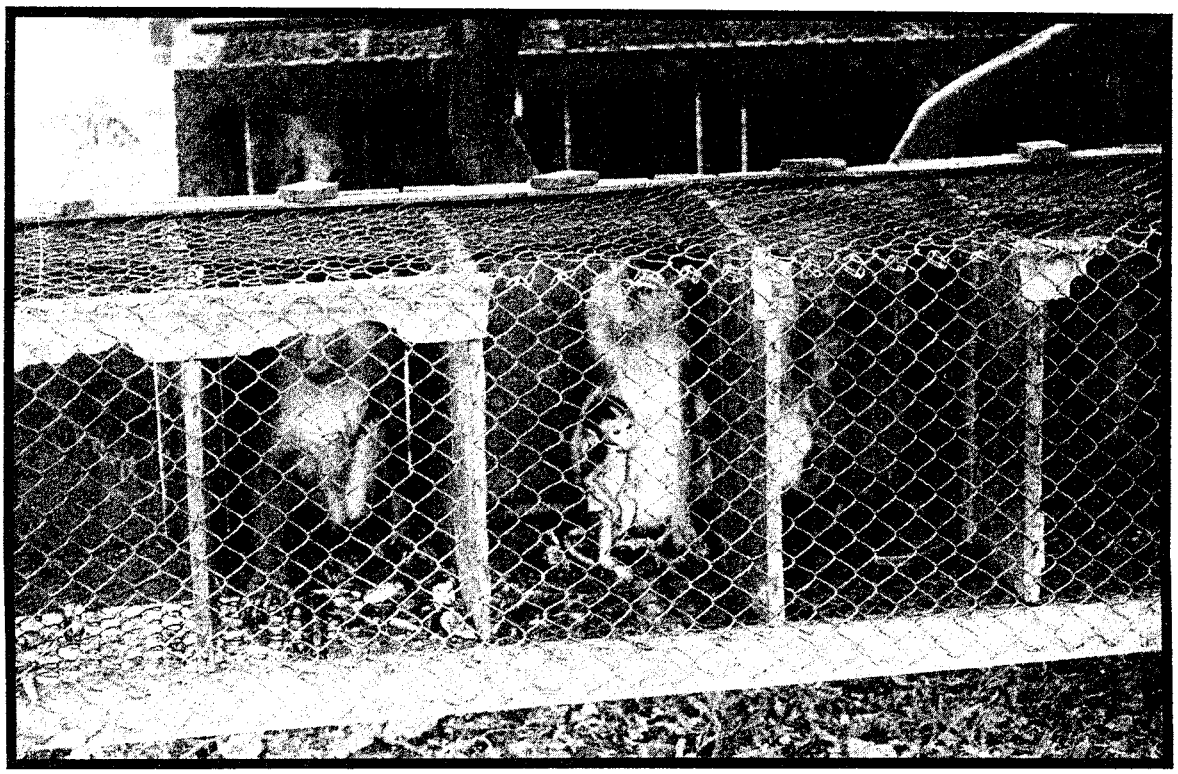
In 1985, Bioculture-Mauritius was established and started to trap and export monkeys. A French company associated with the Delais Deep River Company has also started exporting Mauritius macaques.

Although the monkey population of Mauritius is low (estimates range between 20,000 and 35,000 animals) between 8,500 and 9,500 monkeys are trapped annually on the island, most of whom are females.

BUAV was able to obtain information on mortality of primates reaching a leading British importer from Indonesia and the Philippines over the period 1988-1991. Allover pre-sale mortality of primates imported from the Philippines was 5.8%, with losses as high as 20% in some shipments.

The loss rate for Indonesian monkeys was a staggering 18.9%, with losses from one particularly bad shipment reaching 54%.

- Total percentage losses on 2,150 primates imported from C.V. Primates, of Jakarta, during 1988-89 was 17.8%, with 38% losses in one shipment over a three-month period.
- Total percentage losses on 260 monkeys imported from C.V. Inquatex, during 1989-90, were 21.9%, with 54% of the animals in one shipment dying within six months of arrival.
- Total percentage losses on 810 monkeys imported from C.V. Primaco during 1989-90 were 20.9%. One of the worst shipments arrived on 25 July 1990: 18 were dead within 23 days, and 13 more were destroyed because they were emaciated.



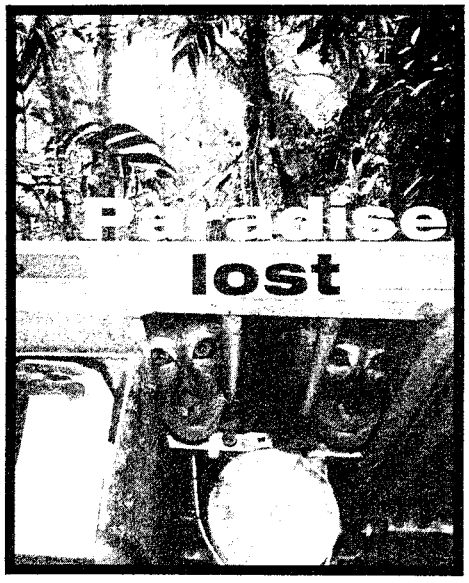
**Indonesian monkey holding center**

Internal memoranda show that officials of this British firm knew they were sometimes dealing with dubious dealers: a veterinary consultant noted of one Indonesian firm that:

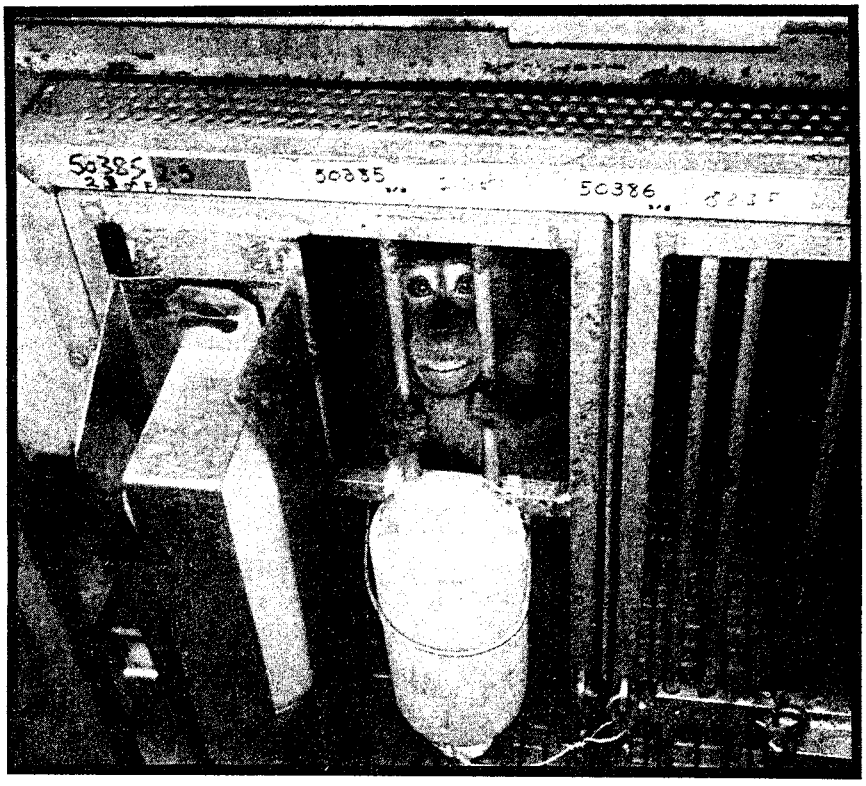
***The premises are disastrous, but they seem to have trapping connections and a quota of 1,000 per annum.***

BUAV's campaign director summarized the team's findings:

***This in-depth investigation has uncovered a massive and brutal trade in primates for research which consumes the lives of tens of thousands of monkeys a year.***




**BUAV campaign poster**




**Caged Macaque at British importer's premises**

The traffic in live monkeys continues to be conducted in appalling conditions because very few scientists who purchase monkeys know anything about the trade. Peter Gerone, Director of the Tulane Primate Center, testified under oath that he had never inspected the premises of his supplier, Worldwide Primates.

Because of space limitations, we are unable to reproduce BUAV's very long report in its entirety. Please send $5 for copying and postage costs if you would like to review the full report.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO END THE MONKEY SLAVE TRADE

IPPL strongly supports BUAV's campaign to end the trade in wild-caught primates snatched from the world's jungles and shipped to miserable lives in research laboratories by greedy businessmen who themselves often live in luxury at the monkeys' expense.

Please write to:

**His Excellency Bapak President Soeharto**
**Istana Merdeka**
**Jalan Merdeka Selatan**
**Jakarta, Indonesia**

Request that all export of monkeys be banned and that an investigation of the monkey trade and traders should be undertaken to prevent abuse of animals.

US members should contact:

**His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia**
**Embassy of Indonesia**
**2020 Massachusetts Avenue**
**Washington DC 20036, USA**

Members outside these countries should contact the President of Indonesia and also the Indonesian Embassy in their country of residence. It is especially important that many of our Asian members join this letter-writing campaign.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

# DIAN FOSSEY'S EARLY DAYS IN RWANDA

IPPL has used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain State Department documents pertaining to our organization's good friend, the late Dian Fossey, who lived with the mountain gorillas of Rwanda for 17 years from 1968 until she was murdered in December 1985. We received over 1,000 documents. In this issue of **IPPL News**, we shall reproduce extracts from documents telling about the beginning of Dian Fossey's study of the mountain gorillas.

These documents reveal the sheer courage that marked Dian's character, and how United States State Department officials were always nervous of this dedicated, single-minded woman, and even tried to get her off her mountain home by trying to get Dr. Louis Leakey to talk her into abandoning her study, and even encouraging a male friend of Dian's to bring her down to "civilization."

Dian Fossey started to study mountain gorillas on the Zairian side of the Zaire-Rwanda border, but civil strife forced her to leave her Kabara meadow study site and flee Zaire.

**Classified telegram from American Embassy, Kigali, Rwanda, to US Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya, dated 27 July 1968**

*Convey following message to Dr. Leakey* [Dr. Louis Leakey, Dian Fossey's mentor] *just received by messenger from Dian Fossey, who is now at Travellers' Rest, Kisoro, Uganda.* ["Travellers' Rest" an inn near the Uganda-Rwanda-Zaire border]. *QUOTE; I escaped Congo* [now known as Zaire] *yesterday causing a lot of trouble. They say if I return I will be shot at the border, so I must discontinue my work for the moment. The military has also refused to allow me to climb the mountain for a period of 2 to 4 months. Do they expect more trouble in the area? I remain at Kisoro until further word from Dr. Leakey but hope to return if he says I must wait in Nairobi. In the meantime, what is the best way to acquire a Rwandan visa? Maybe I will be able to work on that side of the mountain. UNQUOTE. Bearer of message reports Fossey safe and sound. According to bearer, it took all her money to bribe her way out of Congo into Uganda, where all bribees were chased back into Congo. She has seven-day refugee permit for Uganda.*

A similar message was sent to the Department of State under the heading "Gorilla Girl Flees Congo."

**Confidential State Department Cable dated 14 August 1967 from US Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya to US Embassy, Kigali, Rwanda discussing Fossey's plans to set up a gorilla study site in Rwanda**

*Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, who serves as Fossey's technical director, contacted Ambassador 14 August. Dr. Leakey stated that Fossey was aware of, and would accept, the risks: that she was not technically "a Congo evacuee" and, unless she was forbidden to return, that she would return to Rwanda. Amb* [American Ambassador] *informed Dr. Leakey that USG* [US Government] *was attempting to protect the lives and welfare of the Amcits* [American citizens] *involved and that we had not refused travel permission.*

*According to Dr. Leakey, Miss Fossey will depart Nairobi August 15 via charter aircraft* [for] *Kigali. She will bring equipment to establish new gorilla watching operation on Rwanda side of border... Leakey maintains that Fossey will not experience any difficulty and he tends to deprecate the personal safety factor...*

*August 16th Fossey will depart for Gisenyi where she will remain with Miss Monck* [Alyette de Munck, a friend of Fossey's] *until she can complete plans for establishing her mountain camp.*

On 14 August 1967, Mrs. de Munck's son and nephew and one of their friends were tragically murdered when travelling from the Traveller's Rest Hotel to Mrs. de Munck's plantation in Rwanda. The three young men had arrived in Nairobi, Kenya to start a six-week vacation and Dian had dinner with them in Nairobi and invited them to her study site. They were killed by Congolese soldiers when they took a wrong turn, and ended up in the Congo instead of Rwanda.

**Confidential State Department Cable dated 5 October 1967 from US Embassy, Kigali to Secretary of State, Washington DC.**

*Mrs. de Munck is mother of two of the three murdered Belgians* [in fact, only one of the young men was her son]. *She has home in foothills of Karisimbi Mountain on which Fossey occupies Mrs. de Munck's cabin while studying gorillas... We know Fossey helped pull Mrs. de Munck through days following August 14 tragedy and Mrs. De Munck naturally has very high regard for her.*

*Also possible that as late as September 14 Fossey could still have been in highly emotional state over murders but by now should be more normal. We may get some light on this tomorrow from Mrs. de Munck. We could then send Fossey a message via Mrs. de Munck on her return. Fossey very strong-minded, however, and we believe only Dr. Leakey can make her give up her work.*

**Classified State Department Cable dated 9 October 1967 from US Embassy, Kinshasa, to State Department, Washington DC**

*For what it may be worth, Crigler* [Frank Crigler, later to become US Ambassador to Rwanda] *met Miss Fossey in Kigali late August on her return from leave. Was headed for Gisenyi area with large batch brand new equipment which she was struggling to get through Customs without paying duties. Her behavior at this moment of personal "crisis" left consul with impression she's a resourceful, independent but highly emotional and erratic young woman. Spoke no French and made no attempt to use any Swahili she may have known, and attitude suggested she held Africans in low regard. Confessed to being frightened at prospect of returning to wilderness at time of civil unrest and military harassment nearby, and described Dr. Leakey in most unflattering terms for "callously" having ordered her back.*

**Classified State Department cable dated 5 October 1967 from State Department, DC to US Embassy, Kigali, Rwanda**

*Background FYI: September 14, Amcit Miss Dian Fossey c/o Mrs. Alyette de Munck, BP 185, Gisenyi, sent letter to* [recipient's name deleted]. *Fossey, in highly emotional tone, asked help in avenging brutal murder by ANC* [Congo rebels] *this summer of three friends, Belgian travellers who mistakenly entered Congo. Miss Fossey wrote that she herself would kill ANC responsible unless someone else did it by October 31...Miss Fossey is under contract to Dr. Leakey to study gorillas in Kivu and Rwanda. Lawyer represent[illegible] Forrester* [Alexie Forrester, who lived on a plantation in what was then Southern Rhodesia and is now Zimbabwe, and who was romantically involved with Dian] *de-*

*scribes Fossey as normally rational, but capable following through her vow.*

The Embassy was requested to verify Fossey's whereabouts and develop information on her activities, without revealing anything about the contents of the letter. The US Embassy in Nairobi was requested to make enquiries of Dr. Leakey, again without mentioning the letter.

**Confidential State Department Cable dated 6 October 1967 from State Department, DC to US Embassy, Kigali, Rwanda, writer unknown**

*Had long conversation with* [person's name deleted but certainly Mrs. Rosamund Carr, an American expatriate who had lived in Rwanda for 30 years] *old friend and neighbor of Mrs. de Munck and familiar with details of Fossey's stay in Rwanda. States Fossey met De Munck family earlier this year where Mrs. De Munck promised Dr. Leakey to do everything she could to help Fossey.*

*After tragedy, Mrs. de Munck associated Fossey with this last meeting with her son and nephew in Nairobi and buried herself in task of helping Fossey and very strong mutual friendship developed.* [Mrs. Carr] *admires Fossey greatly, yet considers her odd and erratic but brave. Says Fossey sent only few days in cabin on Karisimbi and saw no gorillas. Has spent last three weeks in tent on Visoke in Rwanda and, while suffering from continuous cold and rain, has seen scores of gorillas, lies in brambles for hours studying their habits, and has been within twenty meters of them for long periods.*

*Mrs. de Munck and her sister were with Fossey on Visoke for short period where she has two or three native helpers.* [Mrs. Carr] *thinks Fossey has no idea of giving up project.*

*Gave* [Mrs. Carr] *every opportunity to mention any homicidal tendencies Fossey might have shown, but she indicated only that Fossey bitter over tragedy.. Like other friends [names deleted] Fossey was intent on finding what happened to bodies.* [Mrs. Carr's] *current outlook is that she is completely wrapped up in her work and highly elated over recent successes with gorillas. She watches them by day and types her notes in wet tent and clothes by night...*

*On basis of present knowledge, I feel time and absorption with job success probably lessen likelihood of rash action on part of Fossey.*

[Mrs. Carr] *reports Fossey critical of Embassy for slowness in getting to airport to help with Customs and of Embassy Nairobi for allegedly trying to talk her out of returning to Rwanda. No mention of pressure from Dr. Leakey requiring her to return.*

Peter G. Veit, © National Geographic Society

**Dian Fossey with Tuck**

**Classified State Department Cable dated 7 October 1967, US Embassy, Nairobi to State Department, Washington DC**

*Subject; Dianne* [sic] *Jean Fossey: Doubt highly that Leakey pressured Fossey to return to Rwanda. When she evacuated in August, he was insistent that she come out and stay Nairobi for proper R and R* [Rest and Recreation].

*At that time and in response Kigali's request, Nairobi cautioned Fossey on possibility she might be extradited by Rwandans to Congo if she returned there, and attempted persuade her remain until situation clarified.*

*Her behavior made it evident she thought Embassy deliberately trying to mislead her and keep her out of area for fear she might cause inconvenience and bother. Her attitude was so defiant and unreasonable that Emboff* [Embassy official] *immediately made mention in anticipation further difficulties. At that time she gave*

*Continued overleaf...*

*every outward indication of being determined to proceed to Rwanda regardless of what anyone told her.*

*Although not wishing* [to] *cast ourselves in the role of psychiatrist, would point out that Fossey has impressed Emboffs Kigali and Nairobi as being, if not neurotic, at least highly emotional, and she has spent a great part of past year living in remote forest area in isolation from human contact for extended periods.*

*Agree with Kigali's last line that only Leakey can get her out. Suggest Nairobi be permitted inform him of situation and let him decide what action to take.*

**Classified State Department cable dated 7 October 1967 from US State Department DC to US Embassy, Rwanda**

This cable announces that an unidentified person with a British passport (in fact, this was Alexie Forrester) was en route to Kigali to try to "induce Fossey to leave," and that he "probably offers best hope, should Fossey remain in vengeful mood." The Kigali Embassy was asked to "assist as possible."

**Classified State Department cable dated 7 October 1967 from US Embassy, Kampala, Uganda to US Embassy, Kigali**

A person unidentified in the cable [actually, Alexie Forrester] was reported to have arrived in Uganda on the night of 6 October. However, Forrester had been refused a visa by both the Rwandan Embassy in Paris and the Rwandan Embassy in Kampala. Forrester had in his possession a plane ticket to take Fossey "from Kigali to the United States."

**Confidential State Department cable from US Embassy, Kigali, to State Department dated 8 October 1967**

An Embassy official had met Mrs. De Munck and her sister to discuss Fossey's activities. The Embassy official reports that he tried to "draw them out." However, Mrs. de Munck noted that Fossey had promised not to enter the Congo.

*Then she went on to point out that Visoke entirely in Rwanda and that ANC* [rebels] *unlikely to go there, being likelier to head for places where they can obtain beer and loot. This series of remarks came closest to revealing there may have been some discussed intention of Fossey to take on ANC. But burden of last night's conversation was Fossey's total absorption in her current successes with gorillas, and sisters' utter admiration of Fossey's sterling character. While Fossey pines for hot bath and less sloshing about in mud, they say she is fully determined spend year or two collecting data, which she says for lesser period would be meaningless. She hopes eventually explore several of eleven more important volcanoes shared by Rwanda, Congo and Uganda.*

*On basis of foregoing, I would consider it unnecessary for her safety and inadvisable attempt persuade Fossey to abandon project. Mrs. De Munck's home is a 3-hour walk from Fossey. She and/or her sister will be visiting Fossey rather frequently. We can thus know her condition and whether she is continuing to be successful with her work. As long as she is, there would seem to be least danger that she go off on homicidal tangent. Greatest danger would be to talk her off her mountain, thus leaving her free to track down ANC single-handedly.*

**Classified State Department Cable from US Embassy, Kampala to State Department dated 9 October 1967.**

Alexie Forrester had proceeded from Kampala to the Traveller's Rest in Kisoro in a rented car where he hoped to meet Fossey and persuade her to abandon her studies and return to the United States. According to the cable, ***"This person will...check in with us on his return from Kisoro after which we will report further on this modern day Edgar Rice Burroughs drama."*** [Burroughs was the author of the "Tarzan" books].

**Classified State Department Cable from US Embassy Kampala to State Department, Washington DC, dated 12 October 1967**

[Forrester] *returned Kampala alone last night. He had reached Kisoro last Sunday afternoon and, after talking to owner "Travellers' Rest Inn," proceeded to Mrs. de Munck's farm by car bribing his way across Rwandan border at Cyanika with 200 cigarettes and bottle wine. He* [was] *stopped once at crude roadblock inside Rwanda and surrounded by armed soldiers who searched him and his car and held him for an hour or more before allowing him to proceed..He drove on in to Fossey's camp at Visoke Monday morning. He was waiting in camp when Fossey returned from gorilla watch.*

*He found Fossey completely normal, rational and very much absorbed in her work. She* [was] *apparently completely surprised by all the commotion resulting from her letter to* [name deleted], *which was written when she was in deep shock and emotionally upset (she said she was crying when she wrote that letter and does not fully recall all she said in it) over brutal slaying three Belgian youths who were en route to camp at her invitation when incident occurred. She had* [to] *break news their death to Mrs. De Munck and quite naturally felt some personal responsibility.*

*Says youths were deliberately misdirected at fork in road by African well-known in that area who knew they would fall into hands ANC* [Zairean rebels] *by proceeding along road or track on which he directed them.*

[Forrester] *apparently spent Monday and Tuesday with Fossey and is completely satisfied she has no present intention (and in fact never had any real intention) attempting take matters into her own hands or do anything irrational. He found the camp tidy and neat, with gorilla project moving along well and under her complete control. Fossey has made over 300 gorilla sightings and, as stated before, is completely absorbed in her work and enthusiastic about success she is achieving.*

*..Based on my conversation with* [Forrester], *believe all concerned can now relax in knowledge Fossey well, safe, and has her feet in ground.* [Forrester] *promised write Department detailed letter on his return US.*

So, in spite of efforts to dislodge her from Rwanda by the United States Department of State and Alexie Forrester, the end of 1967 saw Dian firmly installed in Rwanda and about to start her extraordinary long-term study of the Mountain gorilla - and her even more extraordinary battle to protect her study animals and their mountain home from poachers and wildlife traffickers.

One wonders what would have happened if these efforts to dislodge Dian had succeeded. It is certain that the behavior of the Mountain Gorilla would be less well documented, and it also very possible that the last remaining Mountain gorillas would have been killed by poachers.

# FIRE AT PATA MALL

Past IPPL **Newsletters** have described the appalling conditions in which primates and other animals are kept on the 6th and 7th floors of the Pata Department Store in Thon Buri, Thailand.

In the April 1992 **Newsletter**, we told readers about the arrival of a young female gorilla at the Pata menagerie which already was holding an adult male gorilla in deplorable conditions. The young gorilla had been imported to Thailand in early 1990 by unscrupulous animal dealers. IPPL found a home for this animal at the Gorilla Orphanage in Brazzaville in the Congo Republic.

IPPL sent a letter to the Manager of the Pata menagerie requesting copies of the documents under which the gorilla was shipped to Thailand and that she be sent to the Gorilla Orphanage. No response was ever received.

Members were also requested to send letters to the Director of Thailand's Wildlife Conservation Division asking that the young gorilla be returned to Africa. The orphanage is not equipped to handle adult male gorillas.

IPPL press releases about the plight of the Pata gorillas appeared in the Thai press in May 1992.

Now we have learned that a fire broke out at the Pata Department Store on 5 May 1992, which turned the store into a blazing inferno. The fire reached the 6th floor, killing 100 animals. The primates, including gorillas, orangutans and dozens of rare species, were housed on the 7th floor and survived. However, they certainly underwent severe stress.

The store was insured for over 100 million baht (4 million dollars) with five different insurance companies.

A similar fire at the Big Bell Department Store, which also maintained a menagerie, killed every one of the resident animals in 1987.

On 5 May 1992, the **Bangkok Post** ran a hard-hitting editorial "Stop Death Cages being Filled Again." Extracts follow.

*The poor creatures would not have had to undergo the tragic and harrowing ordeal in the first place, had they been left to roam free in their wild habitats, instead of being cruelly caged in a zoo located in a high-rise building.*

*Apparently motivated solely by financial considerations, the Pata Department Store has, for years, defied the complaints of animal lovers and protests from international wildlife conservation organizations against what they allege to be cruelty to the animals. The creatures, including exotic birds and wild animals from all over the world, have been crammed on the sixth and seventh floors of the building. What is most shocking and deplorable is that their living conditions are far, far worse than those in their natural habitat...*

*It is against Lord Buddha's teachings to forcefully detain animals and to inflict upon them a slow death, just as it is to do so to humans. But, apparently, the management of the department store seems more concerned with cashing in on the plight of the poor animals. The decision of the management to reopen the zoo next month is, to say the least, appalling.*

*The authorities, too, are to be blamed for the incident and for the very existence of the zoo. Above all, visitors to the zoo should be ashamed of themselves and bear a large degree of moral responsibility, because they are the ones who keep the business profitable...*

*The incident on Tuesday smacks of deja vu. A fire broke out at the Manhatun Plaza on Ploenchit Road in September 1987, killing hundreds of rare birds and animals housed in a small zoo on the fourth floor of Big Bell Department Store. In a sense, private zoos in department stores or on hotel rooftops are akin to death traps. The premise itself symbolizes cruelty and inhumanity.*

*How many more animals have to be hunted down, killed or snatched from their natural habitat just for the purpose of being caged in a private zoo and being stared at for the temporary enjoyment of human beings? And how many more have a death warrant hanging over them, just waiting for the next disastrous fire?*

*Wild animals have the right to live and roam free just like their supposedly more intellectual and civilized human beings.*

*Their place is most definitely not in a zoo.*

Apparently, the **Bangkok Post** editorial had little effect. The **Post** reported on 12 May 1992 that Pata Department Store planned to reopen at the same location.

# ANIMAL DEALERS INDICTED

On 11 June 1992, seven animal dealers were charged in a 64-count indictment alleging illegal dealings in wildlife. The dealers were Thomas E. Nichols of Whitesburg, Georgia: Edward McDonald of Gainesville, Florida: Robert Troumbly of Northland Wildlife, Grand Rapids, Minnesota: Sharon K. Davis and David Langham of Weatherford, Texas: Antonio Alentado of Homestead, Florida, and Michael Mannain of Poughkeepsie, New York.

The investigation was jointly conducted by the US Customs Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Centers for Disease Control.

The charges involved alleged illegal trafficking in monkeys, including spider monkeys, capuchins, grivets, spot-nosed monkeys, squirrel monkeys, Mona monkeys, Patas monkeys, baboons, and several species of lemurs.

Although the Centers for Disease Control banned importation of primates for the pet trade in 1975, pet primates are easily available and are even offered for sale in such mass-circulation publications as the **National Enquirer**. Primates have continued to suffer and die at the hands of people totally unqualified to take proper care of them.

In the past, IPPL has contacted the Centers for Disease Control drawing CDC's attention to the obviously widespread sale of pet primates, in far larger numbers than could be accounted for by captive breeding, and requested that CDC undertake an investigation of possible diversion of imported primates into the pet trade. Nothing was ever done.

All defendants pleaded "Not Guilty." A trial date of November 1992 is anticipated.

# CONFISCATION IN JOHANNESBURG

On 23 June 1992, two baby chimpanzees were confiscated at the Jan Smuts Airport, Johannesburg, South Africa. They had been shipped from Zaire with no Zairean export permits and no South African import permits. Since both Zaire and South Africa are members of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), both import and export permits, issued in advance, would be needed.

The chimpanzees had been brought to South Africa by Mrs. Kapinga, a Zairean national, who has apparently been trying to resell them. Little is known about Mrs. Kapinga except that she also deals in malachite, a precious stone.

Plans to transfer the chimpanzees from the airport quarantine station to better facilities at the Johannesburg Zoo were put on hold when Mrs. Kapinga obtained a court order barring the transfer. The case against Mrs. Kapinga started on 5 August and was remanded until 4 September. At that time the chimpanzees were transferred from the quarantine station to Johannesburg Zoo.

South African organizations, including South Africans for the Abolition of Vivisection (SAAV), are working hard to get the animals moved to the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia, which has already offered them a home.

SAAV has informed IPPL:

> ***We can't begin to tell you how wonderful these chimps are. The hearts of the few SAAV members who have been allowed access to them have been touched forever. The little girl simply wants to be held all the time and the boy loves to be groomed and played with. Both have obviously been severely traumatized and psychologically affected by their awful ordeal...Physically, their condition is improving and they are steadily putting on weight. They were dehydrated, had pneumonia and the flu and the little girl, who was initially left for dead, had to be resuscitated.***

An IPPL statement on the chimpanzees was published widely in the South African press. IPPL Chairwoman Dr. Shirley McGreal was quoted as calling for jail sentences for any party or parties found guilty of illegal wildlife trafficking and as strongly opposing return of the animals to their "owner."

The CITES Secretariat, which is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, has also strongly encouraged the South African Government not to return the chimpanzees to the importer.

# CONFISCATION IN ZAMBIA

Norbert Mumba, Chief of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Zambia, confiscated one chimpanzee and 20 grey parrots illegally imported to Zambia from Zaire in July 1992. It is likely that the chimpanzee will be transferred to the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage for rehabilitation. IPPL has sent a message to Mr. Mumba commending him on the seizure.

Mr. Mumba attended the CITES conference in Kyoto, Japan in February 1992, where he impressed animal-lovers by his sincerity and integrity. Please send Mr. Mumba a letter congratulating him on the confiscation of the parrots and the chimpanzee and encouraging him to keep up his battle to protect all Zambia's wildlife.

Address:

*Mr. Norbert Mumba*
*National Parks and Wildlife Service*
*Species Protection Department*
*Private Bag 1, Chilanga*
*Zambia*

# YERKES CAREGIVERS ALLEGE PRIMATES MISTREATED

According to the 24 April 1992 issue of the **Atlanta Journal**, four former caregivers at the Yerkes Primate Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA have alleged that adult chimpanzees are "routinely shot with BB guns,squirted in the face and genitals with high-power water hoses, and bitten by aggressive cage mates."

The caregivers also alleged that baby chimpanzees were slapped by nursery technicians.

Yerkes vet Kenneth Gould stated that "There's often a grain of truth in the incidents they describe, but they make a sandstorm out of them." Animal care superintendent Karen Pralinsky stated that, when baby chimps reach one year of age, they often bite pretty hard, and that:

> ***When they bite, an appropriate response is to smack them, not to hurt them, but enough so that they will not continue to bite.***

# NEW THREAT TO PIGTAIL MACAQUE

Researchers at the University of Washington Regional Primate Center in Seattle, USA claim to have successfully infected eight Pigtail macaques, members of a highly intelligent monkey species that is native to Southeast Asia, with the human AIDS virus.

Murray Gardner, a scientist at the University of California at Davis, told a reporter from the magazine **Science** that other researchers will have to replicate the Washington results before the pigtail macaque replaces the chimpanzee in AIDS research.

Nonetheless, the result of the announcement of the findings has been a huge demand for pigtail macaques. With billions of dollars of profits certain for any company that develops an AIDS vaccine, and Indonesia apparently always willing to exploit its wildlife for commercial gain, problems could result for the pigtail macaque. It is unlikely that researchers will wait for the Washington findings to be replicated and verified before rushing to acquire pigtail macaques.

At present, Indonesia has an annual export quota of 500 for pigtail macaques. It is unfortunately likely that the combined pressures of foreign governments, wealthy pharmaceutical companies and the powerful Indonesian animal dealer lobby may bring about an increase in the quota that could eventually threaten the species.

# EGYPTIAN EMBASSY'S DIRTY APE DEAL

A baby gorilla and a baby chimpanzee were confiscated by Rwandan Customs officers at Kigali Airport, Rwanda, on 15 July 1992. The animals had entered Rwanda on an Air Zaire flight.

The crates did not carry any markings as to contents. The only documentation that accompanied the shipment was an air waybill which stated that the crates were the property of the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali. The crates were to be loaded on to a plane leaving for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The animals are being cared for by veterinarian Liz MacFie of the Virunga Veterinary Center, who handles the health problems of Rwanda's wild gorillas. It is not yet known whether the baby gorilla is a Mountain gorilla, an Eastern Lowland gorilla, or a Western Lowland gorilla.

The animals were concealed in the crates. The air waybill identified the shipper as a Mr. Ashraf Mohammed, supposedly a Zairean national, of ETS, Okasha, Goma, Zaire and the owner as the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali.

In making the confiscation, Rwandan wildlife officials correctly stated that certain documentation would be needed for species listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to which both Rwanda and Zaire belong. This would be an import permit from the final destination country, a Zairean export permit, a Rwandan import permit, and a Rwandan re-export permit. The shipment was accompanied by none of these.

On the morning of 16 July, the Rwandan Office of Tourism and National Parks (ORTPN) received a visit from Mr. Ashraf Mohammed and Mr. Ahmed Al Khattab, Counselor at the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali. The two men demanded that the gorilla and chimpanzee be released to them and tried to intimidate the ORTPN officials, who stood firm and refused to release the animals.

Egypt has been a member of CITES since 4 April 1978, and it is appalling that the Egyptian Embassy should be promoting an illegal deal by one of its nationals who was acting in flagrant violation of a treaty of which Egypt is a member.

This was not the first time that the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali has been involved in illegal wildlife dealings; in April 1990, five infant chimpanzees, also addressed to the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali, were confiscated. All were sick, and three of them died. The two survivors were sent to Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage run by Dave and Sheila Siddle in Zambia.

In December 1989, Mr. Mohammed Ashraf was involved in another illegal wildlife deal. Three baby chimpanzees arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, on a Kenya Airways flight from Kigali. They were packed in palm-fiber baskets. Fortunately, a passenger who arrived on the same flight and saw the chimpanzees on the luggage carrousel contacted Kenyan authorities who confiscated them.

All were desperately sick and one died despite getting the best of care from IPPL members Mike and Linda Garner, residents of Nairobi. The two survivors were sent to Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia.

The animals had been shipped by Mr. Ashraf Mohammed of Cairo, Egypt.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

The disgraceful activities of Mr. Ashraf Mohammed must be brought to an end, as must the role of the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, in abetting this sordid traffic.

Please send a letter to:

*The Ambassador of Egypt*
*Embassade d'Egypte*
*Kigali, Rwanda*

Request that the Embassy not allow itself to be used as a cover for illegal wildlife trafficking and that the Ambassador punish any Embassy employee who participated in the illegal trafficking in July 1992 from Zaire of one baby gorilla and one baby chimpanzee. Request that an investigation be made of the harassment by Mr. Ashraf Mohammed and an Egyptian Embassy employee of the Rwandan National Parks Department, and that action be taken against any embassy official involved.

Also, please write a letter to:

*The Director, ORTPN*
*B.P. 905*
*Kigali, Rwanda*

Thank him for confiscating the gorilla and chimpanzee and ask him not to allow them to be returned to any animal dealer. Thank him also for resisting the pressure applied by the Egyptian Embassy.

Also, please contact the President of Egypt to request that an investigation be made of the alleged participation of Egyptian national Ashraf Mohammed of Cairo and the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda in illegal traffic in chimpanzees and gorillas and that anyone involved in such activities be strictly punished.

*President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak*
*40 Al-Nil Square*
*Giza, Cairo, Egypt*

WHAT YOU CAN DO

# MRITHI GORILLA KILLED

Mrithi, the famed mountain gorilla, has fallen victim to the civil war in Rwanda. The 23-year-old silverback was the leader of a family of the rare mountain apes.

Mrithi's group was especially popular with the many tourists who visit Rwanda every year to see the mountain gorillas - and who contribute $500,000 to the Rwandan economy each year by doing so.

It is feared Mrithi's death will lead to a decline in visitors, as his was a particularly amicable and stable group.

Mrithi had appeared in several nature specials and in the movie "Gorillas in the Mist" about Dian Fossey. Mrithi was shot with an assault rifle during the last week of May close to his nest on the edge of the forest.

It is believed that a Rwandan soldier or rebel may have mistaken Mrithi for the enemy in the predawn hours. Much of the fighting between the Tutsi guerrillas and the government occurs in the forest habitat of the gorillas. There are about 310 mountain gorillas in the forests of the Virunga Volcanoes.

IPPL joined 18 other organizations in sending a letter to participants in a conference held in July 1992 at Arusha, Tanzania, between representatives of the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels. The letter was delivered to the peace conference by Perez Olindo of the African Wildlife Foundation.

The conference resulted in a cease-fire agreement, although the cease-fire is not yet fully implemented.

# HUMAN GETS BABOON LIVER

In June 1992, a terminally ill man received the liver of a baboon at the Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pennsylvania, USA. The operation took 11 hours and, as of 5 August 1992, the patient was still alive. Surgeons caring for him hoped that new anti-rejection drugs would make the surgery a success.

According to the **New York Times**, there were 2946 liver transplants in the United States in 1991 and more than 1,800 people were awaiting surgery. About a quarter of those awaiting liver transplants die before a donated organ can be found.

To date, animal-to-human transplants have failed because rejection problems have not been overcome.

In 1977, Dr. Christian Barnard transplanted a chimpanzee's heart into a human patient, who later died.

In 1984, Dr. Leonard Bailey of the Loma Linda University Medical Center transplanted a baboon's heart into a human baby. The baby (known as "Baby Fae") died 21 days after the surgery.

Some scientists believe that a shortage of human organs will inevitably lead to the use of animals as sources of "spare parts." Animal defenders question whether use of animals as "spare parts" for humans is ethically acceptable.

People concerned with species survival feel that baboons are still common but note that they are, in fact, persecuted through much of their range in Africa. Increased demand for baboons and other primates for transplantation could eventually harm the species.

## *Baboon Liver Continued*

Dr. Shirley Strum, who has studied the baboons of Kenya since 1972, told **US News and World Report** that:

> **[Use of baboons]** ***is an ethical dilemma. Our culture is entering a new contract between people and animals. Baboons are incredibly intelligent, social creatures that are like us in many ways. Yet I fear this may turn out to be a breakthrough that leads down a path many won't want to go. People must think this through with each step along the way. Otherwise, we may get to the end of that path and say, "Oh, my God, look where we are."***

Animal defenders protested outside the Pittsburgh Hospital. Dr. Thomas Starzl, the chief surgeon on the case, told the press that he respected the sincerity of the concerns of the protestors but that his priorities were different from theirs'.

At a time when organized experimental extremists are viciously attacking their critics, it is pleasing to note that Dr. Starzl appeared unaffected by this poisonous atmosphere and was willing to engage in a public dialogue about his controversial work.

# ANIMAL TESTING BY DEFENSE DEPARTMENT UNDER SCRUTINY

The animal defense group "In Defense of Animals" (IDOA) and former Defense Department staff have accused the Defense Department of conducting cruel and unnecessary experiments on animals.

Half a million monkeys, dogs, kittens and other animals are killed each year in Defense Department experiments, which are intended to provide information about the effects on soldiers of wounds inflicted by nuclear and conventional weapons.

Retired Air Force officer John Bachman told a news conference that the research being done now, as it was in the past, is useless because there is no reliable correlation between an animal's response to wounds and the likely response of a human pilot, soldier, or sailor.

Dr. Donald Barnes, a former Defense Department military psychologist who performed radiation experiments on monkeys for 16 years, agreed. He says the experiments were entirely in vain.

IDOA has called for an immediate moratorium on spending for such research, which costs about $110 million a year. The Pentagon runs 58 military research laboratories. IDOA released a report accusing the Defense Department of gross neglect and abuse of animals in research laboratories, with evidence that many primates died of emaciation.

According to the group, in one experiment dogs were subjected to "combined trauma studies" in which they were shot first and then irradiated; then it would take about a week for them to die, and they would receive no pain relief during that time. Another project cited was at the Defense Department's Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences at Bethesda, Md., in which 3-day to 6-week old kittens were used to study the effects of toe amputation on the brain.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**New Sierra Leone Government battles Corruption**

A military uprising in Freetown, Sierra Leone during the first week of May 1992 forced President Joseph Momoh to flee the country. The young coup leaders are military lieutenants in their 20s, and have been using public humiliation to shame corrupt and lazy government officials. Some government ministers and military officers have been detained and face trial.

One former finance minister accused of corruption was forced to man a roadblock, wear army fatigues and receive what a private's pay used to be ($6 US per month and a bag of rice)!

IPPL hopes that similar public humiliation awaits those members of the government who were responsible in past decades for protecting the animal trade, especially Sierra Leone's notorious traffic in wild-caught chimpanzees.

**Captive Breeding No Substitute for Habitat Preservation**

Captive breeding programs in Arizona (for parrots) and Wyoming, USA (for black-footed ferrets) are attempting to restore animal populations extinct in nature back to the wild.

However, environmentalists warn that captive breeding populations are not a substitute for preserving natural habitats.

The majority of the Mexican thick-billed parrots and black-footed ferrets released into the wild died shortly after release. The director of wildlife for the Wyoming Department of Fish and Wildlife points out that the released ferrets are returning to the same troubled environments that killed off their ancestors in the first place.

The same is unfortunately likely to be true with primate release and rehabilitation programs. That is why IPPL opposes removal of primates from the wild for zoo captive breeding on the pretext of eventual release into a safer wild. It is more important that funds be made available to protect wild primate habitats.

**Rare Animals on Menus**

According to **Stars and Stripes**, a US military newspaper, more than 20 restaurants on a single street in Hunan province in China are being fined for serving up legally protected wild animals. Wildlife protection officials and police raided the restaurants in March 1992 and found that about half the wild animals on the menu had "legally protected" status. Among the animals listed on the menus were macaques, pangolins and leopards.

**Hong Kong Feeling Effects of Environmental Awareness**

The growing international concern for the environment is affecting Hong Kong's traditional trades and practices. The pinch is being felt by the ivory carving business, the formerly bustling fur industry, industries using banned timber products and wild animals, and even restaurants. Eateries serving stir-fried domestic dogs, tiger's meat, monkey brains and bear paws are losing popularity, as are vendors of elixirs made from wild animal parts.

**Update on Ivan Gorilla**

Ivan the gorilla has spent the past 25 years of his life alone in captivity at the B & I Shopping Center in Tacoma, Washington, USA. Ron Irwin is Ivan's "owner," and has been engaged in a battle with animal defense groups who want him to send the gorilla to Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, Washington which has expressed interest in integrating Ivan into a gorilla group.

Suddenly, Irwin announced that he wanted to sell Ivan to an unspecified person in California, who turned out to be singer Michael Jackson. If Ivan went to Woodland Park Zoo, he would be around other gorillas for the first time since he was a baby.

While his fate is being decided, Ivan Gorilla continues to live alone at the shopping center.

**James Watt Denounces Environmentalists**

The November-December issue of "E Magazine" quotes James Watt, who served as Secretary of the Interior in the Reagan Administration, as saying:

***If environmentalists can't be defeated at the ballot box or in the jury box, perhaps the cartridge box should be used.***

**Ecotourism More Profitable than Hunting & Poaching**

The Canadian publication Eco Source reports that poaching and hunting exotic animals has in the past been very profitable, but that preserving animals for "eco-tourism" programs is far more lucrative.

Examples cited by the publication include the following:

- In Kenya's Amboseli National Park, each live lion brings in about $27,000 in tourist dollars, and an elephant herd translates to $610,000.
- The Canadian provinces of Prince Edward island and Nova Scotia make about $600,000 (Canadian) annually from tourists visiting the baby harp seals, which is significantly more money that the "harvest" of baby seals brutally clubbed for their pelts brought to the economy.

**Ravaged Kuwait Zoo Under Restoration**

During the Gulf War, Iraqis killed many animals in the Kuwait Zoo. There was, however, a secret "railroad" that managed to bring many animals to safety in private homes during the Iraqi occupation.

Many animals remaining at the zoo were killed and many were harmed; for example,

- The zoo's elephant was wounded by gunshot,
- Most of the monkeys and apes were killed,
- The calf of a mating pair of Indian water buffaloes that was born during the occupation was killed and barbecued,
- Most of the zoo's antelopes, elands and gazelles were slaughtered for food.

The few animals that survived were kept alive by young Kuwaiti volunteers who came in with food for the animals during the occupation. The zoo owner is now trying to rebuild the trashed zoo and is contacting other zoos and dealers to obtain replacement animals, including monkeys.

**Trained Monkeys in Jewish Homes**

Former Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef of Israel recently declared that trained monkeys may be used in Jewish homes to perform chores forbidden on the Sabbath, such as washing dirty dishes.

Animal defense groups, including Jews for Animal Rights, feel that human beings should be responsible for their own world and should not exploit animals. There is also concern that this would further open up the monkey trade.

IPPL questions whether monkeys can be trained to do housework!

## HOW TO JOIN

Complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to the International Primate Protection League, to either IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, S.C. 29484 U.S.A. or IPPL, 116 Judd Street, London WC1H9NS, England. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible in the U.S.A. to the extent allowed by law.

Overseas payments should be made in US dollars or by a check drawn on a US bank. Overseas members wishing to receive their newsletters by Air Mail should add US $5.00. Canadian members may use US dollar postal orders, issued at all Canadian Post Offices.

I wish to join IPPL as a:

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All members receive complimentary copies of the IPPL Newsletter. Individuals or organizations may subscribe to the IPPL Newsletter at an annual fee of $20.00.

Please suggest names of people who you think would like to receive information about IPPL.

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