



News

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Michèle Winstanley

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
FROM IGOR GIBBON AND EVERYONE AT IPPL

HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM SHIRLEY McGREAL

Dear Members and Friends

I am writing to wish you and yours a joyous holiday season. All of us at IPPL would like to thank you for your generous support this year, without which we could not survive.

1998 will be IPPL's 25th anniversary year. I founded the group in 1973, while living in Thailand, after seeing the appalling mistreatment of primates at Bangkok Airport and on Thai markets. Looking for a group working to resolve the problem, I learned that none existed.

That's why I founded IPPL.

As you will see from our investigation of the Indonesian monkey scandals, IPPL has not taken the easy road of concentrating on one or more primate species with "high visibility" and fund-raising "sex appeal." These are the great apes, whose total numbers are less than 1% of the world's primates.

If we did concentrate on just a few "trendy" primates, there would be no group to investigate abuse of the other 99%. For example, macaques are fascinating animals and they have always borne the brunt of human abuse, especially in the context of high-volume trade and laboratory use.

Among the IPPL accomplishments of which I am most proud are the Indian and Bangladesh bans on export of monkeys which followed IPPL's uncovering the appalling treatment these animals suffered in military laboratories and informing the government, press and public in both countries, leading to immediate export bans.

These bans have saved hundreds of thousands of monkeys from being dragged from their families and sent in the cargo holds of jet aircraft to foreign countries to endure suffering or death.

IPPL also helps overseas primate rescue centers in Africa and Asia. Conservation groups work primarily at the urgent task of protecting habitat. But the ongoing decimation of the world's rain forests produces many orphaned primates who, as victims of human greed, certainly have a right to human care and compassion.

Who is IPPL? I always like to meet our members when I travel. In October I was in New York for a few days of what I intended to be an opera vacation. I contacted our New York members in advance and had the pleasure of meeting many of them.

I met a wonderful young man who wants to investigate and fight wildlife smuggling, an area in which IPPL has specialized. I met a couple, both lawyers, who are interested in legal aspects of protection of primates and all animals. I met a senior citizen still working actively for all animals. I met a former zookeeper, now a busy mother, who has land in the Caribbean where she wants to set up a wildlife sanctuary. I met a woman who has been active protecting laboratory animals in New York for decades. I met an energetic New York schoolteacher who works to inspire children with the love of nature and is active in community improvement.

I met IPPL's wonderful friend Christine Proctor, who came to my hotel with 30 pounds of delicious figs for the 29 wonderful gibbons, many of them laboratory veterans, who live at IPPL Headquarters in the lovely community of Summerville.

So, you can see, IPPL is made up of a wide variety of people united by a common compassion for primates and a passion to improve their lives.

Thanks to all of you from all of us at IPPL.

Shirley McGreal

P.S. My favorite time of day is "quality time" with our blind gibbon Beanie.



Photo:
Rosanne
Tarantolo

IPPL NEWS HONORED

IPPL News has been published continuously since 1974. It is among the publications singled out by **BBC Wildlife** magazine in its contest to find the best environmental charity publications distributed in the United Kingdom.

The judges included John Vidal, Environmental Editor of the **Guardian**, natural history author and broadcaster Richard Mabey, and Carl White, publisher of **BBC Wildlife**. Cyril Rosen of IPPL-UK received IPPL's award in the "Highly Commended" category from environmental writer, consultant and broadcaster Chris Baines, at a ceremony held at BBC Television Centre in London on 20 August 1997. The overall contest winner was an excellent publication called **Plantlife**.

Congratulating IPPL, Rosamund Kidman Cox, editor of **BBC Wildlife**, said:

The competition attracted nearly 100 entries from organizations ranging in size from internationally known ones, such as Friends of the Earth and WWF, to tiny wildlife trusts. The overall high quality of the entries made judging extremely difficult, and all the publications which received a place in the "Honors List" are deserving of praise and applause.

IPPL News has a press run of 14,500 and copies are mailed to readers in over 60 countries. It was one of the few publications in black and white to get recognition.



Cyril Rosen with Chris Baines

PRINCE CHARLES RETURNS TARSIER GIFT

According to the 4 July 1997 issue of the **Hong Kong Standard**, Britain's Prince Charles received a pair of endangered tarsiers from Philippine first lady Mrs. Amelita Ramos in a ceremony at the presidential palace in Manila. Prince Charles was visiting the Philippines in the company of Hong Kong's last governor, Chris Patten.

Tarsiers are tiny nocturnal primates with huge eyes. They leap around the trees at night catching insects. Prince Charles did not take the tarsiers home. Instead he turned them over to a local group, the Philippine Tarsier Foundation, run by Jesus Alvarez, a former Philippine wildlife official, for care.

According to the **Standard**:

Prince Charles, flanked by President Fidel Ramos and his wife, received the two tarsiers from a covered basket and briefly held one of them in the palm of his hand before returning the animal to its caretaker. The ceremony at the Malacanang Palace was intended to show Prince Charles's continuing concern for wildlife conservation as well as the planned signing of an order by Mr. Ramos, declaring the Philippine tarsier a protected species.



Unfortunately tarsiers, which are popular pets on the Philippine island of Bohol, seldom survive or breed in captivity, and IPPL hopes the prince's tarsiers will soon be released to the wild.

GOOD NEWS – COLOBUS MONKEYS USING BRIDGES

During 1997 IPPL has sent financial assistance to the Friends of the Colobus Trust, an organization based in Diani Beach, Kenya, which works to help prevent beautiful black and white colobus monkeys from being killed as they cross a road to the beach. Many of the drivers travel at excessive speeds. Sadly the lovely monkeys all too often became "road kill." Friends of the Colobus has built "colo-bridges" at preferred crossing points. The monkeys have started to use them — a mother and baby colobus monkey were recently seen crossing the road by "colo-bridge." Other monkeys are also using the bridges.

STRANGE CHIMPANZEE DEAL

In August 1997, IPPL was provided with a copy of the memo reproduced on this page. We started to check it out. First, we found out more about Guinea Bissau!

This small country, one of the poorest in the world, lies on the west coast of Africa between Senegal and Guinea. Its population is around 1 million. Guinea-Bissau was formerly a Portuguese colony. The capital is the town of Bissau.

The country has a small population of Western chimpanzees. A zoo was set up in the early 1990s by Hans Jorg Schuhmann, a German national. It has apparently collected a large number of chimpanzees, an endangered species, which it now plans to export to Mexico.

Mexican investigative reporter Rosario Manzanos looked into the story and found that nobody in the Mexican wildlife department knew, or admitted to knowing, about any planned chimpanzee importation. Such an importation would have to be non-commercial and would require prior issuance of an import permit, since Mexico is a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Further, an export permit from the CITES Management Authority of Guinea-Bissau attesting to the fact that the animals to be exported were removed from the wild in a lawful way that caused no detriment to the species would be required. The endangered status of West African chimpanzees would make issuance of such a permit almost impossible.

Further, the Schuhmann statement admits that the animals were illegally removed from the wild. Since there are so few chimpanzees in Guinea-Bissau, it is possible some of the animals were captured in the neighboring countries of Senegal and Guinea, which protect their wild chimpanzees.

Manzanos discussed the plans reported in the documents with Mexican zoos and commented:

However, none of the national zoos have been contacted of this transport, or even notified of Schuhmann's interest to send the apes to Mexico. Also, given the characteristics of these animals and their requirements of diet, space and special attention, it would be practically impossible to receive them.

Further, in regard to the zoo's reported willingness to finance enlargement of the Guinea-Bissau Zoo and finance wildlife protection projects in the African nation, Felipe Ramirez Ruiz de Velasco, director general of the Wildlife Service of the National Ecological Institute, thought this would be out of the question.

Velasco, who heads the Mexican government agency responsible for regulating wildlife transactions and whose agency would have to evaluate any application for an import permit, told Manzanos:

The zoos lack sufficient resources to finance projects in their own territory or in national territory, which means it is a complete impossibility to take on something in a foreign land.

We have not been informed of any transport of chimps to Mexico. No Mexican park has requested this type of animal and no agreement exists with the Zoological Garden of Guinea-Bissau or with its Zoological Society.

In a phone interview Mr. Schuhmann explained to **Proceso** that:

We are in contact with the Mexican Government to make this plan a reality through the ministry that is in charge. The decision to accept the project is still subject to approval. It is not sufficient to be in accordance with the Mexican government. It is not that easy, because the chimps are protected under international law.

Obtaining information from Guinea-Bissau is extremely difficult. IPPL has contacted governmental authorities and the Embassy of Guinea-Bissau in Washington DC, but we have received no reply yet. We hope to carry further information about this planned transfer of chimpanzees in a later issue.

Sociedade Zoologica de Guiné-Bissau ONG

STATEMENT : Ref: EXPORT of 40 Chimpanzees to ZOOS of MEXICO via the Jardim Zoologico Nacional da Republica de Guiné-Bissau a Bissau.

THE DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN OF GUINEA-BISSAU WANTS TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, CONCERNING THIS EXPORT ACTION:

THE CHIMPANZEES HAVE BEEN COLLECTED ALL OVER GUINEA-BISSAU FROM VARIOUS "HOLDERS" OF THESE PRIMATES, WHERE THEY ALL WERE LIVING UNDER UNTHINKABLY BAD CONDITIONS, AS WELL AS ILLEGALLY CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED FOR THEIR LIFETIME, NOT TO SPEAK OF WRONG FEEDING, ILLNESSES AND THE LIKE.

THE ZOOS FROM MEXICO THAT WILL RECEIVE THESE ANIMALS, WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP THEM IN GOOD CONDITIONS, WHERE THE CHIMPANZEES WILL BE TREATED ACCORDING THE INTERNATIONAL LAWS AS PUT FORWARD BY THE UN, and thus also by GUINÉ-BISSAU.

OUR OWN ZOO IS TOO SMALL, TO GIVE SUCH A GROUP ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS. THE ANIMALS ARE BEING ACCOMPANIED BY VETERINARIES, ON THEIR LONG TRAVEL TO MEXICO. Also they will have all the necessary international papers, to assure a completely legal procedure. The MEXICAN ZOOS will upon receiving the animals then participate by financing the further enlargement of our ZOO and also finance some FAUNA PROTECTION projects in Guinea-Bissau through the Zoological Society of RGB.

Schuhmann
Director JZN

Date issued to the Public:

1997

MORE ON INDONESIAN MONKEY SHIPMENTS

The August 1997 issue of **IPPL News** told about several large shipments of monkeys from Indonesia to the United States. IPPL provided readers with details of two shipments which appeared to violate US Lacey Act regulations which ban the import of baby animals, except for urgent medical care.

The two suspect shipments are summarized below, listed by date of arrival in the United States.

April 10, 1997 shipment

This shipment was sent by the Indonesian exporter Inquatex to the US company, LABS of Virginia, which maintains a large monkey colony in Yemassee, South Carolina. It consisted of 253 animals, of which 20 were babies shipped with their nursing mothers. This is a violation of US regulations and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Guidelines. Some of the babies were just 4 weeks old. Nineteen monkeys were pregnant.

Monkeys as old as 16 years formed part of this shipment, despite Indonesia's ban on export of wild-caught monkeys and the extreme unlikelihood of hundreds of monkeys being born in captivity at the exporter's facility prior to 1994, the year Indonesia's ban on export of wild-caught monkeys was instituted. IPPL is seeking information on the current status of this ban.

May 30, 1997 shipment

This shipment consisted of 255 monkeys when it left Jakarta. There were 19 babies with their mothers and 6 pregnant monkeys. One baby was just three weeks old. One nursing mother monkey was dead on arrival at Charles de

Gaulle Airport, Paris. Her baby was killed. Another monkey escaped. The sub-standard crates were covered in extra chicken wire at Paris to prevent further escapes.

Flagrant violations meet official inertia

These two shipments violated US humane shipment regulations banning shipment of infant animals. They also violated the IATA standards for crate construction and the IATA guidelines against shipping infants and pregnant animals.

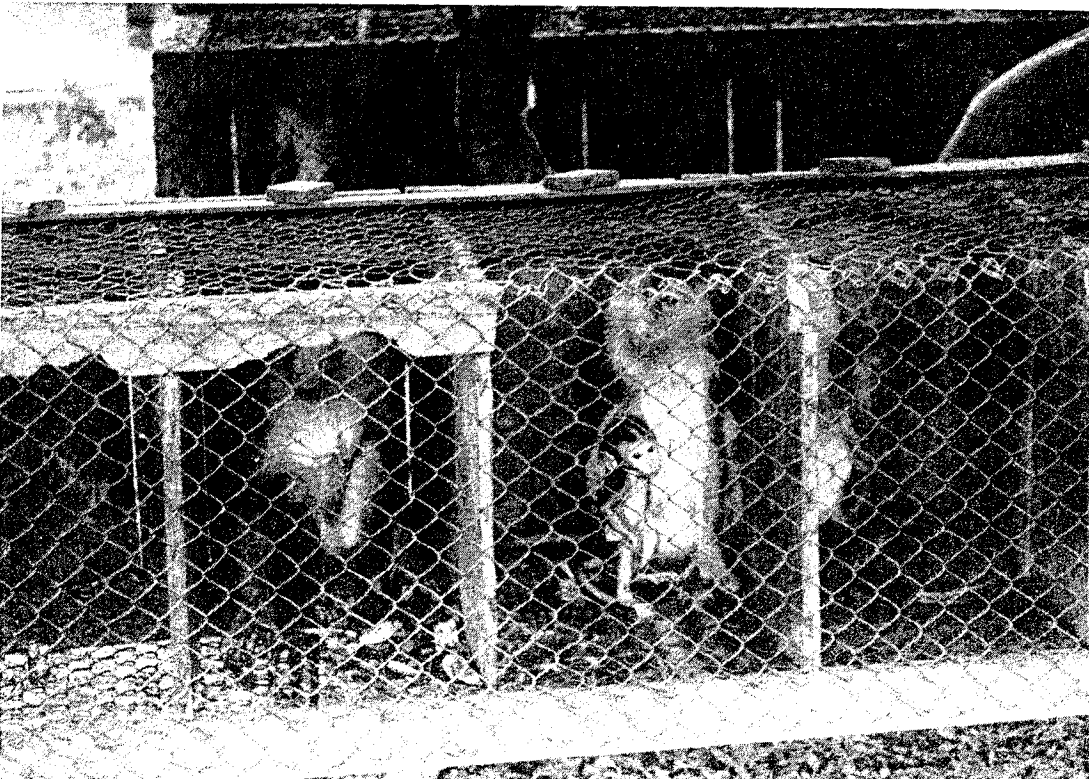
As of 23 October, no action had been taken by the US Fish and Wildlife Service against anyone involved in these shipments, despite repeated requests from IPPL and a deluge of letters to the US Fish and Wildlife Service from concerned members.

The International Air Transport Association said compliance with its guidelines was voluntary and that IATA could, and would, do **NOTHING**. This suggests that the guidelines are a joke!

Incredibly, Pierre Lamour of Air France sits on the IATA Live Animals Board — while his airline violates its guidelines!

IPPL Follow-up

Concerned at these shipments, IPPL submitted Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The CDC's quarantine branch inspects incoming primate shipments for compliance with US quarantine standards. It has no jurisdiction over wildlife laws, which is the responsibility of USFWS inspectors. Unfortunately the inspectors seldom look at primate shipments.



Crab-eating
Macaque at
Indonesian Holding
Station

Photo: BUAV

In theory CDC should inform USFWS of possible violations of US law. In practice it doesn't, as you will see from some of the documents presented in this article. This lack of cooperation is shocking. CDC is a user of primates itself and is part of the US Department of Health and Human Services, which spends hundreds of millions of dollars on primate experiments. **So CDC's monitoring of the primate trade is like the fox guarding the hen-house!**

IPPL used FOIA to request from CDC documents pertaining to all shipments of crab-eating macaques reaching the United States in 1997. We have received some documents and are appealing denial of many more. CDC has handled the request improperly, in our opinion, because it has failed to list documents it refused.

To understand the documents, one needs to know the cast of human characters. Ms. Sena Blumensaadt inspects primate shipments reaching Chicago for CDC. Thomas De Marcus directs the CDC primate inspection program from Atlanta, Georgia (he likes to call himself "The Monkey Man!"). David Rogers is De Marcus's deputy.

Kritter Krates is a Texas-based company that collects primates at ports of entry and trucks them to their final destinations, often hundreds of miles away. Jim Hoover works for Kritter Krates.

January 25, 1997 shipment

On January 25, 1997, a shipment of 100 crab-eating monkeys reached Chicago from Indonesia on Northwest Airlines, in bitterly cold weather. The Indonesian supplier was CV Universal Fauna (run by Frankie Sulaiman) and the importer was Covance of Denver, Pennsylvania.

According to CDC, the primates were removed from the plane to a cargo area in a "tug." A tug is a tractor pulling a trailer in which suitcases are normally carried. The trailers are not normally heated. **One hopes these living, frightened primates were not treated like suitcases.**

IPPL has requested further information from Northwest Airlines. The ramp staff could not wear tyvek suits (used to protect inspectors from disease) because "they could not fit them over the heavy winter clothing they were wearing."

CDC commented:

It was so cold that ramp/cargo personnel had no interest in any cargo shipment. This is one advantage of shipping the nonhuman primates in winter!

The animals were trucked from Chicago to Denver, Pennsylvania. CDC described the truck:

Cab separate from storage area as are the heating and refrigeration...units. Walls of storage area are covered in some kind of styrofoam and the floor is metal.

In response to the question on the CDC checklist, "Were the primates fed and watered during transfer?" CDC commented:

Because of the extreme cold and wind [name deleted by CDC, presumably an employee of a trucking firm] decided to wait to feed and water until they could find a sheltered area.

CDC Chicago inspector Ms. Sena Blumensaadt commented in a message to Tom De Marcus, her boss in Atlanta:

NHPs on NW 006 came in today. All are alive, alert and managed to survive the blistering cold in Chicago unlike Jim who works for XXX [trucking company, name deleted by CDC] and who took a bad tumble on the ice, poor fellow.

IPPL wonders why a shipment of tropical monkeys was sent to icy, windy, Chicago in midwinter, and is seeking to clarify what US regulations, if any, are applicable to shipments undertaken in weather extremes.

February 20, 1997 shipment

The first of the big monkey shipments from Inquatex to LABS reached Chicago on 20 February 1997. It consisted of 220 crab-eating macaques. On 14 March 1997, CDC contacted LABS to complain about the February shipment. Michael Marty of CDC commented:

The rental truck used to transport a shipment of primates from the port of entry to the quarantine facility (21 hours travel time) was of inadequate size for the crates being transported. The crates were packed too densely to allow safe access for routine feeding, watering, and monitoring the health of the animals or the security of the crates.

Marty also complained about stray cats in proximity to the LABS primate quarantine facility and the refusal of the trucker's employees to perform "disinfection of the rental truck prior to departure from facility, indicating it would be done on arrival back in Houston, prior to return to owner."

March 5, 1997 shipment

A shipment of 100 monkeys shipped by CV Universal Fauna reached Chicago from Indonesia on 5 March. This was the shipment referred to in an e-mail from Thomas De Marcus to the Chicago CDC office:

From De Marcus, Thomas A

To Quarantine station, Chicago [and list of recipients of copies of De Marcus' e-mail, which did not include USFWS]

Subject: Wednesday evening, Monkey business

Date: Tuesday, March 04, 1997

FYI, I plan to be in Denver PA on Thursday evening to monitor the arrival of Covance's shipment scheduled to arrive on AF 6400 Wednesday p.m. I will be in travel status this pm and tomorrow. Please use Voicecom...to keep me posted re: any delays, canceled flights, ETA in Denver etc. Thanks. Monkey Man

Mr. De Marcus calls himself the "Monkey Man" frequently! The reply from Chicago stated:

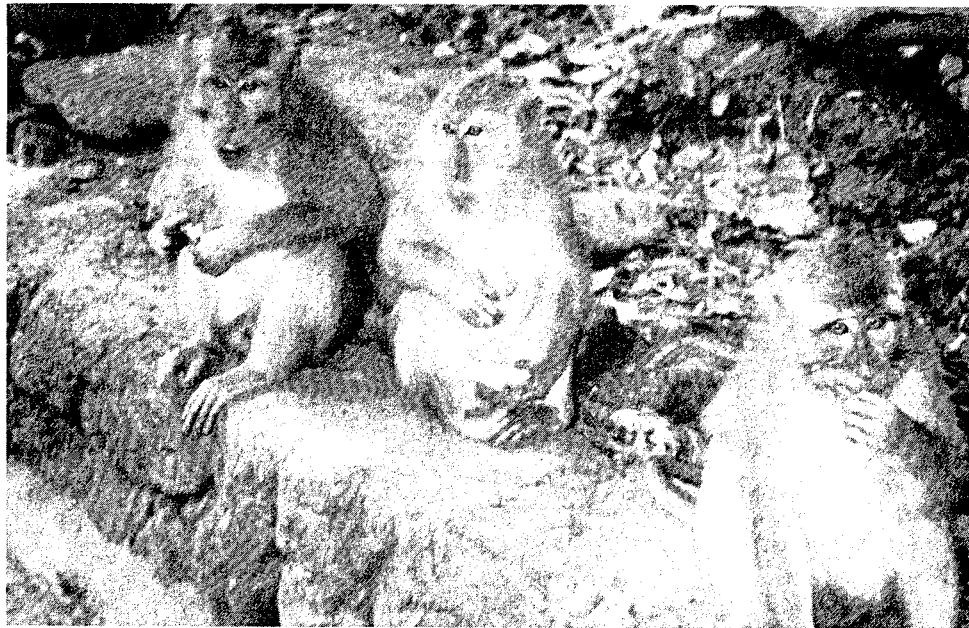
10-4 Monkey Man!

For non US readers "10-4" means "Message Received" in citizens' band radio jargon!

March 22, 1997 shipment

On March 22, 1997, a shipment of 100 crab-eating macaques reached O'Hare Airport, Chicago from Indonesia

Wild Crab-eating Macaques



on Northwest Airlines. The shipper was CV Universal Fauna and the importer was Covance, a Pennsylvania firm. The CDC inspector left part of the check-list blank because:

The areas that are left blank, are left blank because the inspector was not present for the entire shipment. Due to weekend staffing, there was only one inspector on duty.

A US Fish and Wildlife Service inspector was reportedly present to inspect this shipment.

More about 30 May 1997 shipment

On 30 May 1997 the shipment of 253 monkeys mentioned earlier reached O'Hare Airport, Chicago, from Jakarta, Indonesia. This shipment included 19 babies aged three weeks and up, and six pregnant monkeys. This is one of the two shipments from Inquatex to LABS that are the cause of international protest.

The primates were unloaded from the plane at 4.22 a.m. and transfer to the truck began at 4.35. CDC inspector Sena Blumensaadt, who works at O'Hare Airport, commented on her inspection form:

These crates were a MESS. Many of them had sections as large as 4 inch circles chewed out by the NHPs. They were made of 1/4 inch plywood with ends that barely met at the corners. The windows were meshed with 3 layers of chicken wire. The handles were black heavy metal on each side and were the only item I can describe as being free of sharp projections! In France, someone also nailed another layer of chicken wire around the entire cage (not the top or bottom but around the sides).

On 29 May Ms. Blumensaadt reported to Tom De Marcus:

We rec'd a call today from Air France about the NHP importation scheduled for this evening. The plane has had a mechanical and has been canceled. Mike (AF Rep) told me that because of the "nature of the com-

modity" on board, they will scurry and try to get them on tomorrow's late evening cargo flight. If unsuccessful, they will be arriving at O'Hare at 4 a.m. on Saturday.

Marty asked me about the current location of the monkeys and how they'll be nurtured, so I called Mike back to find out. They have arrived in France and Mike reports, "They're not in cages, there's a place at the airport where they'll keep the animals...well, maybe they're left in the cages, but they'll be taken care of...well, I'm positive they're OK no matter where they are."

So, for what it's worth, this is the "official" report from Air France on the status of the NHPs!!!!

Ms. Blumensaadt later reported to Tom De Marcus:

All NHPs arrived on time and in good shape. However the CRATES were in awful shape. The NHPs were having a field day figuring how to escape from Alcatraz and one actually managed it by chewing thru the 1/4 inch plywood. Luckily, the escape occurred while at the animal handlers' in France and so they were able to capture it. The potential for further problems like this one is the reason AF gave me for their current moratorium on shipping NHPs.

The wonderful thing is that someone in France then patched up the crates and nailed a mesh around the outside of the crates to ensure that another "escapee wannabee" didn't succeed. I told an AF cargo supervisor how happy I was about this and he telexed his folks in France thanking them on my behalf. Anyway, because of the outside mesh, XXX [trucker, name deleted by CDC] didn't feed and water, and so these 255 NHPs were rapidly transferred without problems.

I'm working Monday and will type up the report and e-mail it to you then.

Shockingly, Ms. Blumensaadt did not alert USFWS, despite the inhumane sub-standard crates and the presence of

babies in the shipment. Tom De Marcus replied, with multiple copies, **but none to the US Fish and Wildlife Service**, which enforces the US humane shipment regulations.

Thanx Sena, as you know, this shipment is one of a series of large shipments from Indonesia to LABS of Virginia in SC. From communications with LABS late Friday and again on Sunday, I learned that the shipment included several nursing mother/infant pairs and that one mother had died en route. The animal was reportedly necropsied in Paris and the infant euthanized.

AF [Air France] was very concerned about this (apparently they had problems with this shipper before and has had a commitment they would not ship such pairs) as well as the inadequate crates. [IPPL comment: in that case Air France ground personnel in Jakarta should have refused to carry the mother/infant pairs.]

It's possible the delay caused by the death contributed to the crate failure and escape in Paris, considering the poor crate construction. I hope to get more info re what happened in Paris and the extent of the moratorium.

The shipment arrived in SC in good shape early Sunday and the animals were transferred (with some difficulty due to the reinforcement you described) into their quarantine cages. Dr. Ward at LABS will be providing photos: did you happen to get any? Did Fish and Wildlife monitor the arrival and see the crates and mother/baby pairs?

Thanks again for your conscientious attention to details in monitoring these unpredictable shipments.

USFWS was not present to inspect this shipment. It is clear that CDC knew something was wrong — and apparently failed to inform USFWS. It is also clear that LABS has photos that USFWS could obtain — if it wanted.

June 9, 1997 shipment

The memo that follows was written by “Marty” (Martha Remis of CDC-Chicago), referring to a shipment reaching Bowman-Gray on June 9, 1997. Ms. Remis described her inspection as “basically a non-inspection!”

Subject NHPs arrive 13.20 on NW 006. Only problem was Northwest Airlines. Ramp crew which was quite disgruntled. Apparently union had worked out agreement that crew would unload NHPs only if flight was preceded by 24 hour notice and a faxed copy of the health certificate which was not forthcoming on this particular shipment. Perhaps because of cancellation and date change, who knows. Two lift operators apparently refused to unload the NHPs. The chief eventually did it, although not without some complaining.

XXX [name deleted by CDC, presumably someone from the trucking company] did most of the work which I find amusing — under almost any other circumstances I could imagine the union having apoplexy at the sight of a non-union outsider actually doing their job!!! XXX also did a nice job smoothing ruffled feathers with the

chief and promising to help out with the health certificate. Crates were in much better condition than last shipment. I am the only one on duty, so this was basically a non-inspection, which will be followed by a non-report!!!

One day in advance of this shipment, De Marcus advised CDC inspectors in Chicago they needn't bother inspecting it, despite this being what the inspectors are paid to do, in order to protect public health. De Marcus told CDC-Chicago:

I know its your policy to monitor every arriving shipment, but be advised that it is not essential to monitor this shipment. It is my understanding that this itinerary has been used successfully by other importers on numerous occasions.

De Marcus should know that each shipment contains different monkeys — even if they travel along the same itinerary. It seems that CDC is far too “cozy” with the animal dealers it is supposed to regulate.

June 21, 1997 shipment

A shipment of 100 crab-eating macaques reached the United States from Indonesia on June 21, 1997. An Indonesian health certificate dated June 20, 1997 issued by Jakarta airport veterinarian Lukas A. Tonga accompanied this shipment. Universal Fauna, owned by Frankie Sulaiman, shipped these monkeys to Covance.

From: Quarantine Station, Chicago

To: Rogers, David

Cc: De Marcus, Thomas A [no copy to USFWS despite possible violations of humane shipping standards under Lacey Act]

Subject: NHP importation on 6-21-97

Date: Tuesday, 24 June 1997 03:22PM

I observed something interesting during this importation ... when Jim Hoover of Kritter Krates was arranging for the aircraft door to be opened by the loader driver, he said that he would like to be right there as the door opened “in case there's an escaped monkey”. Sure enough, these crates were flimsy and were made in the same way as the crates that allowed one NHP to escape in France. At the time of the other shipment, Jim Hoover said that he is accustomed to getting poorly constructed crates from that particular importer, so perhaps he was anticipating these flimsy crates which allow crafty NHP's to escape.

My question is this: is there any way that we can put some thumbscrews on someone to insist on a certain standard for the crates? Some arrive in great condition, are made of thick plywood, have triple-mesh over the “windows”, have metal strips reinforcing all the edges (not just the corners) and have big, thick metal handles and absorbent bedding on the floors.

The ones I saw for the shipment on 6-21-97 were made of thin plywood, had single-mesh over the windows, and were reinforced with yellow plastic strips (but they wouldn't help at all if an NHP got it into his head

to start chewing).

I just don't want to embarrass myself in public. Let me give you an example! Yesterday, I was in my bedroom and bent down to pick up an obscure black thing and found, to my shock, that it was a half-squished beetle which had enough life left in it to wave its feelers at my nose while the other half of his body crumbled in my hand and fell back to the floor.

I involuntarily shrieked, tossed the awful thing away from me and ran for the antibiotic soap to wash away the bug germs ... can you imagine how embarrassed I would be if a monkey jumped out at me and my first reaction was The Shriek of The Sniveling Coward?! I've given myself firm instructions to zipper my lips, but who knows what I'll do during an actual escape attempt when even quadriplegic beetles best me?!?!

So, if we could do anything that would make the exporters provide adequate caging (and save me the indignity of squealing in public), I would be mighty grateful!

CDC evidently was highly amused by Ms. Blumensaadt's comments:

From: Rogers, David

To: Quarantine Station, Chicago

Cc: De Marcus, Thomas [no copy to USFWS despite comments on possibly illegal crates]

Subject: RE: NHP importation on 6-21-97

Date: Wednesday, June 25, 1997 7:53AM

Sena — As usual, your unique style communicates clearly and gives us a laugh at the same time. There have been other instances of flimsy crates from another shipper in Indonesia, also involving Air France, and even some reluctance on the part of AF to carry critters in the face of the possible problems. LABS of Virginia (curiously located in SC) has been involved. Tom will be back Friday so I'll refer to him and maybe he can knock some heads together.

July 27, 1997 shipment

On July 27, 1997, another shipment of crab-eating macaques reached Covance. Ms. Blumensaadt noted that:

All the above information was provided to me by XXX [name, probably trucker's, deleted by CDC for privacy reasons, which means that its informant was a private party not a government official: government officials do not get Privacy Act protection and their names are not redacted from FOIA documents]. I did not observe this importation.

However, when the plane blocked, I went to the crate and notified Jim ["Jim" is maybe Jim Hoover of Kritter Krates: whoever it is, IPPL wonders why CDC is apparently delegating its jurisdiction to a regulated entity: as seen below, there were discrepancies in observations between "Jim" and USFWS] that I would be unavailable for this flight and explained why.

I asked him to contact me after processing the NHPs

to give me pertinent information on this importation. The following represents his report...

Jim reported that the NHPs all looked fine: he saw no evidence of cuts, scrapes or other injuries and no evidence of ill health. The Fish and Wildlife inspector Lydia Handy said that one NHP had puncture wounds across its forehead, indicating that the mesh protruding into the crate had injured at least one NHP.

Fish and Wildlife provided one officer in charge and two inspectors to thoroughly inspect this shipment: Agriculture signed a release authorization without going to visually inspect the shipment: Customs authorized release pending release by all other federal agencies.

XXX's [maybe trucking firm's] representatives wore tyvek suits, face masks, goggles, latex gloves, rubber boots: F & W inspectors wore their blue "bunny suits," HEPA filters, latex gloves...

NOTE: Fish and Wildlife say they will cite/fine the importer for the fraudulent vet certs, for humane violations (wire mesh protruding into the cages where they could harm the NHPs and NHPs had ripped off several water bottles).

NOTE: XXX [name omitted by CDC, presumably employee of trucking company] *says that minor damage to both the NHPs and the crates are habitual: he reports that the NHPs have hours in which to become bored or stressed and will rip and bite at the crates and frequently receive minor scratches. He said these would not be reported unless the NHPs showed signs of serious stress (self-inflicted bites or pulling out of hair).*

New information on Inquatex-LABS dealings

Four large shipments of primates, all purportedly captive-born, totalling over 800 monkeys, have already reached the US firm LABS of Virginia from the Indonesian dealer Inquatex. Newly-obtained CDC documents provide more details on this unusually large transfer of animals:

From Thomas De Marcus to 4 CDC personnel [De Marcus did not include USFWS on his circulation list]

Subject: Multiple LABS imports scheduled

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 1997

LABS of Virginia (located in SC) has purchased a [CDC deletion about 28 letters] and plan to import some [CDC deletion of 4 numbers and a space] animals in the coming months. They're planning their first shipment of [CDC deletion, presumably number of monkeys] ASAP.

However, they have not responded fully to items identified in our last inspection (see attached letter), need to get additional quarantine rooms approved, and must modify their plan for the potentially new itinerary. I advised Dr. Ward [a LABS veterinarian] of this on the phone yesterday and followed it up w/a fax today... This facility has the potential to become a major importer. We need to plan on monitoring the arrival of this shipment and the uncrating at the facility. I'll keep you posted.

From Thomas De Marcus to 3 CDC personnel [no USFWS employees received warning of the impending importations]

Subject: Multiple LABS imports being scheduled

Date: Monday, February 03, 1997

LABS has addressed the pending issues and hopes to do the first shipment of [CDC deletion] animals into Miami via the AF cargo flight on 15 Feb. We'll want to monitor closely, including uncrating, which will likely require travel on Sunday/Monday of President's Day weekend. I'll keep you posted.

From Thomas De Marcus, to 4 CDC employees [again no copies to USFWS]

RE: Multiple LABS imports being scheduled

Date: Tuesday, February 04, 1997

Woops! Now LABS says their first big one will arrive on AF into Chicago on Feb. 19. [CDC deletion of name of trucking company] is to truck the animals to Yemassee, SC. Donna Jones is making arrangements for Dr. Ward who is on his way to Indonesia to super-

vise the operation from that end. I'm sure Quarantine Services Chicago will assist her with ORDS [O'Hare Airport, Chicago] contacts and arrangements (more later).

A letter from De Marcus to veterinarian George Ward of LABS dated 29 January 1997 says:

Thank you for the call yesterday regarding your plan to import some [CDC deletion of 4 numbers and one space] cynomolgus monkeys from Indonesia. Sounds like you're going to be very busy.

It appears that the total number of monkeys to be imported to the United States is over 1,000 from the spaces on the CDC memos. IPPL is seeking information at the Indonesian end regarding whether all the 800+ monkeys involved so far in this series of shipments (more are reportedly expected) — all originating from one facility and bound for one facility — are in fact captive-born, as claimed by the exporter's veterinarian and on the Indonesian government export permit.

LETTERS NEEDED!

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) documents reproduced in this article show what IPPL believes to be a thoroughly disrespectful attitude towards primates forced through no fault of their own to leave their homelands to suffer and die in the United States. We are also concerned that inspectors from the CDC are apparently seeing flagrant violations of wildlife law and failing to report them to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for investigation.

Tom De Marcus, head of the CDC primate inspection program (who calls himself "The Monkey Man") even allowed an agent of an importer to undertake his own "inspection" of an incoming shipment! De Marcus also fails to include USFWS on the list of people he contacts about planned shipments.

Please send a letter to the Director of CDC requesting that he take steps to ensure that CDC cooperates with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and that its employees show more respect for primates undergoing the nightmare of international transportation.

Address for letters:

**David Satcher M.D., Director
Centers for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30333, USA**

To the best of IPPL's knowledge, the USFWS Division of Law Enforcement has ignored hundreds of postcards and letters of concern from members of the public around the world who want action taken against anyone found culpably involved in the shipment of baby monkeys, and monkeys in substandard crates, to the United States, in violation of humane shipment laws.

The inspector who untruthfully stated on the 3-177 import declaration form that he had inspected 100% of the 10 April shipment that included babies, when in truth he had inspected neither the shipment nor the travel documents which listed the 19 babies individually, is still collecting a salary from US taxpayers.

The then chief of the USFWS Division of Law Enforcement, Thomas Striegeler, who failed to answer two separate IPPL requests for an investigation, has been given a new assignment. IPPL has long had a very low opinion of Mr. Striegeler's quality of work. The incoming chief is Kevin Adams, who may well have heard nothing at all about the shipments.

Please send Mr. Adams a letter expressing your concern that no action has been taken against anyone involved in a series of shipments of monkeys that reached Chicago, USA, from Indonesia in 1997 in flagrant violation of US humane shipment laws. Monkeys in sub-standard crates were transported by Air France. Two Air France shipments contained baby monkeys. Northwest Airlines imported monkeys in freezing January weather. Request that investigation of these shipments be given a high priority.

Address for letters:

**Kevin Adams, Chief
Division of Law Enforcement, USFWS
POB 3247
Arlington VA 22203-3247 USA**

MACAQUES ABUSED ON MOROCCAN SQUARE

Report by IPPL Investigator Regis Rodriguez

Barbary macaques are to be seen with their captors at the Djemaa el-Fna Square in Marrakech, Morocco, from 1 p.m. However they usually do not arrive until about 3 or 4 p.m. During the hottest hours of the day the temperature in Marrakech rises to more than 40 degrees centigrade (104 fahrenheit) on the square, which is devoid of trees.

A long day's work awaits the unfortunate macaques that does not end until between midnight and 2 a.m.

There are two groups working the macaques on the square. They walk among the visitors in the square. Visitors are scarce in the heat of the afternoon, but the square becomes very crowded after 6 p.m.

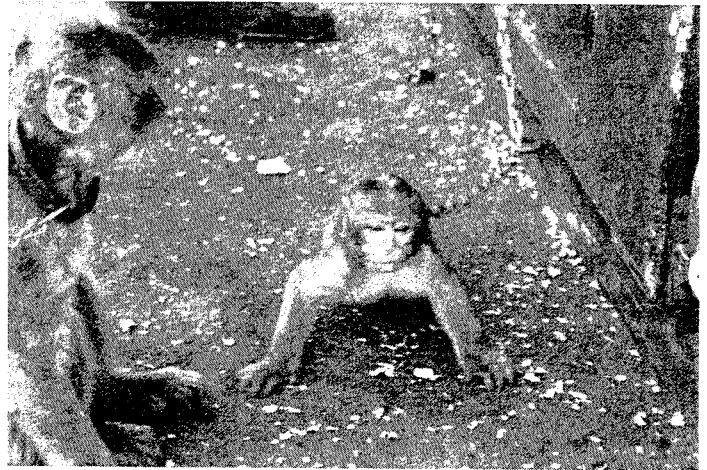
Each man firmly holds the chain attached to the collar around the neck of a macaque in one hand, and often he holds a stick in the other hand which he uses to force the animal to perform ridiculous circus tricks which the monkey often does not want to do.

The performance consists of the monkeys turning a few somersaults, obeying commands to "Sit" or "Stand up", eating a peanut held in the mouth of the trainer, and climbing onto the shoulders of tourists.

Anyone who stops or even looks at the performance for more than a few seconds is automatically detained and the trainer insists on payment! For a large number of tourists, being photographed in the company of a Barbary macaque appears to be a not-to-be-missed souvenir of Marrakech and money regularly goes into the photographers' pockets.

During the afternoon, the macaques are allowed several rest periods because of the extreme heat and the searing temperature of the ground. But during the evening their activity and resultant stress are continuous. It is easy for anyone who understands the normal behavior of primates to recognize the fear, the nervousness and the stress revealed on their faces.

On one of the stalls, four barbary macaques and a young baboon, a male about 1 year old, are kept. The baboon is



Barbary Macaques

already very disturbed by his capture and mistreatment and he is often kept attached to his cage by a chain, only 50 centimeters (20 inches) long.

Very aggressive, he pulls violently on his chain and in another few months it will be very difficult for the men to make him participate in their performances.

The four Barbary macaques are all females, aged 1, 5 and 9 years, and an orphaned baby of about 3 months. The two oldest are visibly very tired. One of them is losing her fur in patches and appears to have suffered ill-treatment. The baby was reportedly captured in the Gorges d'Ouzoud where the wild macaques live. She was offered to me for approximately 1500 French francs (257 US dollars).

Very perturbed and traumatized by the brutal separation from her mother, and clearly very nervous and frightened, this little female kept falling and almost strangling herself with the chain to which she was not yet accustomed. Following such trauma at that young age it is doubtful that she will survive the next few months to reach her first birthday.

On the second stall, three or four females, a few years older, are forced to carry out the same daily work enticing tourists to pay to watch them, or be photographed with them.

Apparently, Marrakech is the only large town in Morocco where this disgusting trade is carried on. I did not see any macaques being used in any of the other cities on the tourist circuit.

However, other animals are not spared. The same procedure is followed with snakes. They are under permanent stress. They are continuously provoked by their owners. A cobra holding its head up in a defensive position is an attraction to tourists. A hundred or even two hundred times a day the cobras take that characteristic position.

On close inspection it is possible to detect that some of the snakes, those probably more dangerous than the cobras, have been mutilated a few centimeters behind their heads, either



Monkey taking peanut

to prevent them biting, or to prevent them escaping into the crowd.

In the bazaars, particularly in the places where herbs and spices are sold, a lot of small reptiles, squirrels and birds can be found, at ridiculously low prices. For example:

Iguanas: 50 dirhams (5 US dollars)

Chameleons: 20-30 dirhams (2-3 US dollars)

Herman and Greek tortoises: 30 dirhams (3 US dollars)

Squirrels: 200 dirhams (20 US dollars)

Birds of prey (falcons): 2000 dirhams (200 US dollars)

I was unable to identify the numerous birds for sale in some of the small shops. I could only recognize parrots, cross-bills and canaries. A large number of remedies (so-called) concocted from animal parts (hedgehog, jackals, birds of prey, and all sorts of reptiles), together with the pelts of panthers, foxes, genets, etc. were also on sale in apothecaries.

It is evident that animals in Morocco are more often than not treated as objects or creatures to serve man. Mules and donkeys, often thin, beaten, and crushed beneath enormous loads and domestic animals like sheep and goats, chickens



Baboon

and rabbits, suffer daily abuse — but their suffering goes unnoticed.

In all the many towns and villages I visited, I was able to see that all animals were treated in a similar callous manner.

PLEASE CONTACT MOROCCAN TOURIST OFFICES

The Barbary macaque is a highly endangered species found only in North Africa, including Morocco, and Gibraltar. These monkeys should be protected from capture and should not be exploited in entertainment. Barbary macaques belong in the wild (and so do baboons which are not native to Morocco).

We believe that expressions of concern from potential tourists would help end this abuse.

Please send letters to one of the following offices:

Moroccan National Tourist Office
20 East 46th Street
New York NY 10017, USA

Moroccan National Tourist Office
205 Regent Street
London W1R 7DE, England

Also please send a protest to the Moroccan Minister of the Environment expressing your concern at exploitation of one of Morocco's most endangered species. Letters from the US to Morocco cost 60 cents per half-ounce, \$1 per ounce.

The Minister of the Environment
Ministry of the Environment
Rabat, Morocco

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

by Lynette Shanley

Lynette Shanley has represented IPPL in Australia for six years during which she has worked hard on a variety of issues. Here is the latest news from "Down Under."

Baboons at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Several years ago IPPL received allegations about the treatment and housing of the baboons held at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital breeding colony in the outer Western suburbs of Sydney. At the time we made enquiries but could do little as our informant was still working there.

In March 1997 the New South Wales (NSW) government held an inquiry into the Animal Research Regulations. IPPL-

Australia gave evidence in camera in respect to the conditions at the breeding colony. At this time our informant had left and had given his full support. After receiving a copy of our submission, the NSW government ordered an inquiry into the baboon breeding colony. At the beginning of April our informant, myself and several members of the Animal Research Review Panel (ARRP) met to discuss the conditions.

September came and the report still had not been completed by the ARRP. The chairperson of the ARRP had stated that the best way of handling the over-breeding problems was euthanasia of some of the baboons. With the lapse of

time it seemed highly probable they could euthanise the animals before completing the report.

On 15 September, I met with a reporter and photographer from the **Sydney Morning Herald** and directed them to the breeding colony. The colony was locked and barbed wire fences, gates, etc. had to be climbed to get photos.

On 16 September an article appeared on page 3 of the **Sydney Morning Herald**. I was woken up in the very early hours of the morning by the radio stations wanting interviews. I was then contacted by all television stations, also wanting interviews. It was agreed I would meet them all at the breeding colony. That night the baboons and the conditions they were living in made news on all TV stations including the popular "7.30 Report." It not only appeared on news in New South Wales, but also Australia-wide.

The Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Richard Amery, immediately issued a statement stating that no baboon would now be euthanised. There are now three separate enquiries under way, one by the New South Wales government, one by the Commonwealth government and one by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I am meeting with the minister on 27th October to discuss this further.

Allegations being investigated include (there were many more):

1. Alleged use of air rifles to move stubborn baboons.
2. Alleged poking baboons with sticks and banging sides of cages to get them to move. This reportedly resulted in baboons getting anxious, and the males often attacking the females.
3. On many occasions seriously injured animals were reportedly found lying on the ground when staff started work in the morning. No one was on duty overnight.
4. The veterinarian working there also works for the hospital, a 2-3 hour drive from the baboon breeding colony.
5. Once the veterinarian was called out to attend an eye injury and allegedly did not show up for more than 2 weeks.
6. One animal, after being found injured, was reportedly left in a small metabolic cage for three weeks.
7. Worming treatments were reportedly coated in chocolate and thrown in cages. The dominant male reportedly got most of the worming treatments. Others in the cage would not get their medication.

8. Cages were reported to be rusting and in a state where they needed urgent repairs.
9. At times when it rains for more than 2-3 days, the drainage reportedly gets blocked, sending all rotting food matter and feces back up into the cages. Baboons had to sit in this until it subsided.
10. Many cages reportedly failed to meet National Health and Medical Research Standards.

Zoos

Late last year IPPL exposed Notre Dame zoo, a private facility, and the fact that the owner had euthanised five rare Sumatran tigers. Because of the publicity this raised, the New South Wales government is now drafting legislation to stop private zoo owners from doing this in future. IPPL has been asked to comment on the proposed legislation.

IPPL raised complaints some time ago regarding the conditions at a private zoo in Victoria. We still have complaints registered regarding this zoo. It now appears that he has been keeping a Rhesus macaque in a cage approximately one meter by one meter by one meter. He was ordered by the courts to euthanise the animal if he could not find a home for him. No one wanted the animal and he was ready to euthanise the animal. We found a home for the macaque and he is now in a comfortable spacious, home receiving much "Tender Loving Care."

Microsearch

Several years ago IPPL-Australia received complaints regarding the conditions and treatment of macaques at the Microsearch Foundation. We wrote asking that we be allowed to visit the animals but our request was denied. We tried to get the state government to look into this but still nothing was done. We noted that two Australian ex-prime Ministers' wives were on the ethics committee and that the Governor-General of New South Wales was a patron.

We wrote to these three people. Next we heard that the New South Wales government had inspected the premises, and that Microsearch was ordered to euthanise their primates because they were in very bad condition.

Recently this was written up in a government report. Microsearch was not identified, but IPPL was able to advise the reporter that it was Microsearch. This made Page 3 of the **Sun Herald**. Microsearch plans to obtain more primates in the future. I am meeting with the minister on 27 October to discuss Microsearch Foundation and the functioning of its ethics committee.

ATTENTION — AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

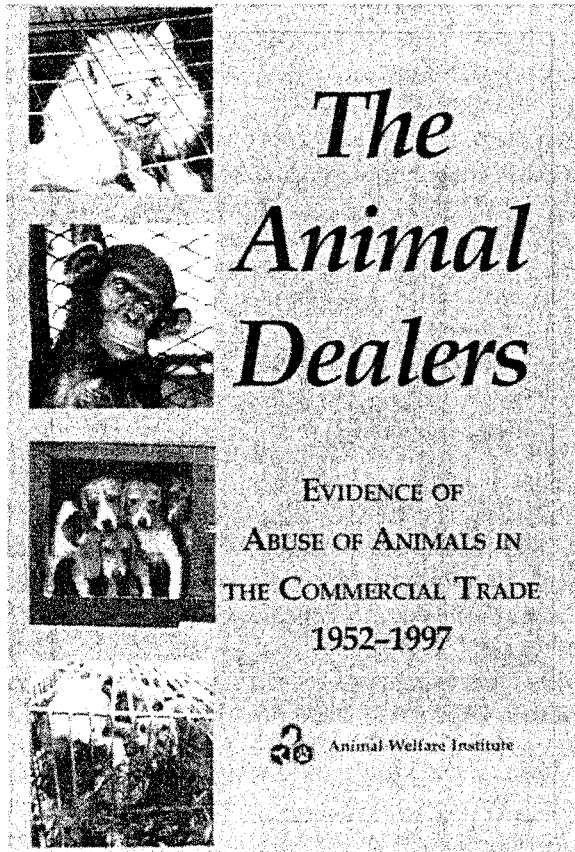
Many of our Australian members are behind in their dues! If you are one of them, please send your \$30 (Australian) to **IPPL, POB 60, Portland NSW, 2847, Australia**. Remember that you will continue to get **IPPL News**, as well as a separate Australian newsletter. If you can afford an extra gift, or if any non-Australian readers would like to help this struggling but effective branch, that would be wonderful. Checks from non-Australian members should be sent to **IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC, USA**. We will consolidate them and send them by bank draft to Australia to save large bank charges on individual checks.

RECOMMENDED HOLIDAY READING

The Animal Dealers

The *Animal Dealers*, sub-titled *Evidence of Abuse of Animals in the Commercial Trade 1952-97*, is published by the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI). The book's 300+ pages are filled with information on the world traffic in animals domestic and wild. There are chapters on Class B animal dealers, dealers supplying cats for dissection, primate dealers, bird dealers, and "the shelf life of reptiles."

The *Animal Dealers* is available for \$8 from the *Animal Welfare Institute*, POB 3650, Washington DC 20007, USA.

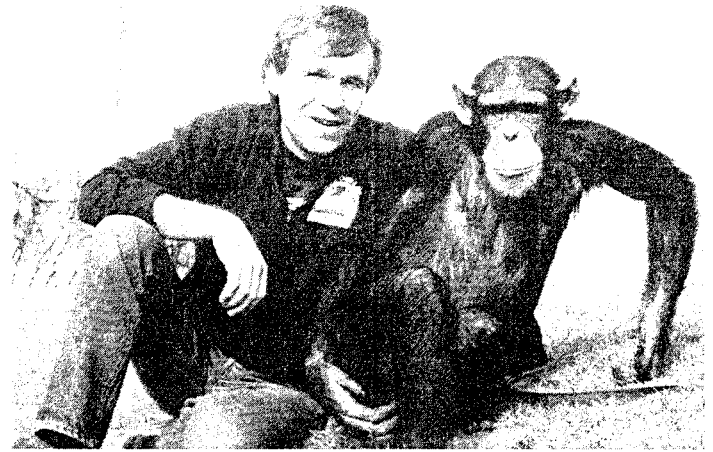


Primates — the Amazing World of Lemurs, Monkeys, and Apes

Primates was written by Barbara Sleeper and is illustrated with beautiful color photos by Art Wolfe. The publisher is Chronicle Books. In her introduction Sleeper states:

While not inclusive, the following photographic collection of 102 primate species from around the world has been selected for this book to show the phenomenal diversity in size, coloration, habitat preference and social structure of the Order Primates. While the beautiful photographs let the subjects speak for themselves — of their innate curiosity, intelligence and dignity — the accompanying natural history text is meant to give an overview of the fascinating social behavior, ecology, and critical habitat requirements that characterize our closest living nonhuman relatives — the primates.

The list price of *Primates* is \$24.95. *Amazon Books* (www.amazon.com) offers the book for \$19.96.



Next of Kin

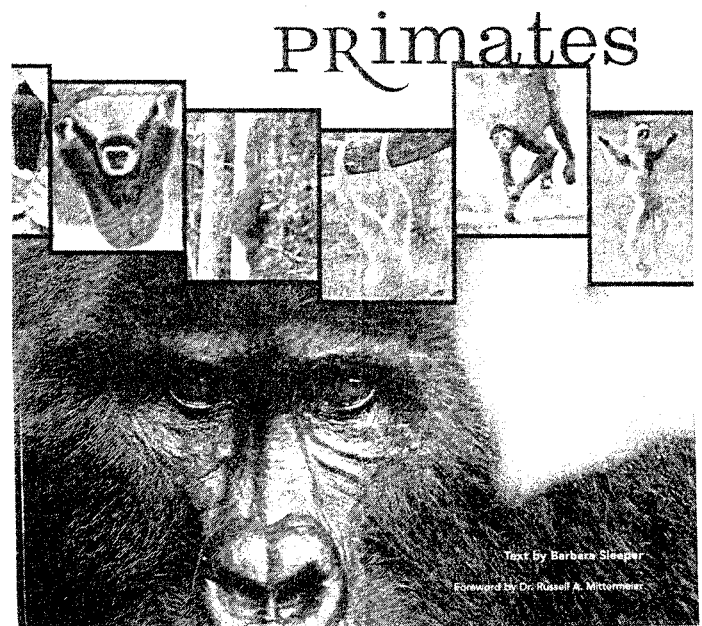
Next Of Kin, subtitled *What the Chimpanzees Have Taught Me About Who We Are* was written by Roger Fouts and Stephen Tukel Mills. It is published by William Morrow. Jane Goodall wrote the introduction. Roger and his wife Debbie started teaching American Sign Language to chimpanzees 30 years ago. They first worked with Alan and the late Beatrice Gardner at the University of Nevada and there Roger met Washoe, then a baby chimpanzee.

From Nevada Roger moved to the Institute for Primate Research at the University of Oklahoma and he gives a description of the appalling cruelty with which Bill Lemmon treated not just the chimpanzees but also gibbons and siamangs in his care.

Washoe and four chimpanzee friends now live with Roger at the Central Washington State University in Ellensburg,

ILLUSTRATED BY ART WOLFE

THE AMAZING WORLD OF LEMURS, MONKEYS, AND APES



Washington. Besides teaching chimpanzees sign language, Roger developed great affection not just for his study chimpanzees, but for the entire species, and has become a crusader for chimpanzees.

The book is suitable for readers of all ages.

Amazon (www.amazon.com) offers **Next of Kin** for \$17.50.

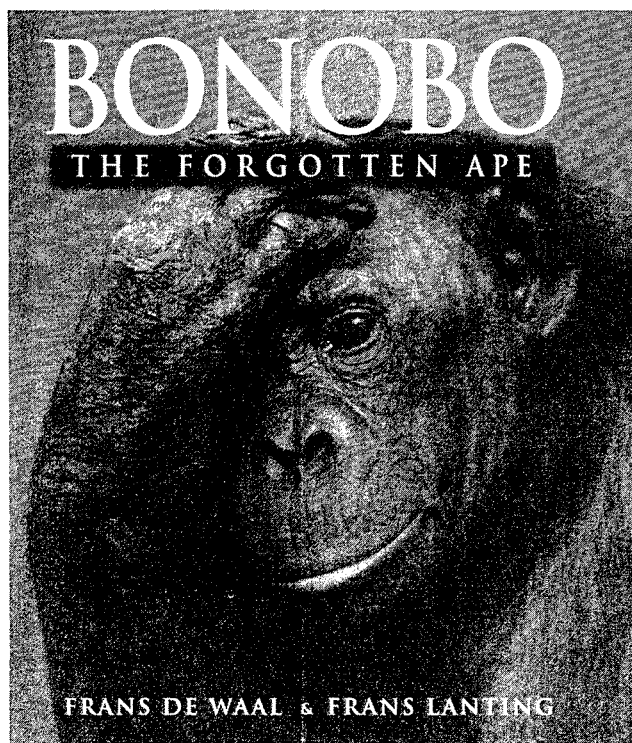
Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape

Bonobo is written by Frans de Waal and illustrated with photos by the superb nature photographer Frans Lanting. It is published by the University of California Press.

Frans de Waal is a very different man from Roger Fouts, author of **Next of Kin**. Roger Fouts finds experimentation on chimpanzees totally unacceptable and fights for the protection of all chimpanzees. De Waal, who is employed by the Yerkes Regional Primate Center, which has infected chimpanzees with the AIDS virus, appears to co-exist comfortably with invasive experimentation.

Nonetheless **Bonobo** provides a fascinating introduction to the animal formerly known as the Pygmy chimpanzee although IPPL would consider gibbons and siamangs to fit the description of "forgotten apes" better.

Bonobo is listed at \$39.95 and is available for \$29.97 from *Amazon Books* (www.amazon.com).



Gator Aide — Not about primates but interesting!

Jessica Speart's first thriller introduces US Fish and Wildlife Service agent Rachel Porter. Porter is assigned to the Service's New Orleans, Louisiana USA office, and is assigned to investigate the death of an alligator found chained near the body of a murdered prostitute. The action takes place in the corrupt bustling city of New Orleans and the swamps in the surrounding area.

Gator Aide is published by *Avon Books* and is available in bookstores. The list price is \$5.99 but you can order it from the *Internet bookstore* (www.amazon.com) for \$4.79.

I've been gone far too long

This delightful book is subtitled **Field Trip Fiascoes and Expedition Disasters**. It is essential reading for anyone hoping to be a field researcher studying primates or any other animals, and thinks this would be a glamorous life! The book consists of 21 chapters written by field workers in a variety of disciplines.

Kelly Stewart describes the late Dian Fossey talking her into carrying a gun to catch poachers — and how Dian carried a pistol hidden in a fruitcake into Rwanda.

Phyllis Lee, who studied vervet monkeys in Africa, describes her experiences with a dilapidated Land Rover with a personality of its own!

Liza Halko and Mark Hauser describe the experience of wending their way through a labyrinth of Uganda bureaucracy to locate lost travel documents and get their permits to study chimpanzees.

Elizabeth Bennett, who studied banded leaf monkeys in Malaysia, describes a 3-day trek to visit a remote Orang Asli community, a trip which was complicated by the food supplies getting left behind!

Andrew Johns, studying Amazonian monkeys, observed other Amazonian researchers barbecuing endangered species.

Margaret Symington tells of a supply trip to Cuzco, Peru, 5 days away by boat from her remote study site and how, on the return trip, the boat sank and all the supplies were lost.

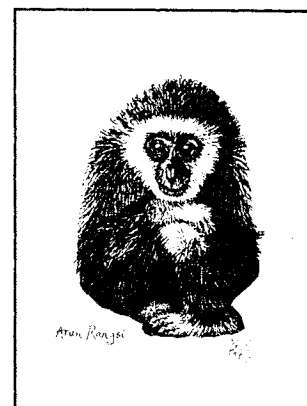
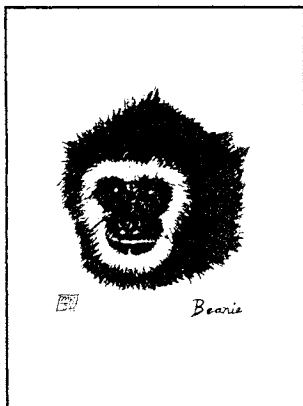
Robin Dunbar tells of the problems with loss of equipment in Ethiopia where he studied the gelada baboons who live in the Simen Mountains. Besides thieves, visiting Western hitchhikers looking for a novel experience and without any money became a headache!

The Canadian distributor of **I've been gone far too long** is *Orca Book Publishers*, 1030 North Park, Victoria BC Canada V8T 1C6 (phone 250-380-1229).

In the United Kingdom contact *Airlift Book Company*, 8 The Arena, Mollison Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex, UK EN3 7NJ (phone 81-804-0400).

In the US or other parts of the world, contact *RDR Books*, 4456 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland CA 94611, phone 510-595-0595, fax 510-595-0598. The price of the book is \$14.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling in the US. The company takes Visa and Mastercard. A cheaper way to buy the book is using *Amazon Books* (www.amazon.com), which sells it for \$11.96.

GIFT ITEMS



Lovely note cards featuring IPPL gibbons Beanie, Igor, Shanti with Michele, and Arun Rangsi

Artwork by Michele Winstanley

12 for \$10



Gibbon gift wrap: \$4.50
for 3 sheets postpaid



Gibbon and Gorilla Stickers
5 assorted sheets, \$5 postpaid

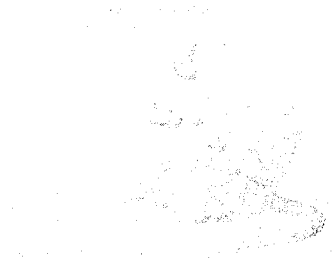


WILDSIGHT VIDEO

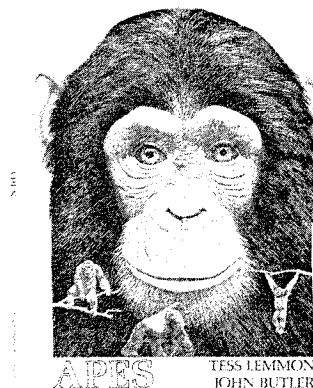
Starring Beanie and the
IPPL gibbons
\$29.95 postpaid

BOOKS FOR SALE

BABOON ORPHAN



"Baboon Orphan"
Hard cover: \$8
Overseas: \$12



"The Apes" by Tess Lemmon
Hard cover: \$16
Overseas: \$20



"Among the Orangutans"
Soft cover: \$8
Overseas: \$12

AVAILABLE FROM IPPL



Chimp Sweat: \$25

T: \$14

White

XXL, XL, L, M

6 Primate Species

T: \$14

XXL, XL, L, M

Linen

Gorilla

Orangutan

Chimpanzee

Gibbon

Ring-tailed lemur

Squirrel monkey



Gorilla T: \$14

XXL, XL, L, M

White

Limited stock

Gorilla sweats: \$25

XL in Sea-green

XXL White

*Sweats have
front silverback,
back mother/baby.*

Gibbon T: \$14

XL, L, M, S

Silver, Beige,

Aqua, Pink



Overseas Orders Air Mail

Sweats: \$30

T: \$17

State Second Color Choice for Ts and Sweats

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ASK BRIDGEVIEW TO AXE THE ACTS!

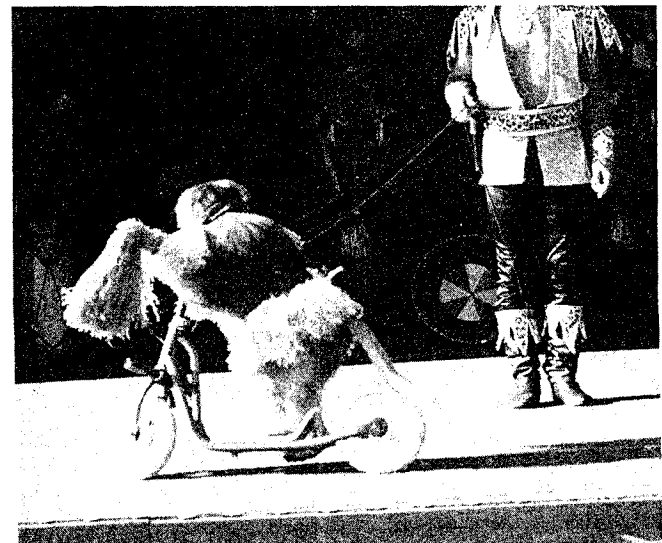
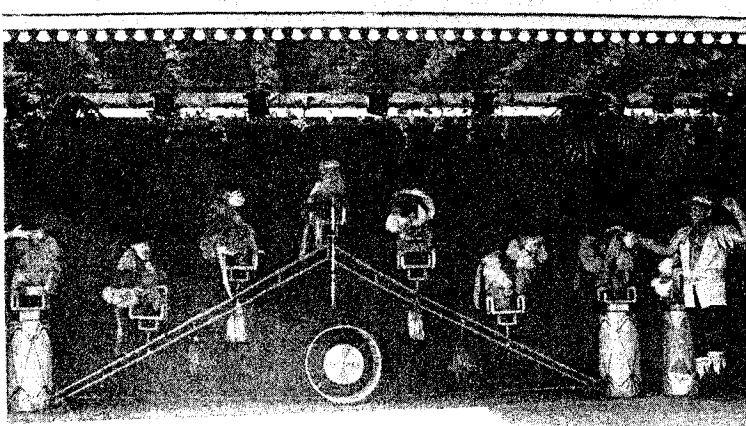
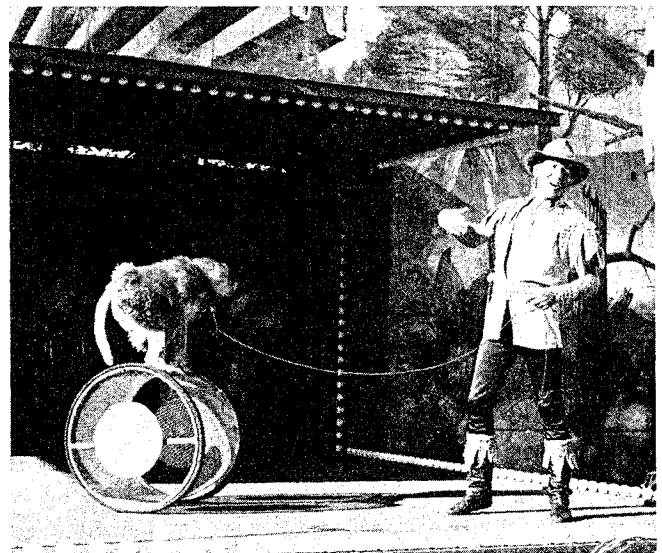
by Debbie Leahy, Illinois Action for Animals

In August 1997 a Bridgeview, Illinois festival was replete with abusive animal displays. The festival included a ridiculous act called "Baboon Lagoon" that featured nine stressed-out baboons wearing frilly outfits. They were forced to perform an array of silly tricks, including riding around the stage while tethered to a motor scooter. Some of the baboons were missing patches of hair, and all showed signs of fear consistent with animals who endure cruel training.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please let the mayor of Bridgeview know that these pitiful spectacles are cruel and demeaning to the animals, offer no educational value, and reflect poorly on his community. True respect for wild animals is gained by learning of them in an undisturbed, natural habitat. Ask that future festivals exclude animal acts. Thanks to IPPL members for their help!

*Mayor John Oremus
Bridgeview City Hall
7500 Oketo Avenue
Bridgeview, IL 60455, USA
Phone: 708-594-2525
Fax: 708-594-1584*



ARE YOU ON THE INTERNET?

If you are on the Internet, please let IPPL know if you are interested in receiving by E-mail news items or action alerts about events that occur between issues of IPPL News.

Please send an e-mail to ippl@awod.com requesting to be added to the IPPL E-mail alert list. Be sure to include your name and street address, as IPPL alerts are solely for IPPL Members.

Also take a look at IPPL's updated Web page which is located at:

<http://www.ippl.org>

PARK NOT FUN OR FAIR FOR CANDY

A chimpanzee named Candy has lived alone for more than 30 years at an amusement park owned by Sam Haynes in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. Stories like Candy's are, unfortunately, all too common — captured in Africa by bloody and brutal methods, shipped across an ocean, commercially exploited when she was young, and finally, banished to a cage. Her cage is located in the middle of the Fun Fair Park — between the bumper cars and the whirly bird ride.

In her youth Candy rode the rides, walked the midway, and even starred on a local television show. According to Haynes, "She was quite an attraction. She was in plenty of local parades — always in convertibles and always wearing her finest dresses and sunglasses".

Candy also starred with several other chimpanzees in the park's biggest promotion — The Chimpville Revue. For several years the Revue drew huge crowds of people eager to see the act's big finale — five chimpanzees riding a Honda motorcycle on stage.

Candy has been at the center of a controversy that has lasted over a decade. Local animal welfare groups, concerned citizens in and around Baton Rouge, and the city's animal Control Director have been trying for years to improve Candy's living conditions.

Enlisting the help of primatologists like Jane Goodall and Roger Fouts, as well as the International Primate Protection League, Candy's supporters gained their first victory in 1989.

At the time, Candy was living in a cage 10 feet (3 meters) long, 4 feet (1.2 meters) wide, and 6 feet (1.8 meters) tall. The cage was outside and, in the winter, allegedly covered with a plastic tarp to protect Candy from the cold. Despite Hayne's prediction that moving Candy to a new cage would be "traumatic" and "possibly fatal", in December of 1989 she moved into a much larger circular corn-crib cage.

While Candy's new cage provided her with more room it is far from appropriate housing for a chimpanzee — one of the most intelligent and social of all the primates. She still lacks a stimulating and challenging environment befitting her species and is still in solitary confinement.

Candy's supporters sought to remedy this situation with legislation. House Bill 1381, drafted by a New Orleans group, Legislation in Support of Animals (LISA), sought to establish requirements for housing Candy with another chimpanzee, either in modified quarters at the Fun Fair Park

by Carole Noon



Candy

or somewhere else. Primarily Primates in San Antonio, Texas had agreed to give Candy a home.

Introduced on LISA's behalf by Representative Naomi Farve, HB 1381 passed the state House unanimously in April, 1997. In early June (June 10) the Senate Agricultural committee listened to testimony to decide whether or not the bill would be heard by the full Senate.

LISA's Director, Jeff Dorson, asked me to address the committee on Candy's behalf. I flew to Baton Rouge and visited Candy at the Fun Fair Park. After meeting Candy I was convinced that she was an excellent candidate for resocialization.

The following morning I appeared before the Agricultural Committee and described the success of many chimpanzees like Candy who, after years of isolation, have been introduced to other chimpanzees.

When asked by the committee exactly what HB 1381 was trying to achieve, I explained that the bill was remarkably similar to the 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act concerning the psychological well-being of primates. **The amendments require that primates be provided with an enriching physical environment and that their social needs be met.**

Next, Bill Fiore, the then Director of the Montgomery, Alabama Zoo, testified that Candy should be kept, alone, at

the Fun Fair Park. According to Fiore, Candy is "no longer a chimpanzee," considers the visitors to the park to be members of her extended family, and echoed Sam Haynes' earlier prediction that moving Candy would be traumatic and possible fatal. He also commended the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the fine job they are doing.

Then the Haynes' family representative tearfully testified insisting that Candy had never been commercially exploited and was merely the family's beloved pet.

But what the hearing finally came down to was a simple question asked by the Committee — is Candy's housing legal or not?

According to the U. S. Federal Register and Title Code 9

it is not legal. However, according to Candy's owner the amusement park passes every USDA inspection "with flying colors". If we judge Candy's environment in light of the INTENT of Congress when they adopted the 1985 Amendments then surely Congress intended to outlaw living situations like Candy's. So, is it legal, legal by default, or just not illegal?

House Bill 1381, so similar to the current federal regulations, merely sought to do on the state level what USDA is refusing to do on a national level. The Committee, finding nothing illegal in Candy's situation, deferred the bill and Candy is left to spend the next 20 years, alone, amongst the whirly bird ride and the bumper cars.

CANDY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Candy urgently needs your help if she is not to live her entire life in a noisy fun fair away from other chimpanzees. Dr. Jane Goodall's studies have shown that chimpanzees are not meant to live alone. The Department of Agriculture is supposed to develop and enforce regulations for the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates but its veterinary staff, who should know better, actually see nothing wrong with keeping chimpanzees alone, as long as they have some toys and the dubious companionship of humans.

One of the people who most needs education on this subject is Assistant Secretary Michael Dunn. Carole Noon, who has earned doctorate in primatology, and has worked with rescued chimpanzees over several years, has found dealing with Mr. Dunn one of the greatest frustrations she has ever experienced. Let's show Mr. Dunn that we all agree with Carole that Candy should not live in solitary confinement — a punishment reserved for the most heinous of human criminals (even the human cannibal Jeffrey Dahmer was not imprisoned in "solitary").

Mr. Dunn's address:

*Michael Dunn, Assistant Secretary
Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250, USA*

Maybe the possibility of the loss of tourist dollars would force Louisiana state officials to pay attention to Candy's plight. Louisiana tourism is handled by the office of the Lieutenant Governor, Kathleen Blanco. Please send a letter or e-mail asking her to make a personal visit to Candy and see how she is living and then DO SOMETHING. Tell her that you will not visit Louisiana until this chimpanzee's solitary confinement is brought to an end.

Address:

*Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Blanco
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
900 North Third Street
Baton Rouge LA 70802, USA
Fax: 504-342-1949
E-mail: kblanco@crt.state.la.us*

INDONESIA BURNING

In one of the worst environmental disasters in history, forest fires **deliberately set by humans** in the nation of Indonesia have covered parts of Southeast Asia in a choking smog that is euphemistically called "haze." There had been serious forest fires on the island of Borneo in 1982-83 and 1987-88. The enormous island of Borneo includes the Indonesian area of Kalimantan, Sarawak and Sabah, which are both part of Malaysia, and the independent nation of Brunei.

The smog has even reached Singapore, the Philippines, peninsular Malaysia, and Thailand.

Worst affected areas

The most severely affected areas are the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Sulawesi, formerly known as the Celebes, has also been affected.

Sulawesi is home to several species of macaque monkeys

found nowhere else in the world.

Borneo is home to the Bornean orangutan and the rare Proboscis monkey famous for its long nose. Its forests are also home to gibbons, leaf monkeys, and macaques.

Sumatra is home to the Sumatran orangutan, the siamang, and to white-handed and agile gibbons and assorted leaf monkeys and macaques. The off-shore Mentawi Islands, which include Siberut and Pagai, are home to several rare primate species found nowhere else on earth.

All these islands are home to small nocturnal primates.

Non primate threatened species found in the worst fire-affected areas include the sun bear and Asian elephant, the Sumatran rhinoceros, and the Sumatran tiger.

Java, less affected, has a small population of around 60 Javan rhino, all living in Ujung Kulon National Park. A small fire in this park was fortunately extinguished on 16

Region's haze disaster takes a turn for the worse

29 seamen missing after two ships collide in Malacca Straits



Fighting a losing battle. Sixty-one-year-old farmer Saptor Jowo and his son hosing down a forest fire in Jambi, Sumatra. — Picture by AZIZ HUSSAIN.

SOUTH-EAST Asia's haze disaster took a nasty turn when two ships collided in the Straits of Malacca on Friday night, leaving 29 seamen missing after a Garuda aircraft crashed in Medan killing all 24 people on board.

Close to 20 Indian seamen were missing at sea, after the wreck of the Malaysian vessel *Merpati* off Port Dickson, Malaysia, drifted into the haze for the sea tragedy, while Indonesian investigators believe the haze may have been a contributing factor in the air crash.

In Medan, it was learnt that the pilot of the Garuda Indonesia Airbus had complained of low visibility minutes before the plane crashed into a deep ravine.

Sources in Medan told The Sunday Times that four minutes before the plane lost contact with air traffic control, pilot Hachimo Wiyono sought guidance to land.

"He said that he could not see clearly because of the haze and asked for directions," said an official at Medan's Prinsia airport.

Air traffic controllers gave the pilot clearance to land but "he hovered for a while at a very low altitude", the official said.

He said: "It was the pilot's own initiative to lower flight altitude. We do not know why he did that, but we now suspect that he might not have been able to see the ground clearly."

President Suharto ordered Transport Minister Haryanto Dhanu to conduct an immediate inquiry into the disaster — Indonesia's fourth plane crash this year and the worst in its aviation history.

Hours after the crash, Indonesia's Foreign Ministry issued a statement assuring neighbouring countries that Jakarta was doing

everything possible to deal with the fires causing the haze.

Merchant ship sinks

In Friday's second tragedy, the Madras-registered merchant ship *ICL Vietnam* sank after it collided with the Saint Vincent registered oil tanker *MV Meara*.

Asked how the accident happened, a spokesman for the Malaysian Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre said yesterday: "It's because of the haze."

Deputy Transport Minister Ali Husein said that only five of the 24 crew members of the *Vietnam* were rescued. The other vessel was damaged slightly and no injuries were reported.

He said: "It is not known whether it was due to the haze because every

precaution has been taken to inform passing ships of the haze."

Malaysian airports closed

Yesterday, the worst of the haze appeared to move to the north of the Malaysian peninsula, forcing the temporary closure of airports in Penang, Ipoh, Alor Star, Langkawi, Kuala Terengganu, and Kota Bharu.

Harder hit was Penang, where the Air Pollutant Index (API) soared into the hazardous range, hitting 331.

Chief Minister Koh Tsu Kien cancelled leave for all civil servants with family commitments, and said that a haze emergency would be declared if the API exceeded 500.

But residents in Kuching, Sarawak, were relieved when the pollution level fell to 115 — a low compared with API levels in the 300s only days ago.

'Unhealthy' air in S'pore

In Singapore, the air pollution level was in the unhealthy range for most of yesterday, with hourly Pollutant Standard Index readings between 200 and 235, but the 24-hour average, as at 4pm, was 191.

Fourteen flights out of Changi airport were cancelled because of haze conditions at their destinations in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Meanwhile, for the Singapore soccer team, Sea Games training may have to stop if the haze stays at the unhealthy level. With centralised training due to start on Tuesday, team manager Omar Ibrahim said that coaches may be confined to the Yunnan Sports Hall.

"We cannot afford to take any chances and will heed the advice of our team doctors. We have made preparations to train indoors should the need arise."

S'poreans leave country in search of fresh air

By Tan Shyr Ee and Pearl Lee

THE haze has not only stopped tourists from flying into Singapore, but has also chased away Singaporeans craving for blue skies and fresh air.

At Changi Airport yesterday morning, another Patrick Lawrence, 42, was sending his wife, Jane, and their 11-month-old daughter to Taiwan for a month, otherwise he has to live.

He said: "My daughter has congenital heart disease, and she's had surgery, so we're worried that she might be susceptible to the haze. It's the best of the time, so I'll be not coming back till November. Right now, she's in hospital, and it will close her then."

Housewife Tan Cheng Chong, 46, was also stranded at the airport, as her seven-year-old son

"He's staying at a friend's house, and I'm not leaving him alone now. But the worst case is that he can't go swimming or do anything outdoors, even to the park. If the haze is too bad, I'll have to move him to the house where we have a swimming pool."

Three children were stranded at the airport, as their parents were unable to get to work.

The children were taken to the airport by their parents, who were unable to get to work.

At Changi Airport, about 100 people were stranded, but most of them were not leaving the country.

At Shuangdan "Travel" bookings for Australia have been up by over 100 per cent, said a Singapore Airlines spokesman. Fourteen countries over the phone for all four packages were coming in at about 70 per hour.

The most popular destination, and the travel agents, is

Inside

REPORTERS AT THE SCENE

BRENDAN PEREIRA in KL: It's a nightmare. Giddy, foggy. *Page 1*

DAVID KELER in Pekanbaru: Disaster at your doorstep. *Page 2*

JASDIR SINGH in Kuching: Road at night. *Page 3*

SIA, MAS flights cancelled. *Page 4*

UN, WHO help for haze-hit countries. *Page 5*

Singaporeans who were in the United States and Taiwan. Singaporeans who were in the United States and Taiwan.

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The haze is causing thousands of it to have to seek out another job, hundreds of dollars to go to Australia. But the one week away is still a relief from the bad air here, she said.

From the Singapore Straits Times

September, the day it started. Java is also home to one of the world's rarest gibbons, the Moloch gibbon.

Rainforests don't normally burn

Rainforests are dark and humid places, and they do not normally burn. The current fires are caused by reckless forest destruction by timber companies: by the setting of deliberate fires by companies clearing land to set up oil palm plantations: and by slash and burn agriculturalists.

Humans have been staying in their homes and covering their faces with masks (when they can get them). But there are no masks for other living creatures. If humans are choking, we can assume that all air-breathing creatures are choking too. If humans will later develop cancer, it is likely other primates will. The damage can only be corrected over decades or centuries — if ever.

Fire-fighting is hampered by a lack of fire-fighting equipment and the extreme difficulty of fighting fires in remote locations and the near-impossibility of putting out peat fires

which smolder below the ground.

Transmigration

Indonesia's environmental problems are aggravated by the increasing human population of Indonesia's outer islands, once covered with rain-forest. The Jakarta-based government is shipping the surplus population of the island of Java, where Jakarta is located, to other less populated islands, such as Sumatra and Borneo. The new arrivals are given land, often converted forest.

This controversial policy is called "transmigration." There is even a "Minister of Transmigration."

Many of the newcomers are not welcomed by the local people already living there. Many of the local people belong to traditional cultures (such as the Dayaks of Borneo) and have different religious and social traditions from the newcomers. There have been clashes in some areas.

But the newcomers have the support of the all-powerful Indonesian military.

COVERAGE OF FIRES

IPPL has assembled a large file of information about these fires since the crisis developed in September, and we thought you might be interested in some of the information we collected.

Jakarta Post Editorial "Hazy Problem," 13 August 1997

It's that time of the year again. Haze, due to billowing smoke from forest fires, has clouded many parts of the archipelago, particularly in Sumatra and Kalimantan. The haze is wreaking havoc with people's daily activities and becoming a health hazard. The lack of visibility has also disrupted flights and shipping services.

Our neighbors Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei are also affected whenever the wind blows in their direction. So far they have not complained too loudly.

As usual, the long dry summer has perpetuated the haze problems. But there seems to be no doubt today about the cause of these forest fires. They were deliberately lit to clear land and make way for new plantations, timber estates and new settlements under the government's transmigration program.

Guardian (UK) Editorial, "Indonesia's forest fires warn against tampering with nature," 26 September 1997

Indonesia is not the only culprit but under the Suharto regime it presents a particularly instructive lesson in the downside of economic growth, Asian-style. Three months ago Indonesia's minister of the environment spoke emphatically at the UN Earth Summit in favor of an international treaty to regulate the world's forests.

One month ago Indonesia's President Suharto made a personal visit to Borneo to open a new pulp mill in East Kalimantan owned by one of his closest associates. Indonesia should "take advantage of growing demand for pulp", said Suharto, "in the world market." The mismatch between these two initiatives is painfully obvious and the biggest forest fires are the ones now burning in Indonesian Borneo.

Jakarta Post editorial "Tragedy in Jayapwijaya," 26 September, 1997

In Kalimantan and Sumatra, it is estimated that more than 800,000 hectares [1.9 million acres] of forests have been destroyed. As a result of the smoke, some 32,000 people are said to be suffering respiratory problems and two people are reported to have died so far. By comparison, the fires in Irian Jaya [the Indonesia part of the island of New Guinea] have affected "only" about 80,000 hectares [197,000 acres].

In terms of the toll it takes on human lives, however, the Irian Jaya disaster is surely a far bigger tragedy. Much of the terrain in the disaster-stricken area is well nigh inaccessible except by air, and bringing in supplies is difficult enough without smoke hampering communications. The environmental damage which the drought and the fires have caused in this remote Indonesian province should not be underestimated. Many of the subalpine plant species which grow in Lorentz National Park on the Jayawijaya range are unique to that region and are probably found nowhere else in Indonesia.



Orangutan

Photo. Anne Russon

New York Times editorial, 27 September 1997

Some good can come of these tragic fires if they persuade Southeast Asia and the nations that import their products to take forest protection seriously. The United States should begin by banning plywood made of tropical hardwood, or requiring country of origin labelling on wood products so consumers can refuse to buy them. Japan, often the buyer of products created by ruinous environmental practices, also needs to rethink its import policies.

In the end, however, Southeast Asia's environmental practices will not greatly improve until corruption and authoritarianism diminish. There is too much money to be made by powerful people, and too little attention paid to those groups trying to bring sanity to reckless growth.

Statement by PIJAR (Indonesian environmental group), 27 September 1997

The irony is that Bob Hasan, the country's largest holder of forest concessions, has declared that the fires have been caused by shifting cultivators and peasants. The very opposite is the case. He wants to evade responsibility. The forest concessionaires are the ones who must shoulder responsibility for this catastrophe, along with companies that have been granted industrial timber and transmigration contracts. And above all responsibility must rest with the Department of Forestry which granted all these permits.

Deeply concerned at these developments, PIJAR Indonesia herewith demands:

- 1. The cancellation of all forest concessions. The holders of these concessions are the ones who have wrought such havoc with the environment.*
- 2. The imposition of legal sanctions for the collusion and corruption enveloping the activities of officials from the Department of Forestry and the concessionaires. The Forestry Minister should himself take responsibility for the smog and all the collusion and corruption.*

American Reporter, "Indonesian tycoons own firms blamed for forest fires," 27-28 September 1997

An Indonesian ministerial report has blamed 176 logging and plantation firms over the huge forest fires which had already choked most areas in southeast Asia, saying that those companies had conducted the dangerous slash-and-burn practice to clear their land. Some of the 176 companies are owned by Indonesia's wealthiest figures, including Indonesia's No. 1 and No. 2 tycoons Liem Sioe Liong and Eka Tjipta Wijaya, timber tycoon Bob Hasan as well as Prayogo Pangestu of the widely-diversified Barito Pacific Group.

All of them are politically well-connected. Indonesian environmentalists doubt that blame for the annual “slash and burn” fires routinely used to clear land will be placed where it belongs, as the tycoons are widely considered to be more influential here than the ministers...

Liem is a longtime associate to Indonesian President Suharto, who have been friends since the 1950s, when the young lieutenant colonel Suharto was a military commander in Central Java and Liem had just started his business in the province.

Hasan is a golfing partner of Suharto's who plays golf twice or thrice a week with the president, encouraging jibes here that Hasan meets with Suharto more often than government ministers usually do.

WALHI (Indonesian environmental group) press release, 1 October 1997

The smoke surrounds the DAS Mengkatip area [in Central Kalimantan] with thick haze (average visibility is from 5 to 20 meters at noon) with the result that community health is threatened and local fauna (orangutan, monkeys, birds, and a small [feline] species are in weakened condition. In fact, in the transmigrant area of Dadahup, several times birds have been found which have fallen while in flight.

Clear air almost never occurs, and the condition of hazy smoke has gone on for three months. In the village of Mengkatip, according to information from local leaders who have lived in the village since 1959, they have never seen smoke like this before, nor have they ever seen their beje-beje (traditional fish ponds) dry out because their water sources were cut off by the canals.

Statement by Kevin Dunion, Chair of Friends of the Earth International, 1 October 1997

The Indonesian government's failure to control the timber and plantation industries and their illegal burning has led to this massive social, ecological and economic disaster. The impacts of these fires on climate change will be felt globally, and the international community must hold the Indonesian government accountable. The government must act immediately to control the fires, provide compensation to those affected, and enforce its own laws to bring these unsustainable industries under control.

Reuters, 1 October 1997

Indonesia on Wednesday conferred honorary five-star general status on President Suharto...

Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday, 1 October 1997, Op-Ed by Indonesian expatriate George Aditjondro

With their logging concessions, timber estates feeding paper and pulp factories, oil palm and rubber plantations, as well as peat and coal mines, these [Malaysian] business interests collectively contribute to the current environmental disaster, by reducing Sumatra and Kalimantan's forest cover and increasing the inflammable biomass in this dry season.

For instance, Malaysia's “sugar king,” Robert Kuok, is a co-shareholder with the young Indonesian businessman, Hashim Djojohadikusumo, and his sister-in-law, Titiek Prabowo, in a 44,000 hectare [108,000 acre] oil palm plantation in South Sumatra. Titiek, by the way, is President Soeharto's second daughter and wife of the rising army general Prabowo Subianto.

In Sarawak, business cronies of the Soeharto family, such as the Raja Garuda Mas and Sinar Mas Groups, are involved in timber, pulp, and plantation projects with some very well-connected Malaysian conglomerates such as Ekran Berhad, whose Bakun Dam project has recently been shelved, and Guthrie, the Anglo-Malaysian rubber plantation company.

Mahathir's own son, Mirzan, and Soeharto's son, Bambang Trihatmodjo, are business partners of Malaysia's Berjaya Group. Together with the Suharto family's Musa Group, Berjaya has been accused by environmental groups in the Americas of destroying the rainforests of Suriname and Guyana.

Environmentalists constitute an additional sore point for Mahathir: he has often accused Malaysian environmentalists of being “Western lackeys,” who wanted to halt Malaysia's economic growth by opposing tropical deforestation and defending indigenous cultures in Sarawak.

Far Eastern Economic Review, “Spread of oil-plantations fuels fires,” 2 October, 1997

The zeal to keep clearing land for plantations will be difficult to extinguish, industry analysts say—especially in the case of the oil palm. Last year, Indonesian exports of palm oil and palm-oil products were worth more than \$1 billion, boosted by growing global consumption of palm-oil products, a 32% increase in the last five years. In fact, official encouragement of the palm-oil industry is partly responsible for the plantation boom.

Government plans call for the production of 7.2 million tons of crude palm oil by 2000, with plantation area more than doubling to 5.5 million hectares [13.6 million acres]. Setting fire to the forest and brush is the cheapest, quickest way to clear land for plantations.

“If you do land-clearing in pioneer areas, where no roads are established, the only practical way to get rid of the debris is to burn it,” says A.F.S. Budiman, executive director of the Rubber Association of Indonesia. Alternatives, like manual clearing, are much more labor-intensive, he maintains.

And if a local official tries to enforce the ban? “You just bribe him,” Budiman says flatly. “At the most, you promise to

give him some shares. Then he'll just wash his hands of the matter. Who will know? It's such a big area"...

In mid-September, for example, a group of villagers from the remote island of Siberut, off West Sumatra, arrived in Jakarta to protest. Back in 1994, Suharto had bowed to environmentalist pressure and ordered all commercial logging on Siberut to cease. Now, 70,000 hectares [173,000 acres] on the island are slated for two new oil-palm plantations. In July, villagers watched aghast as a Jakarta-based firm burned the first 10 hectares [24 acres].

"We don't allow any burning in the forest," says Paulus Aman Beili Kunen Saumanuk, who argued with his 80-year-old father after he found out that the illiterate clan chief had sold rights to 500 hectares [1235 acres] for 300,000 rupiah (\$102). "It might destroy all the wood, the rattan and the plants we use for medicine."

Statement issued by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands meeting in Gland, Switzerland, 2 October 1997

The 27 countries from all regions of the world and 4 global NGOs [non-governmental organizations] gathered in Switzerland for the annual meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) have expressed their grave concern at this disaster. Mrs Louise Lakos, Chairperson of the Standing Committee, noted, "The members of this international conservation body drew attention to the fact that a large proportion of the area burning is peat swamp forest, which constitutes an important global wetland type which we cannot afford to lose. Time is short and action is needed urgently."

Peat swamp forests are waterlogged forests growing on a layer of dead leaves and plant material, up to 20 meters thick. Their continued survival depends on a naturally high water level which prevents the soil from drying out to expose combustible peat matter. Peat swamp forests provide a variety of goods and services, both directly and indirectly, in the form of forestry and fisheries products, energy, flood mitigation, water supply and groundwater recharge.

Sydney Morning Herald, 2 October 1997, "Forest Minister threatens to quit over smoke pall," article by Louise Williams

Indonesia's Forestry Minister, Mr. Djamaludin Suryohadikusumo, has offered to resign over the deadly smoke haze blanketing south-east Asia, as new fires in Indonesia's east threaten the tourist island of Bali. Indonesian officials appealed to villagers not to shoot tigers and monkeys fleeing fires in national parks around Mount Tumpeng, Mount Merbabu and Mount Malabar in Java.

Sydney Morning Herald, 4 October 1997

Air particle levels were nine times above the safe limit yesterday and meteorologists issued a warning to ships and aircraft as changing wind patterns pushed the smoke haze into the Indonesian capital. It was the first time air pollution levels for Jakarta were published. A city official said, "If air quality is dropping and becoming a serious danger, then people must be alerted"...

Three Australians arrived here late on Thursday to take part in a United Nations disaster relief team and aim to assess over the next few days how Australia might best help, using a \$2 million relief package announced by the Foreign Minister...

What's fate of Indonesia's wildlife?

IT IS appalling to read of the ongoing human suffering and tragedies related to the forest fires ravaging Indonesia, especially the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

Another serious matter is what is happening to the wildlife that cannot stay indoors or wear face masks.

Borneo and Sumatra are the only places in the world where *orang utans* (right), now numbering fewer than 30,000 worldwide, are found. What is happening to them?

Borneo is the sole home of the highly-endangered

Proboscis monkey. How is the smoke affecting them?

These islands also house other superb mammal, bird, and reptile species — most found nowhere else in the world.

It is time for Indonesia to address the root causes which, besides El Nino, include deliberate destruction of forests to establish oil palm and other plantations.

SHIRLEY MCGREAL (DR)

*Chairwoman
International Primate
Protection League
Summerville, USA*



Letter to the Editor,
Singapore Straits Times,
30 September 1997

The haze continues to take its toll. Five people were reported dead and four are missing after a motor boat carrying 48 students collided with a freighter on a river in south Sumatra on Wednesday. Thick smog caused the accident, police said.

ABC News, 4 October 1997

The Indonesian government says forest fires that sent a heavy smoke over large areas of Southeast Asia are receding...Earlier, state forestry officials and a company controlled by a timber tycoon were among 29 operations which lost their permits in a government crackdown. Indonesian newspapers report that 69 of the 151 revoked permits belonged to four government companies.

ABC News, 6 October 1997

Forest fires in Indonesia have destroyed 96 thousand hectares [237,000 acres] of vegetation, mainly rain-forests...In the nation's first damage estimate, Forestry Minister Jamaluddin Suryohadikusomo said some 80,000 hectares [197,000 acres] of protected and national rainforests were destroyed.

Sydney Morning Herald, Monday, October 6, 1997, "Southeast Asia's day of Reckoning," article by Louise Williams and Mark Baker

The dream dies hard. The forests which once humbled humankind are now broken and burning. And as the world awakens to an ecological disaster in south-east Asia, the naivete of those who trusted in the permanence of nature — and the conceit and greed of those who challenged it — is being laid bare.

The early explorers of Borneo found a tropical canopy so dense that from a distance the tops of the trees looked like smooth fields of grass. It was said an orangutan could travel from the south to the north of the vast island without descending from the treetops. So moist was the forest, soaking up the rains which fell four days out of five on average, that it lay like a moist band round the equator. These were the cool, clean lungs of Asia.

Now Asia's lungs, laid open by decades of rampant logging, are ablaze, and tens of millions of people are choking in vast clouds of smog. And now it is not just the great trees which are burning — the land itself is on fire. Tens of thousands of hectares of rainforest peat, the most important natural element in fighting greenhouse carbon gases, have been ignited and are facing permanent destruction.

Letter to the Editor, Irish Times, Monday, 6 October, 1997, by Seamus O. Muirthile, resident of Brunei

I am living on the island of Borneo, which is reputed to be the third largest on earth. For well over two months now an eerie and poisonous pall of gloom has canopied the tropical skies of south-east Asia as environmental vandalism on a massive scale is being perpetrated in Indonesia. The super-rich timber barons are burning down the rain-forest to replace it with the monoculture of palm oil trees. Schools have been told to close, huge inconvenience is caused to travellers, and people have been advised to stay indoors. Recently, visibility was down to one meter in Kuching, Sarawak.

The Indonesian government selfishly ignored the seriousness of the situation until the wind changed direction temporarily and blew the noxious fumes back towards them. The situation is now out of control as the coal seams near the surface are burning as well.

So far 800,000 hectares [1,970,000 acres] have been wiped out. The unprecedented dry spell is expected to last for at least another three months due to the El Nino influence.

The Indonesian authorities originally blamed the native swidden farmers of Kalimantan, but this was a cover-up for the licensed logging and plantation companies who deliberately set these fires every year. Despite the pious platitudes being mouthed it is extremely unlikely that these legalized vandals will be brought to book.

In the meantime Borneo is burning while President Suharto fiddles.

Sydney Morning Herald, 8 October 1997

Australian aerial water bombing teams have begun tackling fires in southern Sumatra and say that assessment flights show that Indonesia is facing a very serious environmental threat as thousands of spot fires continue to burn...

The two water bombers in Sumatra will start in Lampung, where five fires have been identified within 80 kilometers of the provincial capital. "This is an immense problem — there are thousands of hot spots all the way up from south Sumatra, with smoke affecting millions," the bombing officer, Mr. Brenton Eden, said.

"This is a very serious environmental situation. This is not an Australian-type fire situation with a running bush fire, but a kind of chess board with fires all over the place."

Statement on the Smog Calamity by Indonesia Anti-Forest Fires Alliance (ASAP-Hutan), 8 October 1997

The tragedy is that the common people are being blamed for starting the fires, in particular the shifting cultivators whose livelihoods are totally dependent upon the forests. The real culprits are the ones whose intimate relations with the ruling circles have made it possible for them to accumulate so much wealth and they are now being made to appear as the ones who

THE BIG HAZE

Indonesian Environment Minister lashes out at govt over handling of fires

Jakarta has done 'too little, too late'

By Derwin Pereira
in Jakarta

ENVIRONMENT Minister Sarwono Kusumatmadja has lambasted fellow ministers and government officials for not doing enough to tackle the worsening haze from forest and land fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

He told The Straits Times yesterday that complaints over problems caused by the fires and smoke often gained "late and passive response" from government agencies.

He attributed the poor co-ordination system among ministries and departments to the "very minimal support".

Normally, we never ask for assistance, but we will consider it when there are offers.

— Deputy secretary of the National Disaster Management Co-ordinating Board
Hernowo Hadiwongso.

from government and military officials. He declined to name them.

He said that since March this year he had issued warnings to various departments about the possible effects of the drought and forest fires.

"People are waking up too late to this problem. The whole Jakarta elite, including the press, are disgustingly late," he said.

His comments take place against a background of mounting calls on the government to take action against 175 plantation and forestry companies for violating an indefinite ban on land clearing by fire.

Observers here said that Mr Sarwono and his ministry was "fighting a lone battle" in tackling the fires which have so far destroyed 300,000 ha of forest in Sumatra and Kalimantan and caused thick smoke and haze to envelop neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia.

He has criticised these firms for continuing to violate the ban. Many had actually stepped up the practice of



What used to be a forest in south Sumatra was razed and is now a wasteland. To save money and time, unscrupulous businessmen resort to burning to clear land and fires often spread to adjacent areas, damaging the ecology, economy, health and diplomatic ties. — NST picture.

Jakarta grateful to KL for sending firefighters

PEKANBARU (Sumatra) — The Indonesian government is grateful to Malaysia for sending its firemen to help fight forest fires to battle the haze problem.

Riau Deputy Governor (Economy Development) Dr Haji Rivaie Rachman said in an interview with The Star newspaper on Monday that 1,000 Malaysian firefighters were expected to arrive at Dumai today.

"We are glad that the Malaysian firemen will be here to rescue us. Some 140 men will be sent to Riau while rest will be deployed to Palembang and Jambi," said Dr Rivaie.

"Indonesia has been badly hit by haze since two months ago due to the long drought. Sadly, no serious action has been taken except warnings and more warnings."

"When critics from South-east

Asian countries, especially Malaysia and Singapore hammered us, we started taking the necessary steps.

He added that everyone in Indonesia, including government departments and the private sector, tried to blame each other and argued over who should be responsible.

He said some efforts were finally seen to have been made when President Suharto and Environment Minister Sarwono Kusumatmadja declared the haze a national disaster.

It was only then that the government decided to reveal the names of those responsible for the slash-and-burn activities in Sumatra and Kalimantan, he told The Star.

"Errant companies, including 18 from Malaysia, had been given 15 days to explain the forest fires," Dr Rivaie said.

the government clamps down. He added that the problem was complicated by collusion between local government officials and businesses.

"This is one of the reasons why the problem has persisted," he said recently. The worsening haze has, however, prompted a joint response from neighbouring countries to help Indonesia put out the fires.

The Malaysian government will send 1,210 volunteers to Sumatra and another 210 to Kalimantan to fight the fires. They are expected to arrive today.

Malaysia has also offered three C-130 Hercules planes to take part in cloud-seeding

the United States were also planning to offer planes, fire-fighting technology and geo-positioning satellite systems.

Deputy secretary of the National Disaster Management Co-ordinating Board Hernowo Hadiwongso said that Thailand had also offered to send two water bomber aircraft.

"Normally, we never ask for assistance, but we will consider it when there are offers," The Jakarta Post yesterday quoted him as saying. "Our policy is that we don't ask."

He said that the haze had prompted four provinces in Kalimantan and Sumatra — the worst hit by forest and land fires — to declare a con-

that the situation in the respective areas is dangerous," he said, pointing to the provinces of Riau, Jambi, South and West Kalimantan.

Meanwhile, fires are reported to have started in various parts of Central Java. The Antara national news agency yesterday said that worsening drought conditions and strong winds, coupled with man-made fires, had caused the fires to quickly spread.

Forest fires are also continuing to rage in the Jayawijaya district of Irian Jaya where 251 people have died from famine and drought-related diseases. The thick smoke and haze from the fires

Haze shrouding southern Philippines may reach Manila

By Nirmal Ghosh
Philippines Correspondent

MANILA — Weathermen warned that a blanket of smog could blow towards Manila by the end of the week as smoke from forest fires in Kalimantan forced the cancellation of Airbus flights to Puerto Princesa airport yesterday.

The island of Palawan and parts of the southern Philippines were enveloped with haze over the weekend, shutting down the airport for two days.

Puerto Princesa-based environmental worker Yasin Arzuza told The Straits Times that Philippine Airlines (PAL) Airbus flights to the city had been suspended and only smaller Boeing 737s were able to land and take off.

Captain Francisco Pepito, president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of the Philippines was quoted by AFP as saying that the haze had grounded 150 light planes based in southern Philippines.

Prevailing visibility was 3 km and light planes need 8 km to be able to fly, he said. PAL flights from Manila failed to land here on Sunday and Monday as visibility dropped to 1 km, PAL manager Ramon Agraviador said.

A major convention of some 2,000 doctors scheduled in the city this week had been

thrown into doubt because of the disruption caused by the smoke.

The smoke cloud had also spread to the city of General Santos in Mindanao. However, the cities of Davao and Zamboanga — north and due west of General Santos respectively — were still unaffected as of yesterday morning.

Ms Arzuza said the local offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had no instruments capable of assessing air quality.

Officials at the DENR's office in Manila said contingency plans were being drawn up by Environment Secretary Victor Ramos, but he was unavailable and junior officers did not know what the plans were.

Ms Rosa Perez, assistant weather service chief of the national weather bureau, said yesterday the smoke cloud could reach Manila in a few days as it was churned by an intensifying tropical storm in the South China Sea.

"Based on the airflow there is an indication it is going towards Luzon," she said, adding that the prognosis would be clearer in a day or so.

Health officials here have not issued any health warnings, since the haze was recorded on Monday to be 17 km from the ground.

Singapore press coverage of fires

are doing everything to help.

On the occasion of Armed Forces Day (5 October), President Suharto apologized on behalf of the Indonesian people to the governments and peoples of neighboring states after first praising the armed forces for coping with the disaster. But wouldn't it be more appropriate to apologize to the people of this country? And to take action against those who are responsible for the catastrophe?

We of the Anti Forest Fires Alliance (ASAP-HUTAN) vehemently protest against these fires which have resulted in the hazardous smog and other damage inflicted on the environment which is wreaking such havoc on people's everyday lives and the welfare of humankind, and we demand:

1) That the executive board and members of the Indonesian Timber Association (MPI) be put on trial. Burning the forests is a criminal act and those responsible, the HPH [forest] concessionaires and members of the MPI, are the ones who ordered that forests be burnt during the dry season. Justice must be seen to take its course.

2) That all the forest concessions (HPH) should be revoked. These HPH concessionaires are the ones responsible for the destruction of nature. The forests should be returned to those who are entitled to them. The people, in particular the forest people, are acutely aware of the need to preserve and protect the forests upon which their very lives depend. Canceling 151 permits from 29 companies cannot be regarded as resolving the problem. In essence, the problem has emerged because of the monopolistic powers that have been granted by the state to the MPI by means of the forest concessions.

3) The government should apologize to the Indonesian people.

Far Eastern Economic Review, "El Nino blamed, but Indonesian inertia is equally responsible for the fires" by John McBeath, 9 October 1997

Almost nightly on Indonesian television, thousands of firefighters armed with little more than water-filled backpacks are shown trying to beat back the blazes that are blanketing Southeast Asia in smoke. Growing alarm has led Malaysia to send

1,200 firefighters to join the assault and Japan to offer pumping equipment and waterjet shooters. It's a frantic effort, but to no avail. The battle is already lost.

There have also been suggestions in the local media that the country's Reafforestation Fund, a nest-egg of levies collected from forest concessions, could somehow be used to battle the haze. The government hasn't yet responded.

The fund which stood at \$660 million in 1994 is meant to develop timber estates, but its disbursements have often been controversial. In 1994, Suharto approved a \$178 million loan from the fund for the state-run aircraft maker IPTN. More recently, it was the source of a \$108 million loan for a pulp and paper mill in East Kalimantan. The owner: Suharto confidant Mohamad "Bob" Hasan, probably the most influential of Indonesia's timber barons.

Steve Strand, a New Zealand-based forestry expert, says the only way to avoid another Southeast Asian smoke-out is to force Indonesian companies to use only mechanical and chemical land-clearing methods. But it will be difficult convincing Indonesian firms to pay as much as \$200 per hectare [per 2.74 acres] for something they now get for the price of a matchstick.

Asiaweek, 10 October 1997

Yeung Mo-Man, senior environmental protection officer for Hong Kong, says the only real safeguard for those living in the smoke is to "leave the region." Staying indoors and avoiding physical exertion is the next best option. But cloth masks, no matter how finely meshed, are no use. They will not filter out the respirable suspended particles (RSPs).

Dr. Mok [respiratory medicine specialist] says he hopes researchers from around the world will converge on Indonesia and Malaysia to study the results of the pollution. "It is a great chance to see what happens to humans in such extraordinary circumstances," he says. Calculating? But at least this way governments will learn the human consequences of blind disregard for the environment.

Asiaweek, 10 October 1997, "The reckless torching of Indonesia's forest lands," by Choong Tet Sieu

Perhaps it springs from a desire not to offend. Or maybe it is just slack use of English. Whatever the reason, the noxious yellow-gray clouds that are poisoning Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and resort islands in southern Thailand and the Philippines are referred to as haze. In Indonesia, where this filth comes from, they call it "kabut," meaning mist or fog. Fuzzy, harmless-sounding words that belie the incalculable harm inflicted by what is turning out to be Asia's worst man-made environmental catastrophe.

At the heart of the disaster is the burning-off of Indonesia's forest lands for agricultural purposes, an annual activity that briefly raises pollution levels in neighboring countries, but which is forgotten once the September rains settle in and douse the flames. But not this year. The fires are out of control, partly because of the super-dry conditions caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, but mainly because just about anything goes in Indonesia's forests these days.

In the smog-engulfed Indonesian provinces of Jambi and Riau, in Sumatra, the air is so polluted that a local doctor compares breathing to smoking four packs of cigarettes a day — for every man, woman and child. The grit-laden air brings tears to the eyes, chokes the lungs and produces darkness at noon. The smoke is so thick it hides the fires it springs from. Yet in the Riau provincial capital of Pekanbaru, as elsewhere in the burning zones — officials have done little to inform residents of the health risk.

Investigators are probing the possibility that smoke may have contributed to the September 26 crash of a Garuda Airbus on its approach to Medan airport, northern Sumatra. All 234 people on board died, making it Indonesia's worst air disaster. The crews of two aircraft circling the airport at the time say Airbus captain Henche Rachmo Wiyogo had complained about a blinding haze before seeking guidance from air traffic control.

Reports say that after a confusing exchange of messages, Wiyogo had time merely to cry out "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) before the plane hit a mountainside.

Hours later, a supertanker and an Indian cargo ship collided in the smog-shrouded Strait of Malacca. Rescuers picked up five survivors from the Indian vessel. The other 29 on board were feared drowned. Clouds of ash also prevented relief flights to remote Jayawijaya in Irian Jaya, where 271 people have died because of drought-induced famine.

In the past, Indonesia's forest fires were started mostly by shifting cultivators: small farmers using slash-and-burn methods. But now the torching is on an industrial scale — by operators of new palm-oil estates and tree plantations. Indonesia is set on raising output from its key timber, palm-oil and rubber sectors. To help meet targets, the government has in recent years allocated plantation companies vast tracts of jungle and swamp in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

The jungle is dense and often without roads. Rather than struggle with heavy clearing equipment, managers find it easier and cheaper to set fire to the area.

By 1995, the burning had become such a problem the Indonesian government banned the practice. The order did little to change things. "Everyone knows that this isn't supposed to go on, but poorly paid agriculture and forestry inspectors just need to be given a bribe and they forget it's happening," says a plantation sector analyst.

Asiaweek, 10 October 1997, "We are suffocating — No escape for the people of Jambi"

What is life like under the asphyxiating pall created by the burning forests of Sumatra? Australian radio and television

journalist Andrea Thomson visited the town of Jambi, in the center of the island. From inside the ring of fire, she filed this eyewitness report:

On my last morning in Jambi, I decide to visit the health clinic. On the way, my driver, Zulfan, explains how the smoke has disrupted his life: "This morning, like most mornings, I wake with a headache. In my stomach I feel very strange, and my eyes, they sting." I ask him how long he thinks Jambi can go on like this. He turns to me with a pained look. "Jambi cannot handle these things. This has gone on too long. We have not seen the sun for more than a month. We are suffocating"...

How can the outside world understand what is facing the people of Jambi? No matter how heavy the air becomes, no matter how seemingly impossible the next breath, there is no escape from the smoke. Until the monsoon rains break later this year — maybe not even until next year — the lives of the young, the sick and the elderly will be at risk this way. Such is the reality of life at the center of one of the world's most senseless man-made catastrophes.

Asiaweek, 10 October 1997, "The Bad Boy is back" by Robin Ajello

El Nino is a convenient fall guy. Whenever the infamous weather pattern appears, sensible folk start cursing it for everything that goes awry.

Consider the Indonesian disaster-coordination official who blames the phenomenon for the forest fires that are consuming vast hectareage of tropical rain forest and choking people in five countries. "It's a natural disaster that no one could have prevented," says Azwar Anas, who neglects to mention that most of the fires are man-made.

ABC News, 11 October 1997

Forestry Minister Jamaluddin Suryohadikusomo was quoted in the local media as saying the government had NOT been able to enforce logging regulations. He said concession-holders often logged outside of their designated areas and violated other regulations due to a lack of supervision.

He said 90% of the raw materials used in Indonesia's timber industry, now the second largest source of foreign exchange after oil and gas, came from virgin forests.



Banded leaf monkey

Australian Financial Review, Monday, October 13, 1997, "Palm Oil Nepotism adds fuel to disaster"

In this case, is not only a problem of extinguishing the fire. It is a matter of halting the alarming rate of tropical deforestation in Indonesia.

In this case, nobody has more power than Soeharto himself. Yet the President, two of his brothers, five of his children and one grand-child are the most reluctant to make the necessary sacrifices, due to their logging operations, oil palm plantations, a mega- project to convert 200,000 hectares [495,000 acres] of peat swamps in Central Kalimantan into rice fields for transmigrants from overcrowded Java, coal mines, pulp and paper production, as well as palm oil marketing...

Oil palm illustrates the power of Indonesia's First Family, since three generations of the Soeharto family are involved in this lucrative business.

ABC News, 14 October 1997

The number of forest fires in Indonesia is increasing, with reports of more fires being deliberately lit. The AFP News agency says some plantation owners appear to be ignoring the government's repeated warnings against starting fires...Antara says satellite photos showed 62 fires detected since Sunday, in Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan [Indonesian Borneo] and Sulawesi.

CNN News, 24 October 1997

The orangutan — the shaggy, reddish-brown ape found in the jungles of Borneo and Sumatra — is running for its life.

The brush fires and thick smoke sweeping through the islands, and the drought caused by El Nino weather phenomenon, threaten to shrink the animals' already small habitat. It is one of the tragedies of the ecological disaster Asia has experienced for months. Orangutans aren't the only animals affected by the disaster. Reports of maulings by rare Sumatran tigers and wild elephant stampedes show animals fleeing their normal jungle range. But the plight of the orangutan is particularly poignant since the animal is a protected species. "It's dry," says Satrio, a caretaker in Indonesia's East Kalimantan province in Borneo. "The wild orangutans come out of the forest to escape the fires. They go to villages to find food and water. That's when they're hunted."

East Kalimantan is the site of a rehabilitation center [Wanariset] in which orangutans raised as pets are reacclimated before being set free in the protected Sungai Wain forest...

Reuters, 26 October 1997

US Air Force planes surveyed fires on the main Indonesian island of Java Sunday to assess where they could best be used to help control the blazes, a US Embassy official said. . .

The aircraft, due to stay in Indonesia for up to 60 days, would be used to combat fires in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Java. Satellite data from the coordinating post of the Environmental Impact Management Agency showed hotspots, thought to be fires, concentrated in the provinces of East and Central Kalimantan as well as South Sumatra, Jambi and Riau.

Associated Press, Jakarta, 26 October 1997

More than a hundred orangutan are believed to have been abused or killed by locals in the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan since forest fires have consumed their natural habitats, a report said Sunday.

Dr. Willie Smits, an expert from the Forestry Ministry, said 120 orangutan had been abused and killed by local residents in the past four months, some out of fear and others for commercial purposes, Suara Pembaruan reported.

"I have to check on the 120 number as I myself have yet to receive a report," Heru Basuki Sukiran, the head of the province's forestry department, told the afternoon daily.

Smits could not confirm how many of the 120 had been killed but said the trend was on the rise as the animals continued to flee their habitats that have been inundated by smoke coming from nearby forest fires.

He described the situation as "very sad" and appealed to locals not to tease or attack the animals, whom he called "harmless."

Orangutan, especially babies, can bring up to 350,000 rupiah (100 dollars) in the East Kalimantan capital of Samarinda and in neighboring large cities.

A VOICE FROM INDONESIA

A biologist working in Sumatra told IPPL:

Very difficult to work in the forest now. This continual smoke inhalation makes walking very tiring, also primates and other animals are now very clearly being affected.

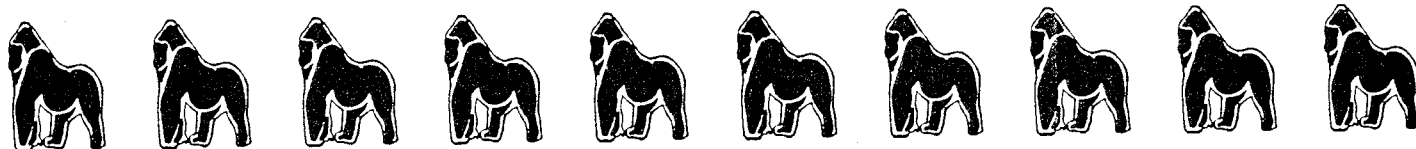
Siamang and ungko [agile gibbons] have virtually ceased long calls, hornbills also uncharacteristically silent and, judging by the scrape marks and calls heard over the past ten days, the smoke is also causing stress and tension among tigers.

Is this situation making news in America?

SATELLITE PHOTOS OF FIRES ON WEB

To see excellent satellite photos of "Indonesia Burning," check the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website:

<http://www.goes.noaa.gov/special.html>



IPPL COMMENTS ON FIRES

The ongoing damage to the forests and wildlife of Indonesia is a tragedy that leaves ordinary people feeling helpless. There are so many fires and many are in inaccessible areas where water and fire-fighting supplies are non-existent or in short supply. Fortunately fire-fighting professionals from around the world including the United States, Australia and Malaysia, have converged on Indonesia. Sadly, they can't be everywhere at one time and there are dozens of fires on several islands.

Further, the problems result from the actions of short-sighted, tyrannical, and often corrupt governments, greed-motivated corporations, and the policies of international institutions like the World Bank.

IPPL has sent funds to help with veterinary care of rescued wildlife at the Tanjung Puting National Park. But we know it's just a drop in the bucket. At least it provides some relief to some suffering animals.

The deforestation of Indonesia would not be happening but for world demand for tropical wood and palm oil products. Palm oil is widely used for cooking and preparation of soap, despite palm oil being a heavily saturated fat. For these reasons you should check labels on food you purchase and avoid any containing "tropical oils."

Wood from Indonesian and other tropical forests is used to produce expensive furniture and items such as music-stands. When you buy any wood products, try to check the origin of the wood. Avoid rosewood, teak and mahogany. Various groups are working on wood certification standards. As soon as we learn of an effective one, we will let you know.

Also look carefully at paper products. Even notebooks are often made of paper from Indonesian and other tropical forests. Check the country of origin of paper products whenever you can and use recycled paper.

Sadly, the forests of Amazonia are also burning and the African forests are being rapidly destroyed, leaving the future bleak for forest peoples and animals.

MONKEY SENIOR CITIZENS

RETIREMENT OR PAIN — ONE MAN'S CHOICE

Jorg Eichberg is a US primate experimenter who moved to the Netherlands to head the Biomedical Primate Research Center in Rijswijk. The center houses a large colony which includes around 120 chimpanzees, 1000 rhesus, 120 long-tailed macaques, 150 cottontop tamarins, 100 common marmosets, 50 owl monkeys and 30 squirrel monkeys.

Recently IPPL received a tip-off that a group of "senior citizen" rhesus were going to be shipped to the United States where they would be used in invasive Parkinson's disease experimentation at the University of Chicago.

On 14 September 1997 IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal contacted Eichberg, saying:

IPPL has recently received a message from a person very concerned that BPRC is apparently planning to send a group of senior research monkeys to the United States for continued, possibly harmful, experimentation at a midwest facility. Can you please clarify whether this is correct and whether there will be any exchange of money involved in this transaction?

Why would the BPRC want to send veteran research monkeys to be further experimented on when they deserve retirement and some decent living before they leave this earth? Surely there are more things more important than money.

If indeed these plans exist as reported, IPPL urgently requests that they be reconsidered.

Eichberg responded with a phone-call and a faxed message dated 2 October 1997 which stated:

In response to your fax of September 14, I am providing you the reasons for BPRC to sell 15 monkeys to

a well respected laboratory in the U.S. The animals are about 22 years old and excellent models for Parkinson's research, which they will be used for.

Please be aware that we are primarily a research institute, but that one of our functions is also to provide animals to other institutions (if available). In addition, we are striving for optimal use of animals, thereby decreasing the total number needed.

Unfortunately for the monkeys, Eichberg and his colleague Tom Kos, head of the BPRC Animal Science Department, decided that they should be sent to the US. On 24 October, IPPL learned that, "The BPRC sent the 15 very old monkeys to Charles River [a primate quarantine station] in Houston."

There is a lot of talk about chimpanzee retirement. Nobody talks much about monkeys, except IPPL. IPPL believes that veteran research monkeys also deserve a break after enduring lives of human-inflicted suffering.

We are disappointed that Eichberg chose to send these research veterans to suffer invasive research and probably die.

Protest letters may be addressed to:

**Dr. J. M. M. Ritzen, Minister of Education,
Culture and Science
PO Box 2500
2700 LZ Zoetermeer, Netherlands**

Please send a joint letter to Drs. Jorg Eichberg and Tom Kos at:

**Biomedical Primate Research Center
Lange Kleiweg 151, POB 3306
2288 GH Rijswijk, Netherlands**

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Overseas payments should be made in US dollars or by a check drawn on a U.S. bank. Canadian and Japanese members may use U.S. dollar postal orders available at Post Offices.

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