

LIBRARY COPY

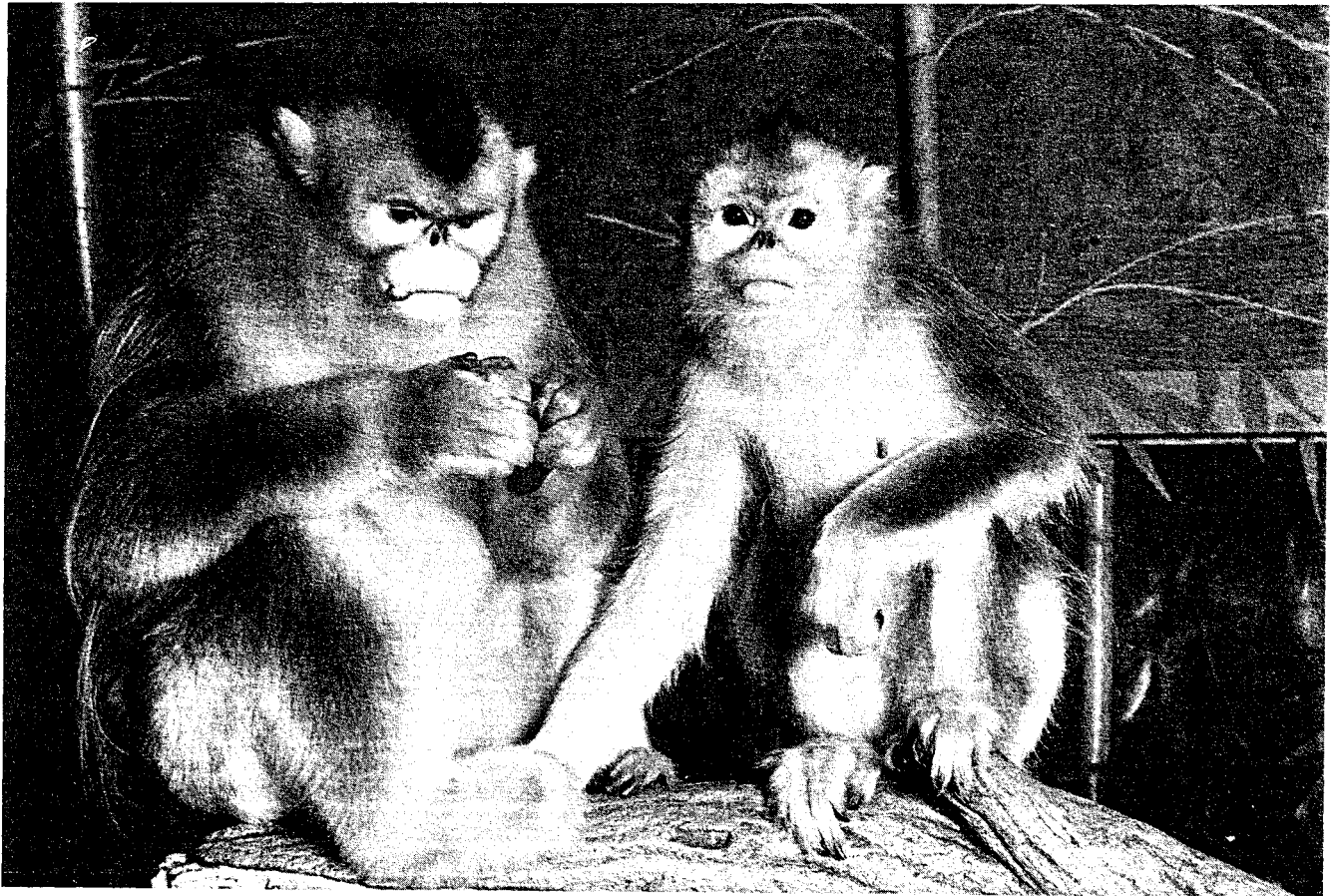
NEWSLETTER



INTERNATIONAL
PRIMATE
PROTECTION
LEAGUE

Vol. 15, No. 1

April 1988



Golden monkeys *rhinopithecus roxellanae*. ©Tom Cajacob: Minnesota Zoo

**INSIDE: LETTERS FROM DIAN FOSSEY
FOSSEY ESTATE TRIAL**

DIAN FOSSEY'S LETTERS TO IPPL – PART I

During the night of 26-27 December 1985, Dian Fossey, who had studied the Mountain gorillas of Rwanda over an 18-year period, was brutally murdered in her cabin in the mountains of Rwanda. It now appears likely that the truth about her death will never be known. A biography of Dian Fossey was published in 1987 ("Woman in the Mists," by Farley Mowat, published by Warner Books) and a movie is being made about her life, starring Sigourney Weaver. The film is expected to be released later this year.

Dian was a long-time friend of the International Primate Protection League. In 1977, she initiated a correspondence with our organization which lasted the rest of her life. Most of the letters were written to Shirley McGreal. We have decided to share extracts from these beautifully written and touching letters with you, our members.

Karisoke, December 19, 1977

I have now just today received my copy of the International Primate Protection League Newsletter. That is a big title for a little magazine, but I find your small gazette far more worthy of actual conservation information than many other magazines containing glossy pictures, etc.

• • • *This is a brief letter – have only just returned to camp from a lot of medical/surgery things abroad. I get involved with my protection of the mountain gorillas when I read articles of real worth such as your magazine, albeit small, presents. You have the facts to present. This is something I've never encountered before in writing though I've only spent the past eleven years of my life doing same, but in the field. Apologize for typing mistakes – have been out all day cutting traps to find Group 5 and I am tired.*

Just 12 days later, on 31 December 1977, a tragic event took place that was to change the course of Dian's life. Digit, the gorilla most dear to Dian, was killed by poachers "for the sole purpose of his head and hands" while protecting the rest of his family group from poachers. The group was led by the silverback male, Uncle Bert. Anti-poaching work became more and more of a priority for Dian.

Karisoke, March 3, 1978

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 12th which I received today at camp. I can't answer it in too much detail because I am terribly involved in matters concerning the killing, by poachers, of one of my study animals, my most beloved animal Digit; secondly, there is the work to keep up in the field.

• • • *Actually, there is much going on that I have no way of learning about since I spend my time on the mountain; sometimes I get outside news, most of the time, none. At the moment I am only concerned about Digit's killing; then, last week, I got the news that another baby mountain gorilla has been taken into Zaire Park headquarters from Mt. Visoke – the northern side far from camp. We are now in the process of checking out the group, or groups, from which it might have come. These would be fringe groups which we take counts of yearly only because they are so far away. For the next two weeks, that will be my main endeavor – trying to sort out truth from rumor. In closing, I wish you all the best in your own work.*

Karisoke, May 19, 1978

Now, Tiger, who will be the next dominant male of Group 4, and another male, Beetsme, are taking over Digit's role as group protectors. I think it is fairly well explained in the enclosed article. Yes, I would very much like a lead story on Digit whenever convenient for your newsletter. Photos of Digit, both alive and dead,

may be obtained from Mr. Al Royce; Illustrations Editor; National Geographic Magazine; Washington, D.C. The most graphic, and rather horrid ones of Digit in death, are poses of his body sitting upright sans head or hands. I can't look at them myself; they are in the same pose as the Rwandese poster which says, "Come and Meet Me in Rwanda."

• • • *You asked about "getting the animals to trust people since there are so many vile people." You asked for a direct quote on this. I can tell you that I have never habituated my gorillas to Africans for the simple reason that that split second it might take a gorilla to recognize an African as a friend or foe could be the second costing his life. My Africans totally understand why their black faces cannot be accepted by the gorillas, so, in fact, does the President of Rwanda. Gorillas only know black faces as poachers; my African staff and high governmental officials also comprehend the facts that exist – black faces mean danger; white faces, after 11 years of habituation, mean safety. I have been criticized on this point in public by _____ and _____ [names omitted] who insist, without having any of the poacher problems I have here, that I should introduce Africans to the gorillas; I've answered them both publicly in stating that I will not be responsible for habituating gorillas to Africans until every last poacher is driven from the park – probably outside of my lifetime. In the meanwhile, I continue to train Africans in botanical and parasitology studies within the Parc des Volcans and constant patrol work. Many of these men see the gorillas at long range, without the gorillas being aware they are on the scene. In this way the Africans are happy about maintaining their distance from the animals, and also are supporting their own work interests without jeopardizing either their own interests or those of the gorillas.*

• • • *You would be interested to know that Group 4 had a new baby, via mother 'Simba' on April 6th, and I believe this is Digit's one and only offspring. Uncle Bert has never shown any sexual interest in her, and I saw her intensely mating with Digit around July 5th of last year. The infant was named Mwelu, which, in Swahili means a touch of brightness and light; this was the name given to an American girl, Debi Hamburger, who was ready to come here for her Ph.D. work before she died of cancer after a valiant fight against the odds of her disease. By fortunate chance her parents came here to leave me her ashes to scatter over the working area, via plane, the day before Mwelu was born. We only heard but didn't see the baby the day after they arrived.*

Thank you again for both of your letters. It is good to know that people in the outside world care about this place and my work with the gorillas. Possibly the day after day rain and fog which now totally envelop the camp and work do influence one's moods; after Digit's death, as well as the death of a baby gorilla from Zaire, it makes one wonder why they should go on fighting.



Tuck, female Mountain gorilla. ©Evelyn Gallardo

Karisoke, July 19, 1978

Am pleased you liked the article about Digit and that you will use it. It doesn't matter to me if you use, or don't use, the names of the men who caught the poacher, or the poachers' names, though I believe that MUNYARUKIKO's name should definitely be used as he is the legding poacher within the Virungas, and the leader of the pack that killed Digit and a number of other gorillas. None of my men, who helped to capture KANYARAGANO are here at the time as they work in 20 day shifts and are off the mountain for another 15 days.

You mentioned that you'd written to Al Royce for pictures – am sure he will provide them; he did send me a number of black and whites, but of only 2 photos. He did not send any of Digit decapitated; it is not a pleasant picture to look at, however it tells more than any text especially when compared with Digit alive. I would like that picture used providing you have the space.

No, I can't say I've seen many decent facilities in zoos for gorillas, though I know of some who are trying; Seattle is really trying under the direction of one David Hancock (I think that is his name). He is a young English Zoo Director who has been fighting politics and financial problems in order to build a proper gorilla facility with "indoor planting", replaceable when needed. He is an exceptional person of great integrity.

Yes, the poacher we caught is still in jail as are 2 others, but they have not gone to the tribunal yet; the tribunal court hearing is a necessary step toward the legal penalty infliction of prison terms. 3 of the biggest poachers involved in Digit's slaying – the

3 responsible for nearly all gorilla, elephant, buffalo and antelope killings within the park – have now returned to their village not far from the mountains. One of them, of course, is MUNYARUKIKO, and last May I took "the law into my own hands" to punish him and was fined \$600. I consider the fine fair as compared with expulsion from the country. Unfortunately, I don't think my previous actions against this man would be tolerated a second time. I can only continue to pressure the local authorities to deal with him, but they seem afraid to do so as he is the main provider of ivory and meat for many of the "important" Africans, all of whom appear to be afraid of one another. After we captured KANYARAGANO, MUNYARUKIKO and the other 2 fled into Zaire but returned to their homes 7 weeks ago when they felt "the heat was off." They are again working within the park, some 4 hours from camp, for buffalo and antelope; no elephants are left in this area. A very misleading article from the AP [Associated Press] claimed that all of Digit's killers had been imprisoned by a Rwanda court – this is a direct quote from clippings friends have sent me.

• • • As to date, some £6,000 have been collected from the U.K. only from articles I wrote about Digit; this camp has received exactly £500 out of the lot, all of which we are using on patrols and additional census work. I also want more surveillance done on the so-called "guard huts" built around the perimeter of the park; 5 have been covered, out of 12, within the last 2 weeks and none were found staffed, 3 had been vandalized, 2 were in good shape, but not staffed. The rest will be checked within the next 2 weeks during a big census and patrol survey starting today. We've also completed 2 other censuses with the money and last week alone cut

32 traps. The money from England is just about finished now so I'll be using what American funds are collected to continue with patrol work and training of Rwandese. It is my aim to see that the funds are directly applied to the work rather than to such things as airfares or expensive equipment.

Karisoke, August 4, 1978

The latest news is tragic beyond belief. On July 24th Uncle Bert, the majestic silverback in his prime of Group 4, was killed by a single bullet into his heart, the estimated 16 to 17 year old female, Macho, mother of a 3 year old infant, Kweli, was shot and killed in the same poacher raid by a single bullet which went through her right arm, directly through her heart, smashing the ribs, and exited her body; her 3 year old was slightly wounded through the right trapezius, probably by the same bullet, but lives.

By tracking we found that the poachers had spent the night in the park in a distant area on Mt. Karisimbi in Rwanda before descending into the saddle area of Zaire where Group 4 had been for several days, met the Group in what was evidently a planned killing shortly after they'd arisen from their night nests, chased them from 90m roughly and first killed Macho. As trail evidence suggested, Uncle Bert was fleeing in the lead of the group just as in the case of Digit trying to lead them back to the mountain slopes leaving a terrible flee trail containing much diarrhetic dung. When Macho was shot he turned back in an abortive attempt to go to her assistance and was shot head on. He was then decapitated, and the bullet which had lodged in his body was excised by a large panga [machete-like knife] slash on the right side from the heart chamber. This was done so that the caliber couldn't be traced and also so that it would be perfectly obvious to us the manner in which he'd been killed as the small bullet hole remained perfectly intact. We have diligently searched for the cartridge which killed Macho, but they must have removed it. The student who near daily covers Group 4 arrived about 8:30 to begin what would have been his usual all-day contact, and it is felt that his approach frightened off the poachers before they could cut off Uncle Bert's hands or Macho's head; Uncle Bert's body was still warm. The next day the Commandoes, police and I raided the village of MUNYARUKIKO, one of 3 of Digit's killers still remaining free, and caught GASHABIZI, another one of Digit's killers, also probably involved in the recent murders. The following day I drove the Commandoes and police to the village of SEBAHUTU, who, along with MUNYARUKIKO, is known to possess a gun, and we caught him hidden outside his compound as he tried to flee. He was definitely one of Uncle Bert's and Macho's killers for we found a hidden jacket sodden with blood and a blood sticky spear and panga which one of his wives later tried to rehide from us. On the 28th we made another raid and caught an additional 11 poachers in various areas below the mountain, but I consider it doubtful they have anything to do with the recent killings.

With no silverback leader, the fate of Group 4 is virtually nil as they have only 10½ year old Tiger and an older female who've been trying to lead and protect them. They've rejected the attempts of another group to try and split them up and yesterday were fleeing from the advances of what appeared to be a lone silverback. Such interactions are bound to cause serious injuries to Group 4 members. Also feel poachers will strike again knowing they are now without a leader. The entire situation is just about too much to bear. In closing I wish to thank the League for the money sent on to the Digit Fund which will be certainly used for poacher patrols. I will be keeping in touch.

Karisoke, September 19, 1978

I am in receipt of your letters of August 18th and 28th plus the magazine on Digit. I think the latter is very well done though I find it difficult to look at the pictures or think too much about the contents of the text. It presents the story compactly and clearly.

• • • Upon hearing the news of the deaths of Uncle Bert and Macho, my good student returned from England and is rolling on

with the patrols. In one day last week he and an African cut 19 traps, newly set; the day's work cost the equivalent of \$1.50 in wages for the African. This has always been part of the work at camp but now can be extended beyond our previous efforts.

Regarding Group 4: of the initial 12 members, only 6 remain together but without a dominant, mature silverback, I feel it will only be a temporary unit. (Mwelu and her mother, Simba, remain). An older female, Flossie, and her daughter plus an unrelated young male left Group 4 to join an older silverback's well controlled group, but shortly thereafter she and her daughter left them to join a smaller group which has a stable leader. They left the young male in the older silverback's group as the young male's mother had joined in this group four years ago and it seems he will be accepted with them. The old female, Flossie, didn't get out of Group 4 soon enough as a young, immature silverback killed her 2½ month old infant as he wanted to breed with her. This particular male was kept under strict control by Uncle Bert but, of course, after the killings he created total chaos in trying to impose his "authority" on the remaining animals. For this reason I'm glad the old girl is away; hopefully she and her daughter will both have new chances to breed. So, essentially Group 4 is now split between 3 groups.

No, they still haven't caught Munyarukiko whom they claim is in Uganda though I have reason to doubt this very much. Another 2 weeks of patrol and we should have knowledge of his whereabouts. Via slow, sneaky queries, I do now know that a "big shot" from below knew about the killings the day before they occurred. I can't remember if I've written all this to you or not. The aim in these killings was to capture one of the young juveniles of the group. The youngster, Kweli, was shot through his upper shoulder but still lives and will recover, I believe. His mother, Macho, was killed coming to his defense, and Uncle Bert killed running to her defense. The youngster was supposed to have been delivered to this person in a town called Gisenyi and he was on his way to pick it up, along with 2 other men, an hour before the killings occurred. How Kweli managed to elude them is a miracle except that he fled while the poachers were dealing with Macho and Uncle Bert.

Again, I wish to thank you most sincerely for all of your help and work on behalf of the gorillas. You have done a tremendous amount of good. It's wonderful to know that people do care. It seems that if one is to do this work properly, they make a lot of enemies, but how much more satisfying it is to know that you've accomplished something worthwhile rather than go along with the bunch that wants to turn their backs on the facts.

Thank you again for everything.

Karisoke, October 16, 1978

I am enclosing the 1st report on the patrol done using 'Digit Fund' money though some support came from England. In addition to the above report, the boy, Ian Redmond, who took a spear in his wrist, is just fine and will be able to go through life showing off his poacher-spear scar to his great grandchildren with gusto. It took 5 stitches externally and a great number internally, but they didn't even keep him in the hospital overnight. The matter was taken to the Rwandan police and NKUBILI, a wonderful SUB-STITUT of Ruhengeri, who is reporting it to the Zairois indignantly for Ian was a totally innocent victim.

Ian was one of 3 who caught the poacher, Ndumvago, who knows where MUNYARUKIKO is hiding out in Zaire – this will provide an excellent chance for the Zairois and Rwandese to work together – we'll see.

Remains of Group 4 doing fine – in fact, Kwe'li played for the first time very briefly about a week ago.

• • • Received £350 from Mr. Rosen last week which was a Godsend coming when it did. As you will see from the above patrol report, the work is very effective, sans spears, but we want to involve more Rwandese. The above period was necessary in order to train an American student, Craig Sholley, who will go on to train Africans. He is well broken in by now so all systems are go. Ian is in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda, for additional medical treatment if required and also to buy various bits of inexpensive

Apr. 1988

equipment for the patrols; i.e., plastic sheeting to sew up into tubular tents or even rain clothes, cartons of corn beef and fish, tin cups, spoons, cooking pans. Ian is from Yorkshire – need I say more! Have never met anyone quite as ingenious at getting things for next to nothing leaving the 'donor' feeling as though he were in debt to Ian!

Camp is going very well with the addition of the above 2 boys; previously, and currently, had only 3 Ph.D. students uninterested in conservation activities. A balance of both types is ideal, and now we have it.

Thank you again for all of your help and interest.

Karisoke, 23 December 1978

I do have one bit of very sad news. Mwelu was killed, an infanticide victim, by Nunkie on December 6th when he took Simba into his group. This was not unexpected. Actually Simba is far better off traveling with Nunkie, who maintains a range on Visoke's slopes, rather than the saddle, just now. Hopefully she will breed again with him – he's been trying hard – and will be more secure than had she stayed with the 3 remnant males of Group 4. They also are staying on the mountain slopes rather than returning to the saddle, but, as I've previously stated, I don't see any future for them. Anticipate Beetsme going off on his own back toward the north-western facing Visoke slopes and Titus trying to stay with Tiger providing poachers don't return to them in an attempt to capture Titus. I haven't done any reports as yet because it is first necessary to catch up on correspondence, however I will send you a copy of all that went on whilst I was away once I get them summarized.

There are two bits of good news: one of Nunkie's females, a long term suspected trap injured female by the name of Pandora, has finally given birth after being with him for some 3½ years. Despite her very gross hand deformities, she is a capable mother; she certainly is an extraordinary gutsy individual. Secondly, and I think this is quite comical, Puck, long considered a blackback male of Group 5 has also given birth!!! There is nothing I like better than being proven wrong and Puck's sex is undoubtedly one of the biggest mistakes ever made thus far; am delighted about it because that's what research is all about. Puck was developing a small head crest, was lightly silvered on his/her back and had/has very large canines, especially for a female; also has never been seen being seriously mounted by the two silverbacks in the group and itself has done a great deal of play mounting of other young females. The birth occurred on December 14th, according to the students, and I'm sure they couldn't mistake his/her identity because it is such a distinctive individual. Having known this animal since the day it was born I find it very difficult to begin calling him a 'her' and would like to invent a new term such as 'herm'.

• • • I stopped by briefly to say hello to Mr. NKUBILI in Ruhengeri (The Substitut, Chef des Brigades) and received a totally open, warm, genuine welcome home. He wants to come to camp with the Park Director, apparently a friend of his, and remains as keen as ever about Park matters. Hopefully the meeting will take place as planned for I feel that we can accomplish a lot between the three of us. Mr. NKUBILI is probably one of the finest Africans I've ever met; he has gone far beyond the line of duty toward poacher control and, by the way, is keeping the killers caught of Digit, Uncle Bert and Macho in prison. One of my students wrote to me whilst I was in America that MUNYARUKIKO had been captured, but that isn't true unfortunately.

That is about all of the news for the moment until I can have a go at summarizing the reports of the field work. In nearly all ways it is good to be back – especially to see once again all of the duiker and bushbuck grazing throughout camp feeling entirely safe. Though as December 31st approaches I can't help but feel that I am stop-watching Digit's last days as of a year ago, a morbid feeling but one that persists. Also, the "holiday season" is the biggest poacher season of all, and I am inclined to anticipate the usual influx despite the fact that most of the full-time poachers are still in prison.

Don't intend to end on a drab note as I do remain deeply

gratified for all of the interest and active assistance shown in America during my stay. I am, in particular, very grateful to you and your strong sense of dedication. Thank you.

Karisoke, Feb. 8, 1979

Since my return I have not resumed my daily reports on the remaining animals of Group 4 as I wanted desperately to finish my book – have only 6 months out of 12 years left to write up, plus an N.G. article and trying to keep the camp going. Since I last wrote you, the only thing that has happened regarding Group 4's three males is that they were taken over by Peanuts, an ex-silverback of Group 8 who has been traveling alone for some time. They had nothing to lose by going with him (January 21st) and he can offer them some protection because of his age. But, Peanuts is inexperienced in interactions and might subject "his new group" to situations they can't handle resulting in woundings. Also, Peanuts has no real terrain he can call his own territory thus wanders far, far from the study area into the saddle toward Mikeno. I am using Digit Fund Money to send out bivouac Africans to keep them in check. Thus far, no poachers or new traps found in part of the saddle west of Visoke – the same area Digit and the others were killed in; lots of buffalo and elephant. If I am correct, because of my Africans' work, there are no poachers within 5km. of the study area (most are in prison because of the work of Nkubili), but it is not good to relax vigilance.

• • • I can well understand why you are busy. I actually wonder if any other single person has done so much for the cause of Primate protection than yourself? There are so many people that yak about "doing", but never act. I can only do for the gorillas, but you are doing for so many species.

• • • In the way of good news, and there isn't much of it, Mr. Nkubili and his family climbed to camp on Feb. 4th totally unexpected and simply to say hello. Wow, I can't tell you what his visit meant to me . . . This man is the Chef des Brigades/Substitut of Ruhengeri – the last word in legal authority for the entire prefecture of Ruhengeri. He alone is responsible for the imprisonment stay of 5 to 8 years for every poacher I've caught concerning the slayings of Digit and Uncle Bert, Macho, Kweli. As I told you in my letter of Dec. 23rd, I've never met an African, except for my own camp staff, like him. He is absolutely sincere, honest and integral. To bring up his wife and children on a horrid rainy day just to say hello speaks a lot for him as most Africans are really afraid of the forest; furthermore one cannot obtain petrol here anymore and the drive from Ruhengeri, 45 minutes, must have cost him something. He remains very intent upon the capture of MUNYARUKIKO, but states that he doesn't know where to find him.

• • • I am doing the patrols with trusted Africans without the knowledge of anyone – Europeans – here. Out of context, but important, 2 men returned tonight in a terrible hail storm having spent 4 days in the saddle between my camp and Mt. Mikeno – 5 miles in length, but they worked at varying altitudes. They only found 2 old, rotten traps and no footprints of poachers. They said there were no antelope to be seen or heard or tracked, no elephant but lots of buffalo. They claimed, and I quite agreed with them, that all of the duiker and bush-buck have been poached out in this tremendous saddle area. Actually, most of the antelope are living in camp in herds for they know it is safe here. Part of the work of this team was to follow Group 4 and Peanuts. They reported – this is really fresh news of only an hour – that Peanuts met a group of 9 nest builders plus 1 new baby from Mt. Mikeno (near Kabara in Zaire). I think this is my old Group 1 from the description, and Peanuts chased the group all the way back to Mikeno thus they didn't have an interaction. Peanuts needs females, or at least one, but he is not very clever at going about obtaining them. There remains the distinct possibility that Peanuts and the 3 males of Group 4 will stay in that area and try to make a home range somewhere between Visoke and Mikeno – all in Zaire and near the area Digit, U.B. and Macho were killed but further west. At any rate, I must let these men rest up for at least 10 days before I send them out again.

Apr. 1988

• • • I will just keep on with my undercover work, all quite legal (my men are not armed); also I have two men working down below the villages, especially the bars, trying to seek out information concerning the whereabouts of MUNYARUKIKO and any news concerning poachers. They are due to report to me on Sunday after 12 days below. If they have information of value, it goes to Mr. Nkubili.

• • • I have received a fine letter last week from the Conservator of the Parc des Virungas in Zaire. He is anxious to visit camp to "speak about mutual cooperation for conservation between Rwanda and Zaire". This has long been a prerequisite of mine, but they keep changing conservators in Zaire so often that I barely get to know one before another one has his job. At any rate I've written to him urging him to come here.

• • • The two mountain gorillas from Karisimbi, captured for the Cologne Zoo, died in April and June of '78 (2 entire groups of gorillas were killed to obtain these juveniles, Coco and Pucker). The Cologne Zoo is not releasing any information about their deaths but I have an autopsy report from a contact there. The Germans have been hoping to replace them once again from the Virungas. I didn't hear this news until just before I left the States. I received the detailed autopsy reports just last week from Germany. The attempted capture of Kweli could well be tied in with this, but I have no proof of it as yet.

Karisoke, March 1, 1979

Regretfully, Ian Redmond is currently in England – he had to go home for Christmas – thus patrol work is substantially reduced. None of the current students here are willing to function in that manner. I am worried about Ian's hand – his mom wrote to me the other day and expressed the same concern. I truly had thought it would be okay upon my return but found that he hadn't done any of the proper exercises and hadn't been worried about them, thinking his hand would automatically get better. For sure, he should have surgery (muscle transplants) on that hand before returning.

Mr. Nkubili has subjected all of the poachers thus far caught for 8 to 10 years of imprisonment via the tribunal. He is an extraordinary African and a real friend. Unexpectedly he came, along with part of his family, to visit camp several weekends ago. My woodman caught sight of black faces climbing up the trail and began yelling "Bawindagi" (poachers). I grabbed two guns and chased after the woodman and the houseman shooting up in the air! Mr. Nkubili laughed it off while trying to protect his children and wife against the crazy Bazungu (European/white skinned). We had a wonderful 4 hour visit after that. I truly don't know of any other African so

hard working, so honest, so just. Were it not for him, some 24 poachers would still be working in the forest.

• • • Because of the current students' reluctance to attempt poacher patrols I am using one of my Africans, one I can trust, to do some undercover work in the villages below. His salary is paid by the Digit Fund. He has worked here for the past 5 years, but Ian fired him for cutting live trees for firewood for camp – that is a real no-no as far as I am concerned. I concurred with him being fired as a woodman, but he returned to beg for any kind of work. He looks like a member of the Mafia. I play-acted hitting him and telling him he could not work here – we used catsup on his "wounds" in front of several of the Africans working for the French t.v. They believed it all and added to the rumors of Fossey beating up Africans. The students also believe it. The man has been able to glean the name of the man who is now guarding Sebahutu's gun – the gun that killed Uncle Bert, Macho and, eventually, Kweli, in a bar "discussion." The man is not very addicted to pombe [a local alcoholic beverage] and has been given enough francs to buy pombe for others in the local bars of the main poacher village. The information he gathers is sent on to Nkubili to issue convocations of any found out poaching or in league with poachers.

• • • Must close for now as I am much behind in paper work. There is no more essence [gasoline] or kerosene in Rwanda – probably for about 6 months at least, thus this letter might be delayed in getting to you. I have stored up a good supply of essence so that I can help out the Embassy. Kerosene I don't have a supply of and that hurts night working on the typewriter. A rebellion is expected within Rwanda soon because the supply of Primus (local beer) is finished nearly and the country is surrounded by rebelling countries – Zaire, Tanzania and Uganda. I am not particularly worried about all this talk, but I am slowly trying to clear out camp just in case there is need for evacuation.

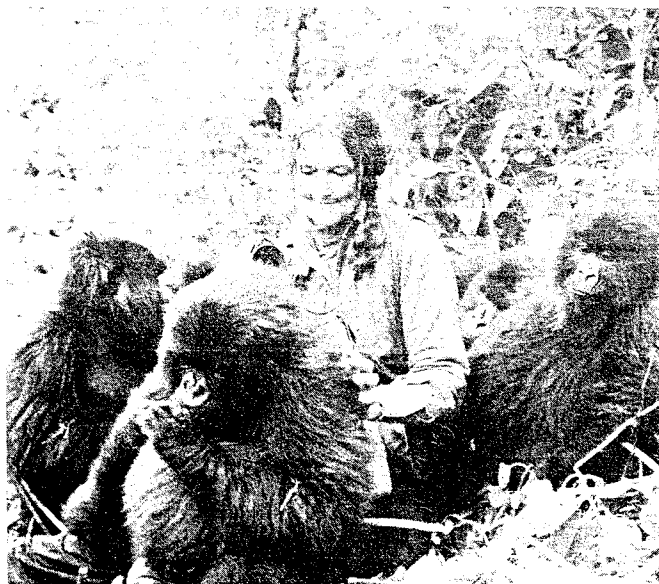
Thank you again for all of your support and your great courage. I do so wish the world was filled with Shirley McGreals.

Karisoke, March 18, 1979

I am enclosing the 6th report on the remnants of Group 4 following the killings; the 3rd report on activities related to the Digit Fund and the 4th report on the Digit Fund Budget as it now stands.

As you will note in the summary of the 6th report, 3.6 year old 'Lee' of Nunkie's Group was caught in a trap on March 3rd; he is still wearing the wire around his foot which is becoming badly infected and swollen. He will either lose the foot or his life if the wire isn't removed – something I am trying to get help for at the moment. I honestly feel this wouldn't have happened had there been a student at camp, like Ian Redmond, to cut traps on a regular basis, or had we not had all of the new restrictions from the Park Dept. concerning patrol work. At any rate, as the 3rd report states, I've hired trusted Africans that have worked for me in the past and have them on patrols 3 days a week. I want to expand their work to other areas where gorillas range, but for the time being they have plenty of cleaning up to do in the saddle south and west of Visoke, even on Visoke's distant slopes: yesterday 9 new ones cut on the northern slopes where 2 groups consistently range; today 13 new traps cut in the southern saddle where Nunkie's group often goes, and a duiker released unharmed. I am pleased with the men's work, but hardly pleased with the increase of trapping since Ian left. The southern saddle area was checked several weeks ago and found absolutely clean, but today's traps had only been set yesterday though they'd already caught two duiker. I am paying these 5 Africans more than I had planned because they are not working under European supervision, not a drawback in their case as they'd already been trained. We are handicapped by not being able to capture poachers (that will be done under the program being set up with ORTPN) [Rwanda's Department of Tourism and National Parks] but I am content simply to have working patrols to keep the traps cut – too late though for Lee.

The juvenile is very much on my mind just now. I feel there remain about 10 more days before he reaches a crucial stage. If the darting is done, it will undoubtedly involve shooting Nunkie as well as he will charge to protect Lee. I feel – don't know for certain –



Dian Fossey with Gorilla Group.
Peter Veit ©National Geographic Society

Apr. 1988

that the rest of the group will flee, but they will need to be covered, most likely by people, so they won't flee too far. It poses so many problems and I can't come up with all of the answers. Hopefully, next time I write to you things won't seem so grim. I hope your own work is going well.

Karisoke, April 23, 1979

Enclosed are the 7th Report following the killings; the 4th report on activities related to the Digit Fund; the 5th expenditure listings. Animal-wise, the main events were the departure of Peanuts from Group 4 to go onto his own patrol and collect 2 more individuals before being reunited with Group 4 raising its total to 6 animals. One of the new individuals, a juvenile, has only a stump for a right foot – has been named Ahab. The group from which the 2 came has been known to range on the north-western Visoke slopes and into the saddle toward Mikenso. This is where we've been cutting so many traps and it seems entirely likely the juvenile some time ago lost its foot in a trap and did recover. Lee, the new trap victim of Nunkie's group, still remains the same – is feeding and able to keep up with the group, but the foot is certainly not healing. The man whose opinion I sought concerning darting to remove the wire reckoned the risk of having to dart Nunkie as well was too great (furthermore there were no medicines in Rwanda) so the idea was dropped. I do respect his opinion so no action is planned for now.

Patrol-wise, the Africans have been working very well having demolished 233 traps giving an over-all total of 354 in 28 days. This past week their 3 days of work only found 9 which disappointed them terribly but thrilled me.

• • • I have permits to export skeletons of some 13 gorillas, long, long since dead, for the Smithsonian. I was once accused of having paid Africans so much money to bring skeletons to me and was so angry that I buried all of the boxed ones which were ready for shipment. Now I have the joy of digging them up again and re-wrapping them all before the permit expires though still don't have permission to export them from Rwanda. They don't include any of Group 4 victims. I feel those should stay here where they belong; not a very scientific attitude, but none the less how I feel about them being together.

Heard from Ian Redmond the other day. His wrist injury is far worse than originally thought in that his median and ulnar nerves were severed and he will soon start on operations in England by the top neurosurgeon of that country. He, as always, is very cheerful and uncomplaining about it all, saying "keep your fingers crossed!" I shall be anxious to know how all turns out.

Karisoke, June 4, 1979

One of the animals Peanuts took is apparently a female – 99½% sure of that, but don't yet know about the younger one, Ahab, who has lost his right foot some time ago. Lee, the juvenile caught in a trap on March 3rd, died on May 9th from anemia, pneumonia and other complications of the wound. I was in Kigali when she was taken from the group and only returned in time to get a detailed autopsy done here on the 12th. I was only grateful she (not a male as always thought) didn't have to suffer anymore – 60 days is a long time. The patrols are continuing well but the Africans are disappointed – not as many traps to cut.

• • • I met the new conservator, USENGIMANA, Camille on two occasions last month as he brought up high-ranking French officials in Rwanda for Franco-African meetings. He is an improvement, in some ways, over the previous one, BANZUBAZE (now no more!), but much too soon to judge him. I'd gone out to Group 5 with a student, looked downhill just after we'd made our contact, and some 120' below was a crowd of 6 French, 3 big-wig Africans and 3 porters staring back at us with cameras and binoculars. It was a case of people watching the people watching the gorillas watching the people . . . and on. Naturally the group was disturbed, and I was foaming at the mouth as the people began climbing up yakking away and intent on ciné. To pacify them I went down, moved them off and gave them an hour's lecture on gorillas, but the day was ruined because of their disturbance.

Everything going well at present – the weather is so horrid that I think even poachers must be discouraged. Dry season should begin for real in July which will mean more poachers and more tourists to worry about but will cross that bridge when we get to it. Hope all is going well with your work.

Karisoke, July 5, 1979

Am enclosing the 9th Report on the progress of the Group 4 remnants and the 6th Report on patrol work.

All of the animals are well; the most outstanding event being the birth of an infant to Petula, mother of Lee, on June 27th.

Patrols working very well though they must go much further each week to find anything. The majority of their efforts are in the high alpine meadows of Mt. Karisimbi (non-gorilla terrain) as treks elsewhere now find nothing. Still, if the poachers are within the park, no matter where, they need to be stopped. I'm very much dreading July 24th, [a holiday period] though Nunkie's Group and Group 4 are not using the saddle – probably because of the continuing inclement weather.

Karisoke, August 19, 1979

Am enclosing the latest reports on Group 4 remnants, patrols and budget. Am particularly grateful for the patrol work now because of recent presence of poachers and traps within Group 5's range. The reason for traps within 5's bamboo zone is that it is adjacent to the shambas and Group 5 hasn't been there for months so the poachers had it to themselves. We finished cleaning it out this week with the poachers themselves cutting those that remained to collect them before the patrol did. On July 27th the patrol brought me a baby bushbuck they'd found caught in a rope trap. It is still living though yesterday it seemed weaker. Its back hind leg is broken, but it didn't tolerate a tight splint so I removed it and have simply bandaged it though that doesn't seem an ultimate solution. For the time being I am well content simply to have it feed well, which it does, and to try and build up its strength. Its mother was apparently killed in the same trap prior to the baby's capture, and he came here very malnourished but is beginning to fill out on vegetation and a medicated milk mixture. Oh, he is absolutely beautiful with huge round orbs, a "bambi" type white tail tuft and speckled over his back. He hasn't shown much sign of taming down yet though I spend at least 10 minutes of every hour, when not out in the field, with him. I do so hope he makes it.

• • • All goes well with the gorillas except for tourists, and they are a real problem. I have already written in my book that I fully anticipate an "accident" as the Park Director and the Conservator refuse to curb the number or send them elsewhere. Up to 35 people a day harass Group 5 throughout the day accompanied by armed park guides whose guns are trained on Icarus, the younger silverback, who now charges constantly. The group is going bonkers and their ranging and social behaviour is totally artificial. It's for certain they cannot endure much more of this.

• • • Many thanks for your letter of August 10th and your questions. I'm enclosing the latest Digit Fund activity report, No. 8, and the budget report, No. 9. As you'll see, the patrol continues to function ever so well – I'm proud of them. Sad news was that the baby bushbuck died just when I had visions of it frolicking around camp then eventually going its own way. I didn't accept its death very well I'm afraid, most likely because I don't understand why it died – have yet to receive a report from the vet and will probably have to go down for it.

In the way of GOOD news – MUNYARUKIKO died on Sept. 3rd. Surely that will make your day! It sure made mine when I heard about it. I may have more to tell you about it someday.

• • • Shirley, health-wise, I need to get away. Nothing terribly serious I'm sure, but my body simply isn't able to take too much more for awhile. My left hip is quite troublesome allowing me to go into the field only with several Darvon – a bad habit. This has been going on since April 15th when I slipped on some rocks and landed a bit roughly. Other things are wrong too, probably a lot to do with old age and diet, but a break would be tremendously

Apr. 1988

welcomed. A hip surgery though would tie me down for too long, especially now that the patrols are working so well; I don't know if my men would work for anyone else quite as honestly or as eagerly. I can't tell you what their loyalty means to me and how rewarding I find their efforts. I must close as the porters are here.

Karisoke, January 24, 1980

Many thanks for your letter of October 31st. I'm sorry not to have replied before now. Things as usual seem hectic especially since the addition of an infant gorilla to the household. She arrived on January 1st and is proving to be quite a handful, into everything and in need of constant attention. All that I know about her thus

far is written in the enclosed report on "Charley" (not an ideal name and will probably be changed). If I find out anymore will let you know.

To add to the confusion are the addition of 3 new students, though I don't know what I'd do without the help of one - a wonderful boy who is helpful with the care of the baby; can't say much for the others. They will take over camp, along with one already here for 10 months, as I will go to Cornell beginning March 15th. It couldn't have come at a worse time (the gorilla that is) in view of all of the paper work and packing that needs to be done. [Eventually, this gorilla was released into a wild group, where she did well for several months until she died of pneumonia.]

On 3 March 1980, Dian left Karisoke Research Center to take up a Visiting Professorship at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and finish writing her book "Gorillas in the Mist." She returned to camp for a brief visit in July 1980 and permanently on 5 December 1983.

Part 2 of this collection of unpublished Dian Fossey letters will appear in the next IPPL Newsletter.

SENSEN TO BE PROSECUTED

The March and June 1987 issues of the IPPL Newsletter told how West German animal trafficker Walter Sensen had arranged for the smuggling of 3 gorillas from the Cameroun in January 1987. The gorillas were consigned to Taipei Zoo, Taiwan. Two of the three baby gorillas died on the flight from Douala, Cameroun, to Kinshasa, Zaire.

In mid-1987, IPPL members received a special Action Alert asking them to send postcards to West German authorities asking that Sensen be prosecuted. We have learned that over 2,000 post-

cards were received. We are delighted to report that West German authorities have now indicted Sensen on two counts related to the gorilla shipment. In addition, IPPL's new West German representatives, Gunther and Brigitte Peter, are prosecuting Sensen, as is TRAFFIC, West Germany, which is part of the World Wildlife Fund.

Thanks to everyone who mailed in postcards. As you can see, protests can work!

"REFORMED" JAPANESE ANIMAL DEALER OFFERS ENDANGERED PRIMATES FOR SALE

In January 1987, three baby gorillas were shipped from the Cameroun to Taiwan. Only one gorilla arrived alive.

IPPL's exposure of the illegal shipment caused a storm of international protest. The Japanese dealer involved, Michinori Kohno, President of the Keihin Choju animal trading firm, claimed that he had been innocently involved in the shipment, having been "deceived and fairly taken in" by the German dealer Walter Sensen. Kohno vowed he would stop trafficking in wild-caught gorillas.

Before applauding Mr. Kohno's good resolution, we decided to test it as did not want to be "deceived and fairly taken in" by Mr. Kohno!

A conservation-minded zoo official wrote Mr. Kohno asking

about the availability of apes, and was offered the following list:

- "gorilla (African origin)"
- "chimpanzee (African origin)"
- "orangutan (Bornean and Sumatran origin)"
- "Gibbons (Southeast Asian origin)"

Mr. Kohno stated that the animals would be "of course, accompanied with the CITES export permit," and would have been born at Japanese or European zoos. However, few of the listed species breed well in captivity, and few of the captive-bred animals would ever fall into dealers' hands.

So, we're not 100% sure that Mr. Kohno has "reformed" his ways!

YOUNG UGANDANS WANT PEN-PALS

IPPL has a list of 100 young Ugandans between the ages of 12-22 who wish to correspond with others interested in animals. Please contact IPPL at P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, if you are interested, and we'll match you with a pen-pal.

DIAN FOSSEY'S PARENTS GET HER MONEY: GORILLAS GET NOTHING

On 1 November 1984, Dian Fossey signed a will leaving most of her estate to the Digit Fund, a group she founded for the purpose of protection and study of the Mountain gorillas of the Virunga Volcanos, with smaller bequests to some close personal friends. She left nothing to her mother and step-father.

However, if Dian's mother and step-father could get the will ruled invalid, they would get everything she owned, because the law distributes the estates of people dying without valid wills according to set rules. Since Dian had no husband, children, or siblings, her mother, as her closest living blood relative, would get her entire estate.

Therefore, Hazel Fossey Price filed a lawsuit in Ithaca, New York, requesting that her daughter's estate go to her. The Digit Fund in turn filed a suit requesting that Dr. Fossey's estate be distributed according to the provisions of the December 1984 will.

However, there was a problem with the will. Although a signed will existed, no will that was both **signed and witnessed** was offered to the court. This does not mean that such a witnessed will does not/did not exist: such a will might exist/have existed, and been lost or mislaid, or accidentally or deliberately destroyed. It is also not known whether any earlier will existed.

The Fossey estate trial was held in Ithaca, New York from 30 November-2 December 1987. Dr. Fossey had lived in Ithaca for 3 years while teaching at Cornell University, undergoing needed medical treatment, and writing her book "Gorillas in the Mist." She had also left some of her personal belongings in storage in Ithaca and the Digit Fund was based in Ithaca.

Argument at the trial centered on the following questions:

- 1) whether the will was signed by Fossey
- 2) whether it was intended to be the last will and testament
- 3) where Dian Fossey was domiciled, and
- 4) whether the will would be legal according to the laws of the country/state determined to be her domicile.

Witnesses for the Digit Fund included Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL; Ann Pierce, a former student at Karisoke Research Center; and an expert in the laws of French-speaking African nations. A lawyer was flown in from Belgium by the Prices. The case was heard before Judge Charles Swartwood of the New York State Supreme Court rather than before a jury.

After considering the evidence for 6 weeks, Judge Swartwood issued his verdict. Mrs. Price would get everything. The gorillas would get nothing.

He ruled that, because it was not witnessed, Fossey's will would be invalid under the laws of the States of New York and of

California (where her parents live) and he also stated that it would be illegal under Rwandan law, in spite of a letter from the Ambassador of Rwanda to the United States saying it would be valid. In spite of a reference in Dian's diary to her having her "will done," the judge ruled that it was "a mere draft."

Even though he had ruled the will invalid, Judge Swartwood decided to issue a ruling on the question of domicile, even though this was "unnecessary." He ruled that Karisoke was **not** Dian's home: rather, it was her "place of employment." He stated that "Her only reason for being there was the presence of the gorillas," and that "she did not take part in the community life of that country but spent her life at Karisoke **with other foreigners.**" Further, noted Judge Swartwood, she sometimes complained of the weather. Therefore, said the judge, "she was not domiciled in Rwanda" and:

She [Mrs. Price] is the owner of and entitled to possession of all the property formerly of Dian Fossey, deceased.

The **Ithaca Journal** (15 January 1988) reported that the Prices were "elated" at Judge Swartwood's decision, which they considered "just and fair." Mr. Price stated that, "Contrary to the testimony at the trial, we were very fine parents to Dian." Readers of Farley Mowat's biography of Dian Fossey may be left with a different opinion.

Readers should view this as a "cautionary tale." **If you have no will, or your will is not correctly executed, your estate will be distributed to family members according to a specific formula.** If you have no family member, your state of residence will get everything. A state court judge will decide who is to supervise distribution of your estate (it may be a lawyer crony of the judge who will charge heavily). No human friend, animal friend, or charitable organization will get **one cent**. Yet 66% of Americans die without wills, according to **Consumer Reports**. The reason for this is not clear; however, it is known that many people have a superstitious fear that writing a will will hasten one's death or fear the legal costs and possibly complex procedures.

IPPL recommends an excellent book to people wishing to make a will but preferring not to hire a lawyer. It is the "Simple Will Book" by attorney Dennis Clifford. U.S. members may order a copy (the cost is \$14.95) by making a toll-free call to Nolo Press, at 800-992-NOLO for most of the United States, 800-445-NOLO for California outside the 415 area, and 415-549-1976 for the 415 area.

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER OF SARAWAK OWNS A LOGGING COMPANY

Datuk Amar James Wong holds the position of Minister of the Environment for Sarawak, East Malaysia. Incredibly, Minister Wong is also owner of Limbong Trading, a logging company.

Protesting the apparent conflict of interest, Mr. Mohammed Idris, President of Sahabat Alam Malaysia, stated, "It is absurd that a timber tycoon owning 100,000 hectares of timber concession in Limbang and responsible for large-scale forest destruction, should become Environment Minister responsible for protecting the forest."

Minister Wong responded by telling Mr. Idris to "shut up," saying "Who is Sahabat Alam Malaysia to ask me to resign, I am not answerable to them - only to the Chief Minister, my party, and my conscience." He placed the blame for the admitted destruction of forests on "shifting cultivation practised by natives."

A group of young Sarawakians were so outraged at Wong's position that they sent him an "Open Letter." They told him:

We have lived in the forest since we were born and, to our knowledge, our parents seldom, if ever, cut down the primary forest for shifting cultivation. We are tempted to suggest that you take a holiday from your luxurious urban lifestyle and experience for yourself the adverse effects of logging before you make more ridiculous and baseless statements . . . The forest gives us our meat, fish, fruits, vegetables, planks, resins, etc. In other words, the forest provides our basic needs. Our interests are survival and to keep our life-line alive. Is that too much to ask?

SECRET MEMO MADE PUBLIC

IPPL has obtained a copy of a memorandum on stationery bearing the ludicrous heading, "Fur is for Life" that reveals how animal exploiters are trying to censor the U.S. media so that pro-animal stories are "banned."

The memo, distributed by the "Fur Retailers' Information Committee" (FRIC) attributes all kinds of vandalism and "violence" to animal rights activists. Although such violence may occasionally occur, it is possible that it could be performed by the animal exploiters themselves in order to discredit the animal rights movement in the eyes of the public, and to divide the animal rights movement. This tactic was used by Adolf Hitler, when he arranged for the burning of the Reichstag and blamed it on Jews and Communists.

FRIC's Executive Director is Richard Parsons, and IPPL suspects him to be the writer of the unsigned memorandum. Parsons was Director of the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, but suddenly quit his job and turned up at the 1983 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species as a lobbyist for the animal traffickers he formerly regulated. Such behavior makes one wonder how conscientiously Parsons had "regulated" the animal dealers earlier.

Later, Parsons represented the Safari Club International, an organization of big game hunters which, in 1978, had applied to import to the United States trophies of animals belonging to no less than 40 endangered species, including 5 gorillas, 5 orangutans, 18 black colobus monkeys, plus 10 cheetahs, 40 jaguars, 150 leopards, 10 white rhinos, 25 tigers, and 50 ocelots. The application had been withdrawn after a public protest. In addition, Parsons had represented a commercial animal dealer involved in the attempted importation to the United States of 7 wild-caught gorillas from the Cameroun. The application was rejected after IPPL organized opposition to the deal.

Later, Parsons became involved in the Immuno A. G. lawsuit against Shirley McGreal, submitting a "sworn affidavit" denouncing Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL. Parsons identified himself as former "Chief of the Federal Wildlife Permit Office," and conveniently omitted to mention his ties to the animal dealers, claiming merely that he left his job to enter "the private practise of law." He swore that Ms. McGreal complained of "wrong-doing" in the international primate trade, which he apparently believed non-existent! Further, Parsons said, McGreal undertook "vigorous and energetic campaigns" on behalf of primates, working with IPPL "correspondents!" Parsons boasted that, when he directed the Permit Office, he made sure that IPPL comments received special critical treatment (presumably, they were discarded in favor of the animal dealers' self-serving statements).



Richard Parsons (left) with Ray Arnett, former Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a big game hunter.

The memorandum tells how furriers are taking photographs of demonstrators outside their stores, and turning the pictures over to the Department of Justice (presumably the FBI). Why the FBI would have any interest in the identities of protestors outside fur stores is unclear, at a time when the FBI is faced with the problems of massive drug trafficking and a nation-wide wave of violent crime. In any case, violence to animals has been shown to be linked to criminality, so people who care about animals are certainly less inclined to crime than those who harm animals. Further, demonstrating is still perfectly legal in the United States and efforts to intimidate demonstrators are reprehensible. There are no known protests against the fur trade in the Soviet Union. U.S. furriers who object to protests outside their stores should probably emigrate!

The FRIC memorandum brags about how it was "on call" during Thanksgiving weekend (November 1987) when demonstrators were picketing fur stores. FRIC claimed that it spent the weekend "briefing the news media and discouraging [emphasis added] coverage." In addition, it was "working closely with local and federal law enforcement authorities" and moving ahead with unspecified "legal action" against critics of the fur trade. FRIC warned its members to refer all requests for press interviews to Headquarters, because "the leadership of FRIC is experienced in handling the press and carries necessary liability insurance."

Censorship and "turning in" of its opponents seem to be the strategies of choice for the fur industry's leadership rather than public debate and discussion of this controversial issue.

APPALLING CONDITIONS IN SPLIT ZOO

by Josef Schmuck

Josef Schmuck represents IPPL in Austria

On a wooded hill near Split, Yugoslavia, lies a little zoo and a museum with stuffed dead animals.

All the live animals on exhibit are displayed under scandalous conditions. All the cages are too small and, in many cases, very dirty. Only one keeper takes care of the animals.

Birds of prey are kept in very tiny cages and are situated close to the rabbits' cages, causing stress to the latter. Social animals are kept alone.

The primates are kept in especially bad conditions. Altogether, there are 9 cages, each with no equipment and with wire screen on two sides. The cages are 2.5 x 3 meters square and 3 meters high.

Seven mandrills are exhibited in cages like this, alone but in sight of other animals. Two other monkey species are kept in other cages.

On top of all this, the poor animals are teased by visitors, and nobody rebukes them. I observed stupid visitors offering lighted cigarettes to the mandrills. When I intervened, the zoo-goers couldn't understand why I was complaining. The keeper told me, "You can't do anything to stop them, moreover, it doesn't matter because the monkeys don't eat the cigarettes anyway."

This scandalous zoo should be improved or closed down.

IUCN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN COSTA RICA

Every three years, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) holds its General Assembly. The 1988 General Assembly was held from 1-10 February at San José, Costa Rica.

IUCN is an organization composed of state members, government agency members, and private organizations. The International Primate Protection League joined IUCN in 1981, and was represented at the General Assembly by Shirley McGreal and Dr. Ardith Eudey.

The conference was attended by over 1,000 delegates and observers, including representatives of the World Bank, the Inter-American Bank and the African and Asian Development Banks. These banks have been heavily criticized in the past for supporting projects causing severe environmental damage.

Among the agenda items was a session on population growth. There is no doubt that excessive human population growth is the biggest cause of destruction of wildlife and habitat. The need for changing attitudes on the population problem was made clear when an African observer attending the session claimed that women were no good if they couldn't bear children, and that it was better to have a woman bear one child before one married her, to be sure of fertility. In many African countries, the average woman has 8-9 children.

The opening session of the General Assembly was held in Costa Rica's beautiful National Theater. Among the speakers were Nobel Peace Prize winner, President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. President Arias' wife, Doña Margarita, addressed the session on the role of women in conservation. President and Mrs. Arias hosted a reception for heads of delegations at the President's residence.

During the General Assembly, the Presidents of Costa Rica and Nicaragua signed a Letter of Intent to establish an International Peace Park along the watershed of the San Juan River. Costa Rica also announced that it would drop plans to construct an oil pipeline that would cut through an International Peace Park straddling the borders of Costa Rica and Panama.

Among the agenda items was a discussion of "debt-swapping," a mechanism by which donors purchase Third World nations' dollar debts from banks (the banks don't expect ever to be repaid in full) at a discount (around 75%). The money is turned back to the government through a foundation in exchange for bonds paying interest and principal in local currency, with the money to be used for conservation activities such as land purchase. Both Costa Rica and Bolivia have taken part in "debt swaps for nature." Through a resolution, the General Assembly endorsed "debt-swapping."



IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal with President and Mrs. Oscar Arias (center) and Environment Minister Dr. Alvaro Umaña.

Among the resolutions passed was one raising questions about the proposed Nam Choan dam in Thailand, which is opposed by Thai environmentalists concerned at the damage the dam will cause to the Huay Kha Khaeng and Thung Yai wildlife sanctuaries.

Following the General Assembly, Dr. Martin Holdgate of the United Kingdom took over the position of Director-General of IUCN from Dr. Kenton Miller, who had held office since 1983.

TEN CHEERS FOR SILVANA AND JUDITH!

Everyone loves a winner, but we at IPPL want to applaud the efforts of two residents of Bellingham, Washington, U.S.A. who consider themselves "losers." Silvana Clark and Judith Spear want to save monkeys from Dr. Merle Prim's knife but are unable to find out exactly what he is doing with it.

You've probably never heard of Dr. Merle Prim (who is not a medical doctor). His monkey experiments do not receive U.S. government funding, so no information about them is available under the Freedom of Information Act. Prim either doesn't write articles these days or else they aren't accepted, or perhaps they get run in publications so obscure that the ingenious Clark and Spear can't track them down.

This anonymity protects Prim from public scrutiny. We all know that hundreds, if not thousands, of primates die in secret military research projects. We also know that many drug companies

and contract laboratories keep their primate tests of new products secret so that their competitors won't know what they're doing. But many obscure scientists' work remains unknown to the public.

Clark and Spear have fought hard to learn what is going on in Prim's laboratory. In May 1987, they sent him a letter asking for information, but Prim replied that, "It is not my habit to respond to individuals who raise questions concerning the lab." University officials did not provide useful information. Clark and Spear believe that Prim is doing "split brain" research on his monkeys, and that he is keeping monkeys in restraint chairs. They have heard that a monkey was recently "sacrificed."

Clark and Spear conclude, "This widespread attitude of educational institutions and educators that they are above accountability is horrifying and intolerable."



MEET "MICROBE"

This adorable baby primate is a silvery marmoset named "Microbe."

"Microbe" is one of triplets born at the Kilverstone Wildlife Park, Thetford, Norfolk, England, which is owned by Lord and Lady Fisher. His mother had enough milk for two babies but not for three.

So "Microbe" is being raised by Lady Rosamund Fisher, who is an Advisor to the International Primate Protection League. He was fed every two hours, day and night, for the first weeks of his life.

This picture was taken when "Microbe" was just 3 weeks old.

CRUELTY IN FILMING OF TV COMMERCIAL

Howard Mann, an actor, was hired to film a TV commercial in New York for a company producing suntan lotion. Mann was to play Tarzan, and a chimpanzee called "Mister Kokomo" was chosen to play Cheetah.

Mann reported to the **Los Angeles Times** that the chimpanzee arrived dressed in top hat and tails, but was "undressed" for the filming. "Tarzan" was to spend the day outside gathering coconuts for dinner and return sun-burned and hence in need of lotion. At that point, the chimpanzee actor would pick up the can and spray him on the back, as "Tarzan" said "Good Cheetah, make my day!"

Mann reports that the chimpanzee was not very cooperative. The chimp sprayed him in the face and then on the chest! Finally, the lotion went where it was supposed to go – on "Tarzan's" back – but, in the process, the name of the brand got hidden from the

camera! After 3 hours and 40 takes, the chimp was still hiding the brand name. The director was furious, the trainer was exasperated, and Mann says he was "counting [his] overtime pay!"

Enraged, the unidentified trainer started screaming at the chimpanzee, and dropped out of sight behind some bushes with the unfortunate animal. Mann heard what he called "a loud crashing whack and a series of heart-rending moans." The trainer and chimpanzee returned. Seeing the expressions on the faces of those present, the trainer announced, according to Mann's recollection:

You gotta remember! These are animals. You can't be too nice to them. They don't understand that. You have to show who's boss, see?"

Mann gave the trainer a "piece of his mind." The subdued chimpanzee finally got the scene right.

SILVER SPRING MONKEYS DOING WELL AT SAN DIEGO ZOO

Five of the monkeys involved in the landmark cruelty prosecution of primate experimenter Edward Taub are living at the San Diego Zoo in California. These were the "control" monkeys in Taub's never-severing experiment: the eight surviving mutilated monkeys and one female Rhesus are still at the Delta Primate Center in Covington, Louisiana. Experimenter Mortimer Mishkin of the U.S. "National Institute of Mental Health," opposed shipment of the monkeys to San Diego, telling the **New York Times**, in an interview published on 5 November 1987, that "the monkeys should have been used instead for completing the original experiment," (i.e. killed).

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the International Primate Protection League, and several other groups and individuals have fought for custody of all the Silver Spring monkeys with the intention of sending them to Primarily Primates Sanctuary in Texas. The case went as far as the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused the plaintiffs "standing to sue." In spite of congressional resolutions calling for the monkeys to be sent to Primarily Primates, nine of them are still at Delta.

Drs. Donald Lindburg and Susan Clarke are in charge of the San Diego Zoo's project to rehabilitate the monkeys.

NIH HOLDS CHIMPANZEE BRIEFING

On 5 February 1988, Dr. William Raub, Deputy Director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) sent a briefing to all congressmen and women inviting them to a briefing on "The Use of Chimpanzees in AIDS Research." (Dr. Raub is a Ph.D., not an M.D.) Raub informed the congressmen and women that the meeting would be addressed by NIH officials and a leading scientist from the pharmaceutical industry. He commented that "citizens' interest in use of primates, particularly chimpanzees, is intense," but that many of the enquiries reflect "considerable misunderstanding" of the issue, which NIH would presumably set straight.

The meeting was held over breakfast on 5 February 1988. About 100 congressional staffers attended the meeting. Betty Pickett, Director of the NIH Division of Research Resources (who also has a Ph.D. not an M.D.), attempted to "score points" by beaming at the assembled audience (mainly junior staff members) and saying how thankful she was that the epidemics that threatened her generation were essentially unknown, largely due to research on what she called "subhuman" primates. Dr. Pickett went on to discuss the National Chimpanzee Management Plan and NIH-sponsored chimpanzee breeding programs. She stated that 86 chimpanzees were/are in use in AIDS research.

Dr. Fischinger, AIDS Coordinator for the U.S. Public Health Service, discussed the many different AIDS viruses, and stated that, although chimpanzees do not get clinically sick with AIDS, they are an "excellent model" for the disease.

In response to a question about conditions under which chimpanzees on AIDS studies are kept, Pickett stated that they are kept in "specifically designed isolettes" at Holloman (the New Mexico State University Primate Research Institute, housed at the Holloman Air Force Base). Pressed for dimensions, Pickett responded "25 square feet."

The next speaker was Dr. Maurice Hilleman of the Merck Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories. Hilleman called AIDS "the potential Great Plague of the 20th and 21st centuries" and stated that the only way to eliminate the disease was a vaccine, because it is impossible to eliminate the human behaviors that spread the virus and because use of drugs cannot cure AIDS, but merely mitigate symptoms.

Hilleman stated that chimpanzees, not monkeys, must be used in vaccine testing, and that thousands more chimpanzees would be needed. He proposed setting up breeding islands in chimpanzee habitat countries with "seed chimpanzees" to be removed from the wild. He claimed that such removal would actually save chimpanzees threatened by habitat destruction, and likely to be killed as "agricultural pests."

Dr. Raub went on to discuss rules and regulations applicable to chimpanzee use, and stated that any experimental protocol using chimpanzees must go through NIH's "Animal Model Committee." Raub emphasized the importance of the chimpanzee breeding programs. Although it was not on the agenda, Raub took the opportunity to take a crack at the planned regulations to ensure the "psychological well-being" of laboratory primates, which are currently being drafted by the Department of Agriculture. He discussed the sections of the regulations already drafted and opened for comment, and how the "biomedical community" had geared up to overwhelm the Department of Agriculture with negative comments.

Besides the government officials, the only non-governmental participant addressing the group was the representative of a huge pharmaceutical company. Nobody from the conservation/animal protection community was invited to speak.

PRIMATES IN PAIN

The Tokyo Primate Center News (Summer 1987) included a "Report on Capturing Monkeys in Indonesia" by Dr. Y. Tanaka. Tanaka observed the capture of 7 pigtail macaques. An area of low bushes was covered with a large net. The monkeys caught inside were literally chased till caught. Then, according to Tanaka, "the canine teeth of the male monkey were cut by pliers." A veterinarian who sent the clipping to IPPL told us that, "There is no suggestion that the captures observed had anything to do with the Tokyo Primate Center. I sent it only as a rare first-hand account of inhumanity to a captured monkey." He added that, "It is easy to understand the captors' desire to eliminate these lethal dental weapons, but the resultant pain and good possibility of abscessation make me cringe."

This same veterinarian also sent us a copy of an article published in the *Journal of Andrology* (September 1986). The article, written by R. K. Naz and G. P. Talwar, both Indian scientists, was entitled "Reversibility of Azoospermia induced by Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG)". Two adult male monkeys were injected in the testicles with BCG by the insertion of "a 22-gauge, 1½ inch long needle" in order "to distribute the bacilli throughout the testis." Later, semen was collected by electro-ejaculation. After 45

days, neither monkey produced sperm. However, sperm began to appear after 150 days.

The experiment was repeated a second time, following which the monkeys were killed "and the testes were removed for histological examination."

The authors report that the Indian Council on Medical Research had conducted similar experiments on 20 bonnet macaques, and suggest that BCG may be useful for blocking fertility in monkeys. Further, they claim, since neither of the 2 injected monkeys caught tuberculosis in spite of a prevailing (and inexcusable) epidemic in the colony, the technique could be useful as a TB preventative.

Our veterinarian contact was furious, telling us that:

This is absolutely cruel and idiotic research . . . no mention of anesthesia or pain. The testis is surrounded by an extremely strong fibrous tunic which prevents expansion and makes any internal testicular swelling or inflammation extremely painful. What these "scientists" are doing and proposing is extremely cruel and inhumane! And, absolutely unnecessary.

IPPL WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

IPPL extends a warm welcome to everyone who has joined our organization recently. We hope you will find our Newsletter interesting. Please send us your comments and suggestions.

ASPINALL SPEAKS UP FOR YVETTE LEROY

Yvette Leroy, a Frenchwoman who lives in Brazzaville, the capital of the Congo Republic, has become a controversial figure because of her acquisitions of baby gorillas. Mrs. Leroy has been criticized by IPPL and others.

Mr. John Aspinall of Howletts Park in England, which has received four Leroy gorillas, feels that criticism of Mrs. Leroy is not justified. Aspinall states that gorillas are widely hunted for food in the Congo Republic. Sometimes, the babies are kept alive. Mrs. Leroy has contacts in the logging camps, who inform her of the availability of baby gorillas, which she obtains on payment of a

small sum of money. According to Mr. Aspinall, "They [the gorillas reaching Mrs. Leroy] are the lucky ones, although a number are in such a poor condition that even she cannot restore them to health."

Aspinall reports that the three gorillas he received from Mrs. Leroy in 1987 have now recovered from the shigella and hepatitis with which they were afflicted on arrival. He also reports that the Howletts' and Port Lympne Foundation is planning to establish a gorilla orphanage in Brazzaville. News of this project will be carried as it develops.

GIBBON REHABILITATION IN BORNEO

by Evelyn Gallardo and David Root

Dr. Birute Galdikas' primate rehabilitation program on the island of Kalimantan, Indonesia, deals mainly with ex-captive orang-utans. However, five gibbons have also been successfully returned to the wild.

Habitat

The rain forest surrounding Camp Leakey where Dr. Galdikas works also supports gibbons, and there is no evidence of overpopulation. Therefore, since only a few ex-captives have been reintroduced, they have posed no threat to existing primates. The ex-captives have tended to stake out territories near camp, yet outside the boundaries of wild gibbons' territories. Food sources are available to support both wild and ex-captive gibbons (although an influx of ex-captive gibbons could prove detrimental).

Physical support - diet

Plenty of food is important. Gibbons being prepared for reintroduction are fed twice a day with a diet consisting of pineapples, bananas, sugar cane, oranges, rice and skim milk. Additionally, black-handed gibbons need leaves and insects to complete their diet.

Psychological support

Ex-captive gibbons are never forced to return to the wild before they are ready. Although they are encouraged to forage in the forest, ultimately, it is the gibbon's decision to leave.

Comments

When ex-captives arrive in camp, they are dewormed. There was only one ex-captive named "Ewell" when we were at Camp Leakey. He had been in camp approximately one year and, although rambunctious, he got along well with humans and orang-utans alike. Birute Galdikas always kept a store of fruit for him in her cabin. Ewell's favorite pastime, other than eating, was landing on ape and human heads! He is healthy and doing well, and will no doubt take his rightful place in the forest when the time comes.



Ewell Gibbon. ©Evelyn Gallardo

THANKS FROM DAVE AND SHEILA SIDDLE

Dave and Sheila Siddle of the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia thank everyone who sent donations to help them take care of the chimpanzees living at the Orphanage.

The Siddles' "chimpanzee count" recently rose from 16 to 17

with the addition of another baby chimpanzee smuggled from Zaire to Zambia and seized by Zambian authorities. The little chimp was in a pathetic condition on arrival but is now improving.

STATE DEPARTMENT HELPS ANIMAL DEALER ESCAPE BOLIVIAN LAW

On 15 January 1986, 341 squirrel monkeys and 20 owl monkeys were exported from La Paz, Bolivia, to Miami, U.S.A. This exportation took place despite Bolivia's ban on the export of all live wildlife. In spite of requests by the Bolivian Government and the Bolivian Wildlife Society that the monkeys be returned to Bolivia for release into their forest home, the animals disappeared into unidentified U.S. laboratories, supposedly for use in malaria experiments.

Legal charges were filed against the U.S. dealer involved in the shipment, Matthew Block of Worldwide Primates, Miami, Florida. Bolivian authorities seized Block's passport to prevent him leaving the country. However, the U.S. Consul in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, helped Block leave the country.

On 18 March 1986, using the Freedom of Information Act, IPPL requested all documents pertaining to the monkey exportation. On 1 October 1987 (an exasperating 19 months later), IPPL received a package of documents. Four documents were not released to IPPL, on the grounds that "their release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

Among the documents released were:

Cable from U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, to U.S. State Department, dated 6 September 1985. The cable reports that the new Government of Bolivia has extended the wildlife export ban till 1 August 1986. The incoming Director of the Forestry Development Center (Luis F. Simons) informed the Embassy that there had been irregularities in wildlife trade control during the previous administration.

Cable from State Department to U.S. Embassy, Bolivia, dated 24 September, 1985, requesting more information on the validity of earlier wildlife export permits, and requesting a copy of the order extending the ban.

Cable from U.S. Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia, to U.S. State Department, dated 27 September 1985. The cable discussed a meeting between the Economic Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, with a Bolivian official whose name was deleted from the copy provided to IPPL. The existence of a "paper" export ban on all wildlife shipments was confirmed. However, the previous administration had made "a mockery of the ban" and allowed "massive illegal contraband of wildlife," which was "continuing." (IPPL comment: Bolivia's wildlife trade emanates from the area around Santa Cruz which is the main center for Bolivia's cocaine trafficking). Embassy officials were so appalled that they stated:

Barring any fundamental improvements in Bolivian efforts at protection of wildlife, Embassy recommends that the department and USFWS [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service] seriously study the possibility of proposing before a 1986 CITES [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species] conference a temporary international ban on all wildlife imports from Bolivia pending effective Bolivian action to protect endangered species.

From these cables preceding the January 1986 monkey shipment, it is clear that U.S. Government officials were aware of the Bolivian wildlife export ban, and that Bolivia had serious law enforcement problems. Rather than helping Bolivia solve its problems, it appears that the U.S. cynically decided to turn them to its own advantage, by getting a "Ministerial Exemption" for itself in order to acquire laboratory monkeys.

Cable from U.S. Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia, to State Department, dated 15 January 1986, the day the monkeys arrived in Miami. The cable announces that "Bolivian Ministerial Resolution Approves Export of Monkeys for Malaria Research." The text of the resolution stated that the application was submitted by Worldwide Primates, represented in Bolivia by Altras International, and allegedly supported by USAID [the U.S. Agency for International Development], and that "notwithstanding Ministerial

Resolution No. 265/85 . . . which prohibits the hunting, capture, exportation etc., of live animals," the Government of Bolivia would allow the exportation of 400 squirrel monkeys and 200 owl monkeys to the United States for malaria research.

Cable from State Department to U.S. Embassy, Bolivia dated 18 January 1986, confirming that a shipment of 341 squirrel monkeys and 20 owl monkeys had reached Miami on 15 January 1986. The animals had arrived "by commercial means," and therefore, "The question raised by USAID of utilizing U.S. military aircraft is therefore a moot issue." [IPPL comment: it is incredible to IPPL that USAID would consider using government transportation to help a U.S. commercial animal dealer traffic monkeys]. Fearing a public relations problem, the State Department commented that, "It is unfortunate that Bolivian resolution No. 347/85 suggests that U.S. Government agencies actively sought exemption from the Bolivian law prohibiting the export of live wildlife." It suggested that the Embassy send a "diplomatic note" to the Government of Bolivia which would help the Embassy answer "anticipated criticism from non-governmental conservation groups." The Embassy was also requested to "report any local media coverage."

"Confidential" cable from the U.S. Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia, to State Department, dated 22 January 1986. The Embassy reports on Bolivian protests over the monkey shipment.

Bolivian Wildlife Society (PRODNA) officials informed Embassy officer on January 21 that this non-profit environmental organization strongly opposes Bolivian Ministerial resolution approving export of 600 monkeys to the U.S. PRODNA officials questioned legality of government action, as well as approval of such a large number of these animals. [A large chunk of text was deleted by the State Department "censor".]

Cable from U.S. Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia, to State Department dated 29 January 1986. The cable carries the text of an article about the monkey exportation that appeared in the evening newspaper "Ultima Hora" on 28 January 1986.

Once again, and in novel form, the Ministry of Agriculture has authorized the export of live wildlife. The Ministry now is justifying the exports as needed for malaria research. The Minister of Agriculture, Mauricio Mamami Pocoata, personally signed the resolution dated December 2, which authorizes the North American firm, Worldwide Primates, through representation of a Bolivian firm, Altras International, "the capture and export of 400 [squirrel] monkeys and 200 [owl] monkeys."

Reliable sources in the field of ecology claim that the large number of monkeys cannot be justified on the grounds of scientific research. An expert has noted that "It is not necessary to export 600 animals to conduct vaccine research. Therefore it is clear that the Ministry is approving resolutions which again seriously threaten our environment and wildlife." During the last 3 years, the Ministry frequently approved resolutions for the export of wildlife giving different excuses. In many of these cases, strong evidence was presented that these exports resulted in lucrative commissions for government officials, while destroying Bolivia's fragile ecological balance.

The Legislative Branch and the new authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture must be made to understand the implications of their actions and to take corrective measures while there is still time.

Cable from U.S. Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia, to State Department, dated 13 February 1986. This cable quotes a Bolivian press report to the effect that the Minister of Agriculture, Edil Sandoval, had issued a resolution on 7 February 1986, calling for the return of the 361 monkeys to Bolivia, with Worldwide Primates to pay

the transportation costs "incurred in return of monkeys to their natural habitat in Bolivia." The cable reports that the Altras firm had denied participation in the shipment, a firm called Avis actually being involved. The Altras firm had reportedly filed a lawsuit against "the representative of Worldwide Primates, the firm which purchased the monkeys; Jim [presumably Matthew] Block of Worldwide Primates has told our consulate that the Bolivian Government has seized his U.S. passport."

Cable from Secretary of State to U.S. Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia, dated 14 March 1986. The cable reports that U.S. conservation groups were raising hell about the monkey shipment. Leading the protests was Monitor, a coalition of 35 conservation/animal protection groups to which IPPL belongs. In addition, Reginald Hardy of the Bolivian Wildlife Society had arrived in Miami demanding the return of the monkeys to Bolivia. Hardy had contacted U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials in Miami, but they were "unavailable." Further, said the State Department, "Hardy conveyed the impression that he believed he could simply request USFWS to hand over the monkeys and then put them on the next available Bolivian Airlines flight to Bolivia . . . Hardy did not seem to grasp the concept that there are certain laws and other niceties involved."

Hardy next flew to Washington, where World Wildlife Fund arranged for him to meet officials of the State Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Justice. Hardy again demanded the return of the monkeys, and "appeared unmollified even after a thorough legal explanation" by the government agencies.

According to the cable, Hardy alleged that "The U.S. Government had actively corrupted Bolivian officials and had otherwise misled him." Hardy further claimed that "the consular agent in Santa Cruz had aided and abetted Matthew Block's illegal departure from Bolivia by paying his hotel bill and retrieving his personal items from the hotel room after the Government of Bolivia had seized his passport." Hardy also reported that the Bolivian Government was considering seeking the formal extradition of Block to Bolivia.

Hardy also raised the issue of whether any monkeys had died during transportation. Since the export permit was for 600 monkeys, and since the animals were hauled from Santa Cruz to La Paz, a city at 12,000 feet altitude which experiences very cold nights, and lack of oxygen, Hardy probably feared that many animals died before or during shipment.

Hardy was furious at the "run-around" he got from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and complained about the Service's "being evasive" and giving him "the bum's rush." The State Department feared that Hardy might express the same "jaundiced view" to Bolivian authorities.

Cable from State Department to U.S. Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia, dated 17 March 1986. This cable reports on two meetings

between the State Department and USAID about the recent Bolivian monkey export. Those at the meeting expressed support for taking primates from the wild for experimentation and discussed how to get them without stirring up too much fuss, preferably with an organization such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) "fronting" for the U.S. Government, "to help establish need and credibility." It was reported that USAID had received a proposal from PAHO for a project on "The Conservation and Management of Nonhuman Primates in Bolivia." The proposal reportedly included the export of 200 squirrel monkeys to USAID. PAHO later denied that it was trying to get monkeys out of Bolivia.

The International Primate Protection League managed to obtain from another source a State Department cable which is presumably one of those denied to us by the Department, purportedly to protect the "personal privacy" of those involved. This cable was sent from the American Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay to the State Department on 11 April 1986. It stated:

Per Reftel: Block did flee Bolivia to avoid legal action, after Bolivian authorities confiscated his passport. He obtained an identity letter from the Consular Agent in Santa Cruz [the same person, who, according to Hardy, retrieved Block's possessions from his hotel room and paid his bill]. He used this to enter Paraguay. He is believed to have used the same letter on February 4, 1986, to board LAP Flight No. 702, which is non-stop from Asuncion to Miami.

Isn't it nice to know that a friendly State Department official was ready to help an animal dealer wanted by the Bolivian Government? Would the State Department help drug traffickers in a similar predicament?

IPPL is disturbed by the whole affair. Countries like Bolivia should be encouraged to protect their wildlife rather than being asked to waive their laws by the U.S. Government. The suggestion that U.S. military planes should be used to transport live animals is of concern. Is this happening already? With the demand for chimpanzees escalating, could the Government use military transport to fly in animals, who would quietly disappear into one of the huge chimpanzee colonies in the United States?

Also of concern is the long delay we had in getting the relevant documents from the State Department and the silence of the U.S. media, especially the Miami media, about this affair. It is not the first time the Miami press has hushed up a primate scandal.

We suggest that you write a letter to your Congressman enclosing this article or summarizing its contents, and expressing your concern at the U.S. Government having subverted Bolivian wildlife laws and having assisted the animal dealer involved in escaping from Bolivia. If you don't know your Congressman's name, please contact your Public Library or the League of Women Voters.

Congressmen may be reached at the House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

GORILLAS FOUND IN NIGERIA

IPPL member Victoria Selmier, a field researcher specializing in the study of wild pig species, went to Nigeria in 1986, and received reports of the presence of gorillas in the Cross River state from local residents.

Ms. Selmier's reports met with initial cynicism. However, the presence of gorillas in Nigeria was confirmed in 1987 by Sandy Harcourt and Kelly Stewart (well-known for their studies of the mountain gorillas of Rwanda).

Harcourt and Stewart spent 6 weeks in the Kanyang Mountains of Cross River State. They estimated that there may be as many as

100 gorillas in the forest, and recommended that a program of gorilla tourism be established in the area, which is unfortunately plagued by poachers. Mr. John Mshelbwala of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation said that 8 gorillas were killed in March 1986, and that "wire traps and snares are everywhere [in Kanyang] and the guards cannot check these activities because they have no means to do so." Although hunting of endangered species is illegal under Nigerian law, "The people in Kanyang don't even know such a law exists," added Mshelbwala.

PLEASE TELL US IF YOU'RE MOVING

Please let IPPL know if you have moved or plan to move. If you don't let us know, you will be inconvenienced by not receiving your IPPL Newsletter and we will be inconvenienced by having to track you down! All the time and effort could be better spent on the primates.

DON'T YOU AGREE?

THAI SMUGGLER RELEASED FROM LAOTIAN JAIL

The November 1987 issue of the IPPL Newsletter told of the arrest and imprisonment in Laos of the notorious Thai wildlife smuggler Preecha Varavaishit, doing business as "Pimjai." The dealer and an associate were caught red-handed smuggling wildlife by Laotian authorities and given 3-year sentences. Many IPPL members wrote letters to Laotian authorities requesting that Laos keep the animal dealers in jail for the full term.

Unfortunately, Preecha Varavaishit ("Pimjai") is on the loose again. A Thai wildlife official flying to Vietnam to attend a conference about the kouprey was amazed to see the dealer on the plane and wondered what "dirty tricks" he might be planning for Vietnamese wildlife, which includes such rare primates as the Douc langur and Concolor gibbon.

How did Pimjai get out of jail? IPPL has heard two reports: one was that a Thai wildlife official close to the dealers had intervened. However, the **Bangkok Post** (17 January 1988) reported that the dealers were released "when diplomats intervened at the request of the families involved." The "diplomats" supposedly used the incredible argument that "the Thai dealers had earned, through the nature of their work, [smuggling Thailand's protected wildlife to Laos for onward shipment to the West and Japan] a large amount of foreign exchange for Laos." It appears that certain elements of the Thai Government want the smuggling of Thai wildlife to continue.

IPPL has been able to obtain a price-list circulated by the Thai animal dealer Suchino. All primates are totally protected animals under Thai law. Export is forbidden, yet Suchino brazenly offers for sale the following primates:

White-handed gibbon	<i>Hylobates lar</i>	\$950.00 (U.S.)
White-cheeked gibbon	<i>Hylobates concolor</i>	\$1,000.00
Black-capped gibbon	<i>Hylobates pileatus</i>	\$1,200.00
Black-handed gibbon	<i>Hylobates agilis</i>	\$950.00
Douc langur	<i>Pygathrix nemaeus</i>	\$1,200.00
Spectacled langur	<i>Prestbytis obscura</i>	\$750.00
Baby Rhesus	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	\$200.00
Rhesus, young adult	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	\$250.00

The Douc langur is a highly endangered primate species that is not found in Thailand. The species was badly hurt by warfare in its habitat in Laos and Vietnam. It is appalling that Douc langurs should be offered for sale. Compounding this tragedy is that Douc langurs are very fragile: one Thai dealer told IPPL that 90% die in their first three months in captivity.

One sub-species of Concolor gibbon is found in Laos and another in Vietnam and Cambodia. This species was also hurt by the ravages of war. Gibbons are caught by the shooting of their mothers, with many babies being hit by the pellets that strike their mothers or dying in the fall from trees or the early days of captivity. The Pileated gibbon is one of the rarest of the world's gibbon species and is strictly protected in Thailand. It is appalling that Suchino should be able to traffic these rare species. Wildlife conservationists regularly provide these price-lists to Thai wildlife au-

thorities but nothing is ever done.

The current plight of Thailand's wildlife is eloquently described in the aforementioned article by Philip Smucker which appeared in the 17 January issue of the **Bangkok Post**. The article is entitled "A Meat Market that we can do Without." It describes how Wildlife Fund of Thailand officials fought the sale of langur monkey meat in southern Thailand, and how the ritual eating of monkey brain continues. On a visit to a "jungle restaurant," the reporter saw a caged monkey, but waiters claimed that it was not for sale.

The article goes on to describe the sale of wild animals on Thailand's Weekend Market (for sale as food or pets). Gibbons, monkeys, and slow lorises are easily available. All are totally protected under Thai law but the marketeers fear no law. Accompanying the article is a picture of a tiny unweaned gibbon with a pathetic, bewildered look on his beautiful little face.

Although capture and export of primates are banned officially, Thai law permits "possession" of two pet endangered animals without a permit. This ludicrous loophole ignores the question of why it should be legal to own an animal that cannot be legally caught. Further, the dealers can carry around different "pets" with them every month. [Editor's Note: While living in Thailand, I used to check the premises of one Thai dealer regularly: he had a new "pet" gibbon every month].

The article describes brutal capture methods, unregulated poaching, use of false documents by dealers, and "the lack of public input" into decision-making. [Thailand is under military control].

Smucker ends with the grim conclusion that Thailand is on the way to becoming "a land without an animal kingdom."

The sad thing is that Mr. Smucker's article is very similar to a series of articles on the wildlife trade written by **Bangkok Post** reporter Claudia Ross in the mid-70s. Ross was later murdered by unknown parties. Nothing seems to have changed since that time.

Besides allowing the plundering of its own wildlife, Thailand is becoming a major center for the illegal traffic in rare birds from Australia and New Guinea. A shopping mall menagerie was allowed to import a gorilla and other endangered primates. All these activities make a joke of Thailand's membership in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. One disappointed wildlife official informed IPPL that he was thinking of leaving the country, as "corruption" makes conservation work impossible.

We think it's time for Thailand to curb the activities of its animal traffickers. If you agree, please consider writing a courteous letter requesting action to:

H. E. General Prem Tinsulanonda
Prime Minister of Thailand
Government House
Bangkok 10300
Thailand

Overseas air mail from the U.S. costs 44 cents per half-ounce.

TIWAI ISLAND PROJECT

Tiwai, an island located in the Moa River of Sierra Leone, was officially declared a Game Sanctuary on 29 October 1987. All hunting became officially banned. An unofficial ban had been instituted by the area's Paramount Chiefs when a field research project under the direction of John Oates of Hunter College, New York, began in 1982.

Dr. Oates has informed IPPL that the new Visitors' Center on

the island started operation on 1 September 1987. The Center's facilities include three spacious residential tents, a large communal center, and a craft shop. A self-guided nature trail into the forest adjoins the camp.

IPPL is supporting a 2-month field study of Tiwai's primates by Mr. Mohamed Bakar of Njala University from our Small Grants Fund.

IQBAL MALIK RESCUES TRAPPED MONKEYS

Dr. Iqbal Malik has been studying the family life of the free-living Rhesus monkeys around Tughlaqabad Fort, New Delhi, since 1980. So she was naturally outraged when the municipal corporation, acting on complaints from an Air Force school near the fort, started trapping monkeys in September 1987. Monkeys were alleged to have entered the classrooms at the school to steal food [this could easily be prevented by the installation of barred doors and windows]. The children would throw stones at the monkeys, who would understandably get annoyed – and sometimes attack their tormentors.

Over 100 monkeys were caught. According to Dr. Malik, lactating mothers were taken away and their babies left to die. One mother was seen suckling two babies, one belonging to a trapped female. Another baby monkey climbed a tree but didn't know how to get down, and fell, causing fatal injuries.

Dr. Malik was deeply concerned, feeling that, if it were truly necessary to catch any monkeys, they should be caught in groups and released together. Relocation must be carefully handled since existing monkey groups may attack newcomers. She also blames much of the "monkey problem" on humans feeding monkeys: if humans would stop feeding them, they would eventually leave an area. In addition, Dr. Malik proposed that groups of free-living monkeys could be an appealing tourist attraction.

Dr. Malik went to the Indian press, and wrote the Prime Minister. Public opinion was aroused. She worked hard to get one two-month old baby monkey, who had been caught in the trap, restored to his mother, who was screaming with grief at the loss of her infant. Determined to reunite the pair, Dr. Malik took off for the Town Hall and was able to locate the trapper and the baby monkey. She pleaded with him for over an hour, unsuccessfully. In the end, she announced that she would not leave till the baby was handed to her.

Finally, at 9 p.m., the trappers handed her the baby. Next, Dr. Malik was stopped by the police for an hour! She was able to persuade them that the purpose was to reunite the baby with his mother. A joyous reunion occurred.

Finally, Dr. Malik was able to get the rest of the captured monkeys released. She was assisted by Dr. Rodney Johnson of the State University of New York at Buffalo, who is studying the monkeys with her.

Iqbal Malik is truly the guardian angel of her study monkeys. We applaud her courage, compassion, and determination.



Iqbal Malik with some of the released monkeys.

SPAIN TRAFFICKING GORILLAS

Although Spain is a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), it remains a major center for trafficking endangered primate species, including gorillas and chimpanzees.

In late 1987, two gorillas were exported from Spain to Japan. A CITES export permit was issued by Spanish wildlife authorities claiming that the gorillas were "captive-born." An investigation conducted by IPPL (Spain) revealed that the gorillas were probably "captive-born in the jungle!" The Japanese importer of the gorillas was the notorious animal dealer, Aritake Chojuten. Japanese authorities have told Aritake Chojuten to hold the gorillas pending an investigation of their origin.

The animals were supposedly bred at the Ringland Circus in Aldea, Spain. Spanish conservationists visiting the "circus" found the place "fenced like a fortress" with "at least 6 guard dogs roaming around to discourage unwanted intruders." They also learned that, in a recent police raid on the facility, inspectors found 5 young chimpanzees, one large adult chimpanzee, one bonobo (Pigmy chimpanzee), 5 leopards and a Pigmy hippo.

The chimpanzees were found by accident: as the inspectors

were leaving, a large circus trailer drew up. The inspectors ordered it opened up, and found the chimpanzees inside. From the documents, it appeared that the animals had arrived that very morning by a boat entering the port of Valencia from an unknown location (presumably somewhere in Africa, most probably Equatorial Guinea, a former Spanish colony, from which four gorillas were exported in late 1987). Equatorial Guinea is also the suspected supplier of "beach chimpanzees" to Spain.

The inspectors found an authentic-looking export permit dated 23 November 1987, allowing the export of two gorillas to Seoul, South Korea. Seoul has a new zoo and is trying to fill it with endangered species of wildlife prior to the Olympic Games. South Korea is not a CITES member and the Mayor of Seoul issues import permits.

Both IPPL and the World Wildlife Fund have complained to Spanish authorities about the non-enforcement of CITES in general and the activities of the Aldea operation in particular. As a result of these interventions, Spain cancelled the export permit under which the gorillas were shipped to Japan. As of February 1988, the future of the gorillas had not been decided.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alfie's Escape

Alfie, a Japanese snow monkey who disappeared from the Pittsburgh Zoo in July 1987, spent 6 months roaming the Ohio Valley before being recaptured on 27 January 1988, following which he was returned to the Pittsburgh Zoo.

Local residents in the Ohio Valley enjoyed having Alfie around and were sorry he got caught. George Boury, treasurer of the Wheeling Convention and Visitors' Bureau, wrote to the Mayor of Pittsburgh:

The sight of Alfie, caged like an animal and forcibly taken from our midst, was disheartening to many of our residents. Alfie chose to be one of us, ending a 60-mile journey from your city. That's a lot of monkey steps or monkey swings. Please allow Alfie to return to us and take up residence at the Good Zoo in Wheeling's beautiful Oglebay Park.

London Zoo Hires Entertainment Director

The London Zoo, London, England, has selected David Shepherdson to be its first "behavioral research fellow." Shepherdson will work to develop strategies to amuse and stimulate the zoo's animals, in order to reduce the abnormal behavior frequently seen in captive animals. Among projects under consideration for primates are provision of showers, animal-operated food dispensers, musical key-boards and a playback tape for gibbons so that they can sing duets as wild gibbons do with groups occupying neighboring territories.

Update on "Tyrone the Terrible"

The November 1987 issue of the IPPL Newsletter told of the plight of "Tyrone the Terrible," a chimpanzee used in a travelling menagerie who was tormented by his owners. Following receipt of a complaint from the Michigan Coalition for Animals, the Michigan Humane Society initiated a prosecution of Tyrone's owners and provided funds for Tyrone to be installed at the Primarily Primates Sanctuary in San Antonio, Texas, where Tyrone is reportedly doing well.

Activists' Retreat

Animal activist Bonnie Jean Steward has established an Animal Activist Training Retreat Center in Washington State. The Center offers a weekend program covering such issues as networking, working with the media, outreach, lobbying, fund-raising, and vegan cooking. Further details are available from Activist Training Retreat, P.O. Box 603, Issaquah, Washington 98027.

Update on "Project X" Cruelty Investigation

Investigation of the methods used to train chimpanzees for the movie "Project X" continues.

On 30 October 1987, the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation filed a formal request that criminal complaints on 18 felony counts of cruelty to animals be brought against 6 animal trainers for allegedly abusing chimpanzees during the filming of the movie "Project X."

However, no charges were filed because felony charges could only be brought if the animals had been tortured and mutilated, and the statute of limitations for bringing misdemeanor charges had expired.

Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner announced that he would appoint a liaison officer to work with government agencies in prosecuting animal cruelty cases. TV star Bob Barker, who had been active in investigating the "Project X" situation, saw the D.A.'s announcement as a positive step to protect animals in the entertainment industry.

A movie about the late Dian Fossey is currently in the final stages of production. The film's producer decided not to hire a Hollywood trainer who had obtained a chimpanzee in questionable circumstances, and the filming of gorillas was reportedly carried out with a minimum of disturbance to the animals.

Exotic Animal Auction

An "Exotic Animal Auction" is held twice a year at the 5-H Ranch, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

An article in the 29 November 1987 Kansas City Star, described the second 1987 auction. Among the animals offered for sale on the "auction block" were primates belonging to a variety of species, water buffalo, giraffes, elephants, jaguars, cougars, zebras, camels, bobcats and llamas.

IPPL strongly deplores the sale of primates and other wild animals at such auctions. One can only imagine the terror and fear of the animals put up for sale to the highest bidder. We strongly encourage our members never to buy an animal at such auctions and never to attend them except to register one's protest. It is unlikely that most of the buyers have any knowledge of how to handle exotics and some may be buying the animals for resale to game ranches or other abusive situations.

In June 1984, what was billed as "The First Annual Southeast Animal Auction" took place at "Dewey Henderson's Livestock Barn" in Atlanta. IPPL learned of the event in advance and notified the Atlanta press. A group of South Carolina members, including IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal, drove 300 miles to Atlanta to join local protesters recruited by Jane Bass, now with the Georgia Earth Alliance. We went inside, documented the appalling conditions, and challenged Georgia Fish and Game officials who were issuing "on the spot" permits to buyers. Just one week after the auction, one buyer was arrested on charges of cruelty to a tiger, a cougar and two bears that he had purchased at the auction. As a result of the protests, and publicity, the "First Annual Southeast Exotic Animal Auction" appears to have also been the last!

U.S. Wildlife Inspector Indicted for Bribery

Daniel Noether, a U.S. federal wildlife inspector, was indicted on 13 November 1987 for allegedly having accepted \$40,000 in bribes from three Southern California-based animal dealers who were also indicted. Noether is accused of having accepted bribes for approving illegal shipments of wildlife at Los Angeles Airport. All those indicted face up to 5 years in prison, plus fines up to \$500,000.

Goodall versus Gallo

In February 1988, the Scripps Howard news service carried a story entitled "Activists Protest use of Chimps in AIDS Research."

Robert Gallo, of the U.S. National Cancer Institute, expressed his skepticism about the possibility of chimpanzees ever getting sick with AIDS and stated, "I wish the chimps got sick, so we had a model."

Chimpanzee field researcher Jane Goodall felt differently, saying, "Obviously, I hope they turn out to be a lousy model. I don't think we're justified in killing them."

Monkey Catcher Unpopular in India, Can't Find Wife

Attar Singh is the official "monkey catcher" for the city of New Delhi. His job is to catch mischievous city monkeys and release them in the countryside. Singh is paid about \$8 (U.S.) for each monkey he catches and told Seema Sirohi of the Associated Press, "I love monkeys, I see a hundred rupee note in every monkey's face. One more monkey, another hundred rupees."

Singh has a high respect for monkeys' intelligence. In the case of one monkey, who recognized him from a previous encounter, Singh had to dress in a woman's sari to avoid recognition. Only then did he succeed in catching the monkey.

Singh lamented to Ms Sirohi that he was unpopular with orthodox Hindus, who considered him to be abusing Hanuman, the Monkey God, who, according to Hindu scriptures, saved Lord Rama from the Demon Ravana. Singh complained, "They curse me and throw stones and force me to leave the monkeys alone."

Singh regretted being a bachelor. However, he said, "Who would want to marry a monkey catcher?"

IPPL OFFICIALS**CHAIRWOMAN: Dr. Shirley McGreal****TREASURER: Diane Walters****SECRETARY: Marjorie Doggett****FIELD REPRESENTATIVES**

Vijay Bhatia (North India)
 Bill Clark (Israel)
 Dr. Roland Corluy (Belgium)
 Marjorie Doggett (Singapore)
 Anne Doncaster (Canada)
 Dr. Gustavo Gandini (Italy)
 Martha Gutierrez (Argentina)
 Gombe Stream Research Center (Tanzania)
 Sumit Hemasol (Thailand)
 Dr. Zakir Husain (Bangladesh)
 Dr. Qazi Javed (Pakistan)
 Linda Laikre (Sweden)
 Alike Lindbergh (France)
 Dr. S. M. Mohnot (Central and West India)

Günther and Brigitte Peter (West Germany)
 Okko Reussien (Netherlands)
 Cyril Rosen (United Kingdom)
 Charles Shuttleworth (Taiwan)
 Josef Schmuck (Austria)
 Jean Senogles (South Africa)
 Dr. Akira Suzuki (Japan)
 Valerie Sackey (Ghana)
 Ignaas Spruit (Netherlands)
 B. and P. Templer (Spain)
 F. Thomas (Hong Kong)
 Michel Vanderbosch (Belgium)
 Mr. Vivian Wilson (Zimbabwe)

ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. James Alcock
 Stella Brewer
 Dr. Frances Burton
 Bruce Feldmann D.V.M.
 Lord and Lady Fisher of Kilverstone
 William M. George M.D.
 K. Kalyan Gogoi

Dr. Jane Goodall
 Dr. Colin Groves
 Dr. Barbara Harrison
 Ann Koros
 Dr. Georgette Maroldo
 Heather McGiffin
 Dr. William McGrew

Anna Merz
 Dr. Vernon Reynolds
 Dr. Geza Teleki
 Dr. Arthur Westing
 Dr. Linda Wolfe

LOCAL CONTACT: Dr. Dao van Tien, Democratic Republic of Vietnam**HOW TO JOIN**

Complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to the International Primate Protection League, to either IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, S.C. 29484 U.S.A. or IPPL, Regent Arcade House, 19-25 Argyll St., London, W1V2DU, England. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible in the U.S.A. to the extent allowed by law.

Overseas payments should be made in US dollars whenever possible. If payment is made in foreign currency, US \$1.00 should be added to cover the bank's service charge on international transactions. Overseas members wishing to receive their newsletters by Air Mail should add US \$3.50.

I wish to join IPPL as a: ☐ Patron: \$500.00
☐ Sustaining: \$50.00
☐ Regular: \$20.00
☐ Student/Hardship: \$10.00

Name _____
 City _____ State _____ Code _____ Country _____

All members receive complimentary copies of the IPPL Newsletter. Individuals or organizations may subscribe to the IPPL Newsletter at an annual fee of \$10.00.

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

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

International Primate Protection League**P.O. Box 766****Summerville, S.C. 29484****U.S.A.**

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Summerville, SC
 Permit No. 087

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**PRINTED MATTER**