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CHIMPANZEEES FOUND ON SAUDI MARKET

Saudi Arabia has never joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and probably never will without international pressure.

Some of the often immensely wealthy residents of this oil-rich nation unfortunately enjoy owning exotic wildlife. Greedy wildlife predators are ready to supply these people with whatever they want - at a very high price.

That is why a visitor to Saudi Arabia recently saw 5 baby chimpanzees on open sale at a pet shop called Fayfa's in the town of Jeddah. Fayfa's uses Post Office Box 20690 in Jeddah. The company's phone number is 966-2-667-1292 and its fax is 966-2-667-1228. Fayfa's also has a large branch in Riyadh.

Another knowledgeable visitor to Saudi Arabia informed IPPL that nine chimpanzees were smuggled from Tanzania to Saudi Arabia in 1993, and sold to unknown parties for around $100,000 each. Earlier, three young chimps were reportedly offered for sale at another location in Jeddah.

Fayfa's was described glowingly in an article in the 24 January 1994 issue of the Saudi Gazette. The article carried the headline "Bears and Chimps and Kangaroos Too."

Fayfa's is located alongside Al Saif Square at the intersection of Tahlia and Prince Sultan Street and is operated by the Rawabi Fayfa Company, and managed by Mr. Yousef Sayegh.

According to the Gazette, the animals owned by Fayfa's come from "Brazil, India and Africa" and include ("just to name a few") parrots, chimpanzees ("which cost a staggering Saudi riyals 150,000 each"), kangaroos, llamas, black-nosed bears from Holland, and "white-fronted tamarins which cost Saudi riyals 25,000." There are 3.65 riyals to the US dollar.

IPPL has contacted Saudi Arabia's National Council on Wildlife Conservation, the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington DC, the CITES Secretariat, the large Saudi press corps in the United States, and all Saudi and East African newspapers.

On 1 March 1994, IPPL was informed by Dr. Abdulaziz H. Abuzinada, Secretary-General of the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development, that an investigation had been initiated and that further information would be provided in due course. Dr. Abuzinada expressed his gratitude to IPPL for providing him with information.

It is not clear how so many chimpanzees are getting into Saudi Arabia: it is suspected that they are probably shipped from Tanzania to Saudi Arabia in private planes. It is possible that the animals could have been captured in Zaire, and then smuggled into Tanzania for onward shipment to Saudi Arabia.

Please help close the Africa-Saudi Arabia chimpanzee pipeline. Please contact the Saudi Ambassador to your country, expressing your concern over baby chimpanzees being offered for sale in Saudi Arabia. Request that the origin of these animals be investigated and that Saudi Arabia join the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

His Excellency the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Avenue
Washington DC 20335, USA

His Excellency the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia
30 Charles Street
London W1X 7PN, England

Please contact Mr. Abuzinada thanking him for opening an investigation and requesting that firm action be taken to prevent the importation of chimpanzees smuggled from Africa into Saudi Arabia. Request also that Saudi Arabia join CITES.

Dr. Abdulaziz H. Abuzinada, Secretary-General
National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development
POB 61681
Riyadh 11575, Saudi Arabia
NEW GIFT ITEMS

IPPL has obtained a supply of Tess Lemmon’s wonderful new book The Apes. This lovely book for young people was published after Tess’ untimely death in 1992. It describes the lives of gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, bonobos, and gibbons.

Tess Lemmon was a Council Member of IPPL-UK. She had an immense writing talent. The book has a hard cover and is illustrated with drawings by John Butler. Tess dedicated The Apes to IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal and IPPL-UK Secretary Cyril Rosen.

To obtain a copy, order it from your bookstore or directly from IPPL for $16.00, which includes shipping and handling. Overseas orders will be sent by surface mail only.

IPPL also has a supply of gibbon gift wrap made of recycled paper. This paper is so attractive that it is reproduced on the cover of this month’s IPPL News.

Each package contains 3 sheets of wrapping paper, 20 by 28 inches. Gibbon gift wrap costs $4.50 per package, including shipping and handling.

THE WORLD WILDLIFE SUPERMARKET

Global protection for wildlife is shrinking as world trade barriers fall. The most recent ominous developments for wildlife are the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the lifting of the United States embargo on trade with Vietnam.

US animal dealers are now moving in on Vietnam, which is unlikely to put up serious resistance, as the country wants the money the wildlife trade brings. Animal dealers from other nations are already active in Vietnam, which has a variety of rare and beautiful primate species, including the exquisite Douc langur.

There are some wonderful conservationists in Vietnam, but their voices are likely to be “voices in the wilderness.”

For several years, orangutans, gibbons and other primates have been sold as status symbol pets to the growing wealthy sector of Taiwan society. In addition, products such as rhino horn and tiger bones and penises are imported to satisfy demands for traditional Chinese medicines and stimulants.

A recent exposé of the tiger trade on the US television program “Day One” showed the grisly slaughter of tigers worldwide which feeds this trade. Tiger bones were shown in shops in Taiwan and China, but also, ominously, in San Francisco’s Chinatown.

On 11 April 1994, US President Clinton imposed a partial trade embargo on Taiwan as a result of the international uproar over the country’s role in the illegal wildlife trade. No action was taken against China. Importation of wildlife products from Taiwan will not be allowed. However, the US imported 25.1 billion dollars worth of goods from Taiwan in 1992, and only $25 million of this (1%) consisted of wildlife products.

Although of limited value, this is the first time that the United States has ever imposed even token trade sanctions on any country for environmentally destructive activities.

IPPL strongly urges all readers never, ever to buy any wild animal or product made from a wild animal, and never to lose a chance to denounce this vile trade in conversations with friends and foes, in any stores where wildlife or wildlife products are sold, or in letters to the editor.

CHIMPANZEESES CONFISCATED IN TANZANIA

In March 1994, the Tanzanian Wildlife Department confiscated 5 orphaned baby chimpanzees and 66 African grey parrots from smugglers who had illegally imported them from Zaire. Two unidentified suspects are awaiting trial.

The birds and orphaned chimpanzees are being cared for at a lodge in Kigoma. IPPL has contacted Tanzanian wildlife authorities asking that the case be thoroughly investigated and that under no circumstances should the chimpanzees be returned to the smugglers.
GORILLAS IN THE CROSSFIRE - AGAIN

In April 1994, civil strife in Rwanda was reignited when Juvenal Habyarimana, President of Rwanda, Cyprien Ntaryamira, President of Burundi, and eight others, died after a plane carrying them back from regional peace talks in Tanzania crashed at Kigali Airport, Rwanda. Rwandan government officials waiting to meet the plane alleged that it was hit by a surface-to-air missile. However, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, the rebel group, denied any involvement.

Both dead Presidents belonged to the Hutu ethnic group. The rebels are mainly Tutsis. These groups have been in tragic conflict for decades. After the plane crash, a bloodbath erupted. As of writing (mid-April 1994), the death toll may have already passed 50,000. Refugees are fleeing the country. It is hard to get reliable news because most phone-lines to Rwanda are down.

Caught in the human crossfire - again - are the mountain gorillas of Rwanda. During the 1993 outbreak of violence, two silverback male gorillas lost their lives (Mrithi and Ziz). One group consisting of 9 gorillas was feared to have been killed, but it turned out that it had crossed the border, and was safe in Zaire.

All Westerners have now fled Karisoke, where the late Dian Fossey carried out her pioneering studies of gorilla behavior and aggressive gorilla protection work until her murder in 1985.

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (formerly known as the Digit Fund) has reported that the Karisoke anti-poaching patrols are still operating under Alphonse Nemeaye’s leadership. The gorilla tourism program, a major money-earner for Rwanda, has been destroyed for now by the uncertainties caused by Rwanda’s seemingly endless political problems.

There are also small mountain gorilla populations in Zaire and Uganda. The world total for the species is less than 700.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The critical situation facing the gorillas of Rwanda is changing by the hour. Obviously, the world’s governments should exert pressure on both sides in this conflict to ensure that the people of Rwanda and the nation’s gorillas, a world treasure and Rwanda’s second earner of foreign exchange, do not get wiped out. Please write to the Head of State of your country of residence requesting that he/she do everything possible to bring lasting peace to Rwanda so that its people and its unique wildlife survive.

ANTI-SMUGGLING PETITION

Animal protectors in many nations are signing petitions addressed to US Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbit. Petitioners are asking the United States to stop US wildlife criminals from circling the globe to plan and execute illegal deals.

US smugglers of mammals, reptiles and birds are constantly on the move. Even after they are indicted for wildlife crimes, they can still travel around the world if their case gets assigned to a judge or magistrate who does not care about wildlife smuggling.

Unlike narcotics smuggling, which is totally illegal, some animal dealing is legal, and some is illegal. Judges and magistrates may feel anxious to facilitate the legal part of an animal dealer’s activities - especially if they don’t care about the illegal part.

Third world nations find it very difficult to police their borders, even if they have the will to do so. The Philippines and Indonesia each consist of hundreds of islands. There is no way to keep protected wildlife at home, when determined efforts are made by sophisticated international criminals to get it out.

Petitions have been translated into French, Arabic, Thai, German and several other languages and are circulating worldwide.
CANE WILDLIFE SMUGGLERS?

In the United States a major controversy has developed over Singapore’s sentencing of Michael Fay, an 18 year old American boy charged with vandalizing cars, to six lashes of the rotan.

The rotan is a half inch thick bamboo cane. People sentenced to the rotan are first stripped from the waist down exposing their rear ends. A trained martial arts expert strikes the first blow, which usually opens up the buttocks. If the prisoner faints, he is revived by a physician before the painful blows continue. The caning leaves the prisoner’s buttocks deeply cut and covered with blood.

Such penalties appear harsh and cruel to many Westerners. President Clinton of the United States has intervened on behalf of the young man. However, the President of Singapore has refused to exempt him from Singapore law.

Lee Kuan Yew, who served as Prime Minister for 30 years and retains considerable influence as Senior Minister, is known to believe that the United States is in a state of moral decline: Lee told the press:

*Hundreds of people are caned each year and we don’t have hundreds of cripples, psychologically crippled, or health-impaired. But we do have people who remember that this is not done – verboten. And that’s the reason why we’re different.*

Surprisingly, many Americans are so outraged at the prevalence of violent crime in the United States that radio talk shows and public opinion polls show many US citizens to be in favor not only of Singapore’s decision to punish the young man, but anxious to bring the rotan to the United States for use on street criminals.

It does appear that fear of the rotan may have had a deterrent effect on street crime in Singapore as the streets there are relatively free of the muggers, drive-by shooters, drug sellers, and car-jackers who now roam the streets of the United States murdering, terrorizing and preying on the public.

A strict society in regard to some crimes, Singapore executes drug smugglers and imposes heavy fines on people who drop garbage, chew gum, drop cigarette butts on the streets, or fail to flush public toilets.

However, one category of criminal gets off lightly in Singapore: traffickers in endangered species. If caught, wildlife criminals, both foreign and Singaporean, get off with small fines and an occasional brief jail sentence (just as do most US wildlife criminals). Foreign wildlife criminals are not blacklisted and are allowed to return freely to Singapore.

IPPL believes that, if Singapore insists on flogging minor criminals like Fay, then major criminals such as wildlife smugglers should not be exempt.

The young American due to being inflicted damage on cars, which are things and thus do not suffer or feel pain, and can be repainted or replaced. In contrast, wildlife smugglers cause pain and suffering to living beings, and in addition are bringing species that have taken millions of years to evolve close to extinction.

The “Bangkok Six” orangutans were twice stuffed into crates labelled “Birds” by a network that included Singaporean and foreign criminals trying to move them to the then Soviet Union. The first attempt to smuggle them out of Singapore failed. The second effort succeeded. All the baby orangutans were desperately ill by the time they were confiscated in Thailand:

*Orangutans are living sentient beings. Unlike cars, orangutans suffer.*

Singapore has in the past been a major center for smuggling of endangered mammals, birds, and reptiles, and sale of wildlife products such as ivory and rhino horn acquired by the brutal slaughter of live animals.

IPPL has found over the years that animal smugglers, regardless of nationality, are despicable and cowardly individuals ready to terrorize animals and humans, but never ready to accept the consequences of their crimes when caught.

German gorilla smuggler Walter Sensen, whose depredations brought fear and terror to the gorillas he traded, cried like the baby and coward that he is when sentenced to a short time in jail.

Canning wildlife smugglers would therefore serve as an appropriate punishment for, and strong deterrent against, cowardly wildlife smugglers operating in and through Singapore. In addition, foreign wildlife smugglers would tend to avoid visiting the island to plan their unsavory deals, if they were afraid they might get caned on their rear ends if caught.

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**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

If you believe that wildlife smugglers operating in and through Singapore deserve to be caned, please let the Senior Minister of Singapore and/or the Ambassador of Singapore to your country of residence know how you feel.

Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew
Office of the Senior Minister
Republic of Singapore

His Excellency the Ambassador of Singapore
Embassy of Singapore
1824 R Street NW
Washington DC 20009, USA

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APRIL 1994

IPPL NEWS
IPPL MEMBERS MEET

IPPL members from around the world met in Summerville from 25-27 March 1994. Members had the opportunity to stay at the Middleton Inn on Magnolia Plantation and see azaleas, wisteria, dogwood and many other flowering plants in full bloom.

Speakers included Dr. Iqbal Malik of India who told about her work with wild rhesus monkeys and efforts to protect laboratory monkeys. Malik once "sat in" at the Delhi Town Hall after some of her study monkeys were trapped. She announced she would stay there until every one of "her" trapped monkeys was released, and did just that. She is known as the "Monkey Mother" in India, which is a great tribute in a land where many people still revere monkeys.

Tim Redford came from Thailand to talk about his work with the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation directed by Leonie Vejjajiva. Tim showed slides of "Tom Gibbon" who arrived at the sanctuary almost without hair after being bathed in carbolic acid. Tom has recovered and now has a good coat above the waist. Tim also showed slides of the baby gibbons and monkey recently rescued from Pattaya Beach photographers.

Sarah Fahy gave a talk about the work of IPPL-UK. Linda Wolfe discussed the problems of the rhesus monkeys at Silver Springs, Florida. Carole Noon showed slides of Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage. Shirley McGreal and Dianne Taylor-Snow discussed ongoing IPPL activities. There was a lively "Members' Soapbox," at which members gave brief presentations on problems of concern to them.

Among overseas visitors were long-time IPPL Adviser William George M.D., who came in from Qatar, and Maria Davies and Jean Martin from Canada. Members came in from California, Oklahoma, Washington, New York, Texas, Ohio, and many more states.

The conference was organized by IPPL staffer Betty Brescia whose daughter Carolyn found the gibbon stickers used to make members' name-tags. Betty, Ginny Stallings, Lisa Tant and Laura Glover prepared muffins and other delicious treats, and Eugene Fahy helped serve them: one member commented that the constant supply of food made her feel like she was on a cruise-ship!

Karen Quattlebaum and Sarah Fahy sold gifts including T-shirts, greeting cards designed by volunteer Holly Patterson and primate jewelry designed and produced by Michele Winstanley of IPPL-UK.

Many members sent special gifts which fully covered the costs of bringing in Dr. Iqbal Malik and Tim Redford. Thanks to everyone who helped make this wonderful meeting possible!

NEWS FROM IPPL-UK

IPPL-UK has recently made several small grants. Recipients have included:

* Lakeside Monkey Sanctuary, England, which received a grant for housing abandoned monkeys,
* Kay Farmer, for travel to the Cameroun to help with the formation of a new chimpanzee sanctuary,
* Zena Toose, for extension of her monkey rescue center at Calabar, Nigeria,

Cyril Rosen, Secretary of IPPL-UK, also served as expert witness in a case concerning stolen squirrel monkeys. The animals have been safely returned to their home at Twycross Zoo, England.
US GOVERNMENT TARGETS ANIMAL-LOVERS

The mission of the US Department of Justice, of which the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is a component, is supposedly to catch major criminals: mass murderers, kidnappers, spies, etc.

Unfortunately the Department of Justice often lowers itself to investigating and harassing people for political and ideological reasons. It was notorious for prying into the activities of individuals and organizations during the decades when the FBI was directed by J. Edgar Hoover. Hoover investigated opponents of the Vietnam War, civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, (whose bedroom was "bugged"), etc. In fact, anyone who disagreed with Hoover became the subject of one of the FBI's infamous "files."

One of the Justice Department's most asinine projects in recent years was its "study" of purported "animal rights extremism." In order to keep itself busy spending US tax dollars, the Department included such things as defacing billboards and sending "non-threatening letters," and even making "friendly telephone calls" to animal exploiters, as "extremist" incidents.

Meanwhile, major criminals are terrorizing law-abiding citizens across the United States.

A "Report to Congress on Animal Enterprise Terrorism" was called for by the "Animal Enterprise Protection Act" passed in 1992 by the US Congress during a wave of hysteria generated by animal-exploiting institutions (and their knee-jerk media allies) who thought it would be a good idea to use the intimidating and coercive powers of the federal government to protect the right to abuse animals and insulate animal exploiters from criticism.

Although murder is not a federal crime, being left up to the states to investigate and prosecute, disruption of any "animal enterprise" became a federal crime in 1992.

The Department of Justice openly admitted that its "study" relied heavily on "anecdotal data" and that:

This report considers a wider range of activities than is covered by either the Act or the FBI's definition of terrorism.

Surprisingly, due to a lack of incidents in the United States, the Justice Department report repeatedly cited examples of alleged incidents in Great Britain! Many interviews were held with representatives of animal-using institutions. No interviews with animal protectors were mentioned.

The 30-page report does not make one single reference to the First Amendment to the United States constitution, which protects freedom of speech. The report's underlying premise is clearly that all forms of exploitation of animals, such as trapping of fur-bearing animals; hunting animals for sport; exotic animal auctions; factory farming; experimentation, etc. are totally good and socially desirable, and that criticism of such activities is undesirable.

The Department unsurprisingly reported an "enthusiastic response" to its study among those who viewed the animal protection movement as a "threat" to their "livelihood and well-being."

Complaints about "minor property damage" such as "glued locks" and "non-threatening letters and telephone calls" were included in the report. A footnote reported that "friendly contacts" by animal lovers with employees of animal-using facilities were counted as incidents of "animal extremism!"

Of course there is no mention at all in the report of how humans terrorize and victimize animals or how animal-exploiting extremists maliciously harass, investigate, infiltrate, and threaten animal protectors and animal protection organizations. The Department of Justice commented, almost with regret, that:

None of the activities analyzed for this report is known to have resulted in the injury or death of another individual.

In fact, most animal-lovers are wonderful caring people and some of the alleged "incidents" may well have been carried out by animal abusers, the FBI, or private infiltrators, staging incidents in order to win public sympathy and attract negative publicity to the animal protection movement. Hopefully emotionally deranged anti-animal extremists will not stage a killing of one of their own.

This is not as unlikely as it seems. A British anti-animal fanatic was caught making threatening phone-calls to himself from the "Animal Liberation Front," and placing a bomb under his own car. This would be amusing, except that it shows how fanatic and mentally deranged some anti-animal extremists are.

Remember also how Adolf Hitler bombed his own Parliament building and blamed Jews and Communists - and then remember everything that happened next. Use of agents provocateurs is a common ploy to discredit any cause and was common during the Vietnam War protests and civil rights battles.

US anti-animal extremists may well be making threatening phone-calls to themselves or their colleagues, writing threatening letters to each other, reporting non-existent threats to law enforcement authorities, and filing false crime reports with law enforcement agencies. This is done to win sympathy for themselves, to intimidate and discredit their perceived enemies, and perhaps even, with a little luck, get them jailed.

When you read press stories about alleged wrongs committed by animal protectors, think who will profit and take the stories with a healthy and cynical "dose of salt." Don't be manipulated by efforts to divide and disrupt the animal protection movement made by government agencies in league with animal abusers of every stripe.

Most important, keep up your animal work and keep supporting your animal protection groups so that they can, with your help, overcome the wave of harassment to which they, and the wonderful animals they work to protect, are currently subjected.

Surprising Footnote

A December 1993 Los Angeles Times public opinion poll showed that, despite vicious attacks on animal-lovers by government agencies in league with anti-animal extremists, 50% of Americans oppose the wearing of fur; 57% of Americans oppose sport-hunting, and 47% agree that animals "are just like humans in all important ways."
PATTAYA BEACH GIBBONS RESCUED

Here is certain proof that writing letters on behalf of animals does some good! After concerned IPPL members deluged Thailand’s Royal Forestry Department with letters protesting the use of infant gibbons by photographic touts at Thailand’s beach resorts, officials finally took some action on 12 January 1994.

The action was part of a crackdown on people illegally using small primates for photographs. During the raids a number of animal skins, stuffed animals, leather goods made of wild animal skins, trophies, and a bird of prey were also confiscated.

Three baby white-handed gibbons, one baby pileated gibbon, and one tiny infant crab-eating macaque were rescued. They were sent to the rescue center operated by the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand.

On arrival at the sanctuary, the baby primates were given a check-up by the foundation veterinarian. They were all described as malnourished, suffering from mineral and vitamin deficiencies, intestinal worms, and colds. One gibbon had a finger missing and one had all his teeth pulled out.

When the primates first arrived, it was noticed that their natural sleep patterns had been disrupted to keep them awake deep into the night when they are used for photography. Normally a gibbon goes to sleep at sunset and doesn’t wake up again until dawn.

Because of her listless behavior, it was suspected that one of the baby gibbons was addicted to caffeine. This was confirmed when she saw someone drinking coffee: she screamed loudly until she was given some. Afterwards this behavior changed and her appetite returned. She has now been weaned from this habit.

All the animals are now recovering from their ordeal. When they are strong and healthy enough it is planned to send them to the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation’s new sanctuary in Chachoengsao province, where it is hoped large cages can be built to house them until they are old enough to be considered for rehabilitation to the wild.

The racket of using baby gibbons for photos was first exposed in the April 1993 issue of IPPL News, when readers were asked to write the Director-General of the Royal Forestry Department to urge him to look into this cruel exploitation. Your letters certainly helped him decide that something should be done.

Unfortunately, though, this photo racket still continues in Phuket in Southern Thailand. Here there are many baby gibbons tied to the beach bars where they are constantly tormented by the staff and drunken patrons.

The people caught at Pattaya with the baby primates said they had permits for them. However on inspection the permits were found to be for adult animals registered two years ago under the new wildlife laws, and not for the small ones being carried round in the streets. The owners were charged with illegally possessing wildlife.

IPPL is concerned that, unless strong action is taken against the owners of the confiscated gibbons, they may just go out and buy replacements. Unfortunately IPPL has received a report of gibbons being seen at Pattaya since the recent confiscation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1) Please write a courteous letter to Mr. Pong Leng-ee, Director of Thailand’s Royal Forestry Department thanking him for confiscating the primates being cruelly exploited by Pattaya beach photographers. Emphasize that the confiscation will be futile unless the owners are severely punished and not allowed to buy replacement animals. Request that gibbons being used in Phuket also be confiscated. Be sure to start your letter “Dear Khun Pong,” as the Thai custom is to use first names.

Khun Pong Leng-ee
Director, Royal Forestry Department
Phaholyothin Road
Bangkhen, Bangkok, Thailand

2) Please consider making a special “restricted gift” to help care for the confiscated primates. Please mail your check, made out to IPPL and marked “For the Beach Gibbons,” to IPPL-US or IPPL-UK (addresses on back cover). Any help will be gratefully appreciated by the Foundation, which is being deluged with abused wild animals with nowhere else to go.
THE STATE OF FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

People wanting to make the world a better place by effecting positive change require freedom to express their opinions and to protest. Freedom cannot flourish in the absence of a free press because people will never learn about abuses by governments and exploitative businesses, which are sometimes protected or operated by bloody dictators. Those who do speak out may risk jail and death.

One of the areas where citizen involvement is essential is assaults on the environment - forest destruction, pollution, wildlife trafficking, etc. Often these activities are carried on by powerful people and companies with the collusion of governments.

Every year, the organization Freedom House publishes the results of its survey of the state of freedom in the world. The results show that the people in many countries that are home to primates and rain-forests have little or no freedom.

Freedom House categorizes countries in three ways: states that are “free,” states that are “partly free,” and states that are “not free.” Among the criteria used by Freedom House are the degree in which fair and competitive elections are held, whether individual and group freedoms exist in practice, and the state of press freedom.

This year, the United States almost lost its “Free” classification.

Many US nationals are becoming increasingly aware that freedom to care about animals and the environment and to express one’s concern are being threatened by organized anti-animal extremists.

Countries that are Not Free

Angola, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Vietnam, Zaire

Countries that are Partly Free

Bangladesh, Brazil, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo Republic, Gabon, Ghana, India, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Surinam, Taiwan, Thailand, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Free Countries

United States, Argentina, Costa Rica, The Gambia, Guyana, Mali, Mauritius, most European nations, Australia, New Zealand

Despite their low ratings, there are active environmental movements in several non-free, or partly free, countries. Some of these countries may have enlightened wildlife protection policies.

However, when working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and concerned nationals in “Not Free” or “Partly Free” countries, Western conservation groups must realize that there are limits to what NGOs and private citizens can say and do. It is very important to protect confidential sources in these countries.

NEWS FROM CHARLES RIVER

Charles River Laboratories is owned by the Bausch and Lomb Company, which is best known for producing sunglasses. Charles River is the leading importer of monkeys to the United States and operates the Key Lois primate breeding island in Southern Florida.

Bausch and Lomb announced in a 9 November 1993 Customer Bulletin that it was planning to transfer all animals, employees and facilities to a new entity to be run by Paul Schilling, Director of the company’s breeding facility in Key Lois, Florida.

The earnings from the “new entity” would be directed to:

Various charitable, educational and research purposes, including educating of the public as to the value of utilizing primates and other animals in bio-medical research.

In other words, monkeys and the profits they generate would pay to “educate” the public about why monkeys should suffer and die.

The bulletin makes no mention of providing any funds at all to monkey habitat countries to help them protect the primate species which the company and its predecessor companies have exploited profitably for many years.

INDONESIA’S PARTIAL BAN

On 20 January 1994, Indonesia’s Minister of Forestry, Mr. Djimaludin Suryohadikusumo, signed a decree banning all export of wild-caught monkeys.

In recent years tens of thousands of crab-eating monkeys have been exported from Indonesia. More recently, claims that the pigtail macaque could be useful in the study of AIDS have caused a rush by user nations to import this species.

Mr. Djimaludin noted that Indonesian monkeys “are showing signs of decline in the wild” and that the ban was being established “so that they do not become extinct.”

Indonesia’s powerful and influential animal dealers eagerly supplied their overseas customers, catching many monkeys on the island of Sumatra. One monkey exporter admitted that over 70% of captured monkeys died before being exported.

The keys to whether the ban on export of wild-caught monkeys will succeed are 1) the cooperation of foreign countries in confiscating monkeys suspected to be wild-caught, 2) the integrity of Indonesia’s animal dealers which has not been universally praiseworthy, and 3) strict law enforcement by the Government of Indonesia.
AGRICULTURE SETTLES BLOCK CASE FOR $16,000

On 27 January 1994 the United States Department of Agriculture settled its Animal Welfare Act proceeding against Miami animal dealer Matthew Block and his company Worldwide Primates by a “Consent Decision and Order” including a “cease and desist order” and a payment by Block of $16,000 to the US Treasury.

Although the Department of Agriculture had sought in its complaint to suspend Block and his company’s animal dealing license, it did not proceed with this step.

The $16,000 payment amounted to just over $250 for each of the 61 primates involved in the complaint. Although the alleged violations took place in August 1990, no complaint was filed until December 1992, over two years later. A hearing was set for November 1993, almost another year later. This hearing was later postponed for another two months until January 1994, and finally it was canceled after the case was settled.

The initial complaint alleged various violations of the Animal Welfare Act at two locations, neither being Block’s company’s principal place of business.

5400 NW 84th Street

During a 22 August 1990 inspection, APHIS inspectors found the following alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act at a warehouse at 5400 NW 84th Street in Miami, where Block was keeping 53 primates:

1) “Supplies of food were not stored in a manner that protects them from spoilage, contamination, and vermin infestation.”

2) “Provisions were not made for the removal and disposal of animal wastes so as to minimize vermin infestation, odors, and disease hazards.”

3) “The facility was not adequately ventilated to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times.”

4) “Primates were not provided with food that was wholesome and free from contamination.”

5) “Primates were not provided with water as required.”

6) “Primary enclosures for primates were not kept clean and sanitized.”

7) “The premises were not kept clean and free of accumulations of trash and debris.”

8) “An effective program for the control of pests (rodents and insects) was not established and maintained.”

16451 SW 184th St.

On 23 August 1990, inspectors visited Block’s facility at 16451 SW 184th Street, Miami, where he was keeping 8 primates. The complaint alleged the following violations at this location:

1) “Supplies of food for primates were not stored in a manner that protects them from spoilage, contamination, and vermin infestation.”

2) “Animals (primates and servals) kept outdoors were not provided with adequate shelter from rain and inclement weather.”

3) “The premises were not kept clean and free of trash and debris.”

4) “An effective program for the control of pests (rodents) was not established and maintained.”

At both facilities, the complaint notes:

APHIS found that the respondents had failed to establish and maintain adequate programs of disease control and prevention and adequate veterinary care under the supervision and assistance of a doctor of veterinary medicine in willful violation of... the regulations. The respondents failed to arrange for regularly scheduled visits to the premises and for a mechanism of direct and frequent communication so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian. The respondents failed to provide veterinary care to primates in need of care.

The complaint called for 1) a cease and desist order (an agreement not to continue violations of the Animal Welfare Act without admitting any such violations), 2) civil penalties, and 3) suspension of the company’s license to deal in animals.

Suspension is the penalty animal dealers allegedly violating the Animal Welfare Act fear most of all. Many animal dealers are very wealthy and can easily afford to pay financial penalties that would bankrupt most people.

On 25 February 1993, two months after the filing of the complaint, Joseph Walker, Sector Supervisor for Animal Care of the Southeast Sector of APHIS, contacted the Maryland office of APHIS enclosing an APHIS Form 7012 which referred to an:

Part of June 1991 Report on Alleged Violations prepared by Manuel Crespo, Investigator, APHIS

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On 2 June 1993, Dr. Foster Mather, Acting Supervisor of Animal Care for the Southeast Sector of the United States, contacted the Maryland Headquarters of APHIS, enclosing an APHIS Form 7012 which referred to an:

Alleged violation dated June 1, 1993. This enclosed information documents continuing violations of the Animal Welfare Act by Worldwide Primates Inc.

In August 1993 Block produced his list of anticipated witnesses to testify on his behalf. The list included six government officials. Three of them were agents of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. One was an official of the US Centers for Disease Control.

Somewhat surprisingly, two special agents of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement were listed: Special Agent Terence English (since transferred to Awendaw, South Carolina) and Jorge Picon (still in Miami). Both agents had been involved in prosecution of the “Bangkok Six” orangutan case.

Reasons for Block’s confidence that Agents Picon and English would be supportive were not stated in the court document. Nor was there a statement as to whether these wildlife agents had given permission for their names to be listed as “friendly witnesses.”

On 24 September 1993, Matthew Block wrote attorney Martha Leary Sotelo, telling her that:

I would like to request a meeting with you and your client [the Department of Agriculture] in Washington to discuss this issue and hopefully settle it.

On 28 September 1993, Martha Leary Sotelo informed Block that:

APHIS has agreed to your request for a meeting.

Subsequently the settlement was negotiated by Colleen Carroll, who had replaced Sotelo. On 10 January 1993, Block obtained a cashier’s check for $16,000, which he sent, along with a signed Consent Decision and Order, to the Department of Agriculture “as full and final settlement” of the case.

On 12 and 13 January 1994, two days after the check was issued, APHIS inspectors Drs. Elizabeth Goldensty and Sylvia Taylor conducted what were described as “pre-settlement” verification inspections of Worldwide Primates’ two facilities.

They reported that both the farm site, which had increased its holdings from 8 to 700 monkeys during the pendency of the APHIS proceeding, and the main quarantine site, holding 400 monkeys, were in substantial compliance with the Animal Welfare Act.

The settlement was ratified on 27 January 1994.

In a previous Animal Welfare Act proceeding, Block had been issued an Official Notification and Warning of Violation of Federal Regulations on 13 July 1990. A memorandum by Senior APHIS Investigator McFarther dated 25 October 1991 indicates that this earlier case resulted from:

Mr. Block not maintaining his facility in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act standards and for not providing veterinary care as required.

Although the outcome of this proceeding may seem disappointing, and even outrageous, to caring people who believe that the charges warranted a more severe penalty, the Animal Welfare Act does not provide for any severe sanctions against violators. All penalties are civil. APHIS cannot file any criminal charges.

In fact, $16,000 was a relatively high penalty by APHIS standards, which Block clearly preferred to pay rather than face a court hearing on the merits of APHIS’ case which could have resulted in license suspension.

In another primate case, David Sabo, a licensed exhibitor doing business as Sabo’s International Chimpanzees and New York Primate Center Inc. received a trifling $3,000 penalty because, according to an APHIS press release dated 13 January 1994:

On August 28, 1992, Sabo and his employees refused to allow APHIS inspectors to inspect their animals, facilities, and records. They also verbally abused APHIS inspectors who were trying to carry out their official duties.

The Department of Agriculture places a very low emphasis on its Animal Welfare Act cases: its letterhead carries its mission statement, which is “Protecting American Agriculture.” It appears to believe also in “Protecting American Animal Dealers!”

Failure of the Department of Agriculture to prosecute Animal Welfare Act proceedings rapidly may present even more serious problems than the unavailability of meaningful penalties. Delay in handling cases may expose animals to further suffering and make any case meaningless by the time of a hearing, especially a hearing several years after an alleged violation took place.

However, the Florida-based veterinary inspectors (Cox and Overton) deserve commendation for having made the thorough inspections that led to the case being filed, and for documenting their case with photographic evidence. The settlement decision was made by Washington bureaucrats, not in Florida.

In fact, the improvements seen by Drs. Goldensty and Taylor on the “verification inspection” may have resulted from the case being filed. Only future unannounced inspections will show whether these changes will be permanent.

YOUR OPINIONS MATTER!

If you have any comments on the handling of this or other Animal Welfare Act cases, please let the Secretary of Agriculture know: Mike Espy, Secretary of Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Washington DC 20250

APRIL 1994
IPPL STUDIES WILDLIFE INSPECTION PROGRAM

Ongoing IPPL studies of the US wildlife inspection program reveal a continuing unsatisfactory situation for primate shipments reaching Miami Airport, Florida, and better inspection rates at other ports. IPPL believes that the situation will not be completely acceptable until all wildlife shipments, regardless of species, are thoroughly checked.

Miami can be considered close to a “free port” for wildlife.

A shipment of wildlife which enters the United States through Miami stands a very small chance of being physically inspected, even though five wildlife inspectors and one supervisory inspector are employed full-time at the port.

Clearing a wildlife shipment on paperwork won’t tell an inspector what he/she most needs to know - what is actually inside the shipping crate.

Smuggled wildlife shipments could be entering the United States undetected through any port of entry, but especially through Miami. IPPL was once told by an international smuggler that Miami is considered “easy” by the world’s wildlife smuggling syndicates.

On 1 March 1994 testimony about wildlife law enforcement problems was presented to the Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the US House of Representatives by Christine Stevens, Secretary of the Animal Welfare Institute.

Stevens reported that in 1992 the United States imported 72,000 shipments of wildlife with a “declared value” of over $912 million, i.e. close to one billion dollars worth of the world’s precious wildlife (this is probably a low value estimate), but that only 20% of all incoming shipments were physically inspected.

These figures show that the United States is a world leader in consumption of the world’s wildlife, and that it sets a poor example to other nations by its failure to inspect all wildlife shipments thoroughly. Many countries are far stricter than the United States.

The April 1993 issue of IPPL News reported on IPPL’s study of Form 3-177 import declarations for all wildlife shipments entering Miami in July 1992. This study revealed a troubling situation.

For example:

* On 16 days of July 1992, not one commercial shipment was reported to have been inspected:

  * On 11 days in July 1992, only one commercial shipment was reported to have been inspected:

* Only 2% of commercial shipments entering Miami in July 1992 appear to have received 100% inspection.

In a new study, IPPL determined through study of Form 3-177 forms for primates reaching Miami during 1993 that during the entire year not one shipment was reported to have been physically inspected, i.e. the inspection rate for primates was zero percent.

In contrast to the situation in Miami, most primate shipments entering through other ports (e.g. Washington DC and Houston) were reported to have been thoroughly inspected.

This is a problem because, even if there were 100% inspection of wildlife shipments at all other ports (and no port comes even close to this), smugglers would target their shipments on the “easiest” port. Standards have to be equally high for all wildlife at all ports.

IPPL has tried to obtain an explanation from USFWS of the 0% inspection rate for primates arriving at Miami, but has received no reply. If there is a legitimate explanation, nobody is telling IPPL!

There is a shortage of funds and staff which affects all ports. However, despite the shortage, some other ports appear to have higher inspection rates, at least for primates, than Miami. The shortage of funds may reflect policy decisions. Some USFWS critics charge that the agency wastes millions of dollars on other programs, and “starves” its law enforcement activities.

Importers are charged a trifling inspection fee of $25 per shipment. For the reported 72,000 shipments in 1992, that would bring in just $1.8 million. If the fee were increased to $100 per shipment, revenue would increase dramatically to $7.2 million. If the fee were a mere 10% of the claimed value of the wildlife, revenue would be $92 million. At present hard-working taxpayers subsidize the extremely profitable trade in live wildlife heavily.

A long-delayed study by the General Accounting Office (GAO) of the effectiveness of the US wildlife inspection program is due for release in the summer of 1994.

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Importer</th>
<th>Species/number</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>% inspected</th>
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<td>Peru</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Charles River</td>
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INSPECTION RATES FOR COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS OF PRIMATES ENTERING US IN 1993
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 July</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1 rhesus</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Un. of SW Louisiana</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Philippines</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>125 rhesus macaques</td>
<td>China</td>
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Summary

Total primates declared in 1993: 7,616
Main species: crab-eating macaques, 5660; baboons, 703; rhesus, 320; pigtails, 320
Main sources: Philippines, 3291; Indonesia, 1428; Mauritius, 1202; China, 545; Kenya, 545; St. Kitts, 189; Ethiopia, 189; Peru, 127
Main ports: Houston, 4097; Washington DC, 1256; Miami, 909; San Francisco, 510; Atlanta, 395; Dallas, 250

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please write letters to Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Mollie Beattie to express your concern at the failure of USFWS to physically inspect all imported wildlife shipments. Explain how important physical inspection is because, without looking at the crate, you can't tell what's in it. Among points you may wish to emphasize are the following:

1) Smuggled wildlife is frequently concealed in false compartments of shipping crates. Only the human eye can detect this fraud.

2) Sometimes shipping documents identify a common species when the crate actually contains an endangered species. Again, only the human eye can detect this fraud.

3) Note that the famous "Bangkok Six" orangutan shipment for which a US animal dealer was convicted was only detected when sounds like those of human babies were heard coming from crates labelled "Birds." The baby orangutans were invisible in their closed crates. Only human ears detected this fraud.

4) Request that wildlife inspection fees be increased from $25 to a minimum of $100 per shipment, or 5% of the value of the shipment, whichever is higher. Note that full inspection of a large shipment can take several hours and that taxpayers should not have to subsidize animal dealers.

Mollie Beattie, Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington DC 20240, USA

Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240, USA
PRIMATES IN MOVIES

Exploitation of primates in movies appears to be turning into an epidemic. The predictable result is stress and misery for the animals, and consumer demand for "trendy" primate pets.

On learning that an orangutan was to be used in the movie "Beverly Hillbillies," IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal attended this third-rate movie based on a popular television series. One scene showed an orangutan wearing a tuxedo attending a wedding!

IPPL and the Orangutan Foundation contacted the producer, 20th Century Fox, to express our concern that showing of the movie in Asia could reinvigorate the pet orangutan trade which the "Any Which Way" movies and a Taiwan TV series may have stimulated.

We were very pleased when 20th Century Fox agreed to place the following wording "beside the subtitle at the point in the film where the orangutan first appears."

Orangutans are a highly endangered species protected by international laws and treaties. Do not buy.

This message will appear at showings of the movie in Taiwan, China, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Middle East. IPPL greatly appreciates the company's cooperation.

On learning that a movie called "The Flintstones" will feature several performing orangutans, IPPL and the Orangutan Foundation immediately contacted MCA Motion Pictures, the producers of this movie, requesting a similar disclaimer. No reply had been received to the joint Orangutan Foundation/IPPL letter dated 19 February 1994 as of mid-April, even though the letter was twice submitted.

The latest bad news is that a movie called "Monkey Trouble" stars a capuchin monkey. We are afraid this may "jump-start" the already appalling trade in pet primates inside the United States. Any incompetent person can now buy a pet primate and nationally-operating monkey dealers take out classified advertisements in tabloid newspapers read by millions of people.

Capuchin monkeys are among the worst biters. Although small, they can inflict terrible wounds and are extremely unpredictable. The worst primate injury ever reported to IPPL was a savage attack from a capuchin that landed the animal's "owner" in hospital with 70 wounds requiring over 200 stitches to close.

If you saw the movie "Greystoke," you may have thought you saw adult chimpanzees, but you didn't. What you saw were totally lifelike models of chimpanzees. Neither did you see any gorillas in "Gorillas in the Mist." You saw "animatronic" representations of gorillas. There is really no need to use real wild animals in movies any more. There have been many allegations of brutal treatment of performing primates.

It is illegal to sell imported primates as pets. However, it is suspected that some imported primates do get "leaked" into the pet trade. Several years ago, a proud owner of pet monkeys showed IPPL a fraudulent bill of sale for parrots given to her by the seller, a well-known animal dealer.

There are several facilities breeding monkeys, chimpanzees and orangutans for the pet and entertainment industries. The people running these facilities make a fortune from tearing baby monkeys away from their rightful owners - their ape or monkey mothers - and selling them to humans who want status symbol pets.

In December 1993 a sickening ad appeared in a publication circulated among exotic animal fanciers. The animal offered for sale was a 10 year old male chimpanzee ("The Famous Freddie") who is "tame, obeys commands, does tricks, eats at table, watches TV and football, gives hugs and kisses, shakes hands, wears clothes and likes to ride in a car." Freddie was offered for sale at $7,700.

However tempted you may feel, never buy a primate.

MIAMI LAWYERS GO TO WHITE HOUSE!

Writing in the 3 January 1994 issue of the Miami Herald, gossip columnist Joan Fleischman reported that Miami criminal lawyers Jon Sale and Ben Kuehne attended the signing of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) at the White House. The signing took place in December 1993.

According to Fleischman:

Sale, 49, gets around in political circles.

Sale and Kuehne defended alleged orangutan smuggler Matthew Block from 1990 until March 1993, when they were fired and replaced by Michael Metzger who alleged that they had sold their client "down the river." Metzger threatened to derail Sale's alleged efforts to become a federal judge by contacting an unnamed senator.

In November 1991, Sale had told Bill Labbee of New Times, a weekly newspaper published in Miami, that:

Mr. Block's company is in compliance with all the laws. Our view is that the entire US Attorney's investigation is being pressured and pushed by Shirley McGreal and her people, and they have their own motives. Any information given to the US Attorney's Office by her group we think is false.

Just three months later Mr. Sale's client Matthew Block was indicted for orangutan smuggling! He later pled guilty. So either Mr. Sale was lying to New Times, or his client had lied to him.

In any case, Mr. Sale owes IPPL an apology for insulting our group's integrity and our motives in seeking enforcement of US wildlife laws. Maybe, as a criminal lawyer, Mr. Sale spends too much time with criminals to appreciate that many people oppose crime for honorable reasons!
In 18 January 1994, a hearing was held on Matthew Block’s motion requesting that his 13-month jail sentence for orangutan smuggling be reconsidered. The sentence was set by Judge James W. Kehoe at a hearing held on 15-16 April 1993, but Block is still free. He is allowed to continue his international travels and business activities.

IPPL believes that some of the testimony presented at this hearing raises serious questions about the way the US Government has handled this important case.

Nothing else to know!

During the hearing Block’s lawyer Michael Metzger claimed, in regard to the “Bangkok Six” case:

By February 1993, the “Bangkok Six” case had been milked to death. There was nothing else to know about it!

Metzger’s statement was total nonsense since nobody in the orangutans’ source country (Indonesia) or destination country (Russia) has been indicted. The supplier and final buyer are key players in the chain of misery and death that constitutes wildlife smuggling. Without suppliers and customers, the brokers and middlemen would have nothing to do.

Further, although indicted in the United States, James Lee, the alleged Singapore member of the “orang gang,” has not been indicted in Singapore. According to Singapore’s Criminal Investigation Department, Miami prosecutors have refused to provide them with any of the evidence on which the US indicted Lee “until the final appeal of Matthew Block in the US court.”

The evidence not handed over to the Singapore police reportedly includes a videotaped deposition of James Lee taken in August 1992. Knowing how slowly US court cases proceed, it could be many years before any information is handed over, if it is ever handed over. By then the Singapore statute of limitations would have expired on Lee anyway.

Metzger and Block both made the remarkable claim that Miami prosecutor Guy Lewis had promised Block that, if he provided enough information to indict Block’s long-time Dutch friend Kenny Dekker, he (Lewis) would ask Judge Kehoe for leniency for Block.

Dekker is not a US national: he is Dutch. US prosecutors’ priority should be prosecuting US criminals, not alleged Dutch criminals, which is the job of the Dutch Government.

In any case Dekker could not be prosecuted in the Netherlands for the 1990 orangutan smuggling incident, because the Dutch statute of limitations on wildlife crime is 2 years. To offer to let a US criminal off for providing unusable and hence totally useless information (if indeed that happened) would be a ridiculous prosecutorial strategy!

Dutch Police Phone-tap

During the hearing, Miami wildlife agent Jorge Picon testified that the Dutch police had a phone-tap on Dekker, and had overheard discussions of an alleged primate deal under planning in which Block and Dekker used a “code” Picon did not understand.

Block apparently was supposed to brief Picon about wildlife smugglers’ codes, and had given him one purportedly used by bird smugglers, under which Australian birds were referred to by the names of coins.

Picon also claimed that a Dutch police officer had told him about another taped conversation, which was:

About Mr. Block trying to obtain someone in Bangkok to get an affidavit for someone that was supposed to be insane and use Mr. Dekker’s contacts to get it.

Metzger commented:

That had to do with allegations against Mr. Block by someone in Bangkok who alleged that Block had paid Guy Lewis $500,000.

Picon and Metzger were referring to a bizarre 1 a.m. phone-call received on 20 November 1992 by Leonie Vejijaya. Vejijaya, founder of the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand, had taken care of the confiscated baby orangutans. She had flown to Miami to assist the US Government, because she wanted desperately to secure justice for the orangutans she had cherished, several of whom had died. While in Miami, she endured Hurricane Andrew, and had been forced to listen to verbal abuse of IPPL by hostile wildlife agents who inspected her hotel room phone-bills and were furious that she had called IPPL.

The strange phone-call came immediately after announcement of the initial “plea-bargain” in the “Bangkok Six” case. The dubious plea-bargain was certainly designed to end the case
with probation and payment of a trivial fine for what many consider a cruel and species-destructive crime. Fortunately the deal was later rejected by Judge James Kehoe as “contrary to the public interest” so, if there really was a celebration party on 20 November, it was premature!

Veijajiva’s callers identified themselves as the Thai dealer Deng and the Dutch dealer Dekker: one caller spoke Thai: the other had a European accent. Who they really were, of course, nobody knows - except the callers themselves.

In any case, whoever they were, the callers claimed they were celebrating the plea-bargain, and swore at Veijajiva. The Thai speaker made the outrageous claim that money had been paid “under the table” to unidentified parties in connection with the case. The callers, whoever they were, threatened Leonie that she and her fellow-witness Kurt Schafer would have to pay.

After receiving this disturbing phone-call, Leonie Veijajiva executed the sworn affidavit that appears on the previous page. She sent the affidavit to Miami prosecutor Lewis. On getting a reply, Dekker and Block appeared to record a conversation, recorded by the Dutch police, about obtaining an affidavit from somebody in Thailand about Deng being “insane.”

The Code “BB”

Picon then testified that he learned from the Dutch police about a code used by Block and Dekker in their conversations. BB. Metzger asked whether Picon was unaware that “BB” was a code name the pair used for the island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean. Picon said that Block had told him that Dekker used to live in St. Kitts, had “connections” there, and even “knows the Prime Minister,” but had not told him about the code “BB.”

The next witness was Block. He denied discussing a shipment of illegal primates with Dekker, and said that he had told Terence English, a wildlife agent formerly stationed in Miami, what the code “BB” meant.

Block’s Fascinating Testimony

Block testified under oath that:

Mr. Lewis stated on a number of occasions that all he wanted was an indictment of Mr. Dekker. He even made the offhand comment that he did not care if he got Mr. Dekker. He just wanted an indictment of Mr. Dekker.

Why a Miami prosecutor might want to let a Miami criminal off solely for naming a Dutch national unavailable to US law is not clear. Lewis tried to get Block to retract his statement, asking:

Are you telling Judge Kehoe that I told you, that I said to you that I did not care whether we got Dekker or nor?

Block responded:

That’s correct, Mr. Lewis, I presume it was probably in September or October of 1992. You made that statement sitting in your old office!

Asked by Lewis about the Fish and Wildlife Service’s interest in continuing the orangutan investigation “back in the fall of 1992,” Block answered:

I knew that and at the same time I saw them interested in certain individuals, deliberately looking away from others.

Lewis immediately called for a “motion to strike,” i.e. to shut off this line of discussion before Block perhaps began naming these “others.” IPPL would like to know the identities of those “others” that Block implies that the US Fish and Wildlife Service is “protecting.”

Oddly, Metzger made no attempt to shut his client up. It was the prosecutor who wanted Block silenced. Usually prosecutors are pleased when criminal defendants talk. Lewis was not. Asked whether wildlife agents were directing the Solano and Mexican Sting cases (see “The Fish and Wildlife Stings,” this issue), Block startled Lewis by answering:

I would not say they were directing them, no. They were certainly being kept informed of what was happening.

Apparently trying to get an answer more to his liking, Lewis continued:

They made the decisions about what to do and what not to do, did they not, in consultation with me?

Block responded:

To some degree, Mr. Lewis. Not 100%. Definitely not.

Lewis asked Block about the tape-recordings of his phone-conversations with Dekker. Under Florida law, recording phone-calls without the consent of all parties to a call is a third-class felony. However, the US government had asked Block to record phone-calls, and had provided him with recording equipment, which made the recordings legal. Apparently the Dutch phone-tap on Dekker showed many more phone-calls between Block and Dekker than Block had reported to the wildlife agents.

Metzger asked Block:

You were not directed to tape every call. That was entirely up to you to tape them, right?

Block responded:

Correct!

If true, this statement indicates extremely serious government mishandling of its informant. Allowing any criminal informant to record phone-calls selectively would be an invitation to abuse. Block said that he did not recall the exact number of tapes of phone-calls that he had failed to hand to Picon, but that:

I would estimate approximately ten to fifteen.

Asked whether Picon had ever asked him what was on the missing tapes, Block gave another strange reply:

Not particularly, no. Not directly. At times I would tell him certain things that were on those tapes.

Orangutan case moves to Atlanta

The January hearing provided several fascinating insights into the government’s handling of the “Bangkok Six” case. However, in February Judge Kehoe rejected the motion for a new trial, saying there had never been an old trial.

The orangutan case has now moved to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, Georgia, where Block’s appeal will be handled unless the prosecutor files a motion in support of leniency.
THE FISH AND WILDLIFE "STINGS"

In December 1992 and January 1993, US Fish and Wildlife Service agents were involved in two "stings" of people "set up" for them by Miami orangutan smuggler Matthew Block.

The "Birds' Egg" Sting

In the first "sting," cockatoo-eggs smuggled from Australia were planted on 65-year-old Clement Solano of Elklton, Florida, USA. Solano reports that he received a late-night phone call from an anonymous caller who told him that some birds' eggs were ready for pick-up at the Holiday Inn near Jacksonville Airport.

Solano was given a room number, and sent an employee to collect the eggs. The employee found the room empty except for a "body-belt" of the type used by international bird smugglers, which was lying on the table. The belt contained birds'.

Later, all eggs hatched and a "rich buyer" appeared on the scene. How the eggs got into the United States is not clear, but they were obviously brought in illegally as Australia bans all bird exports. At the 18 January 1994 orangutan case hearing, prosecutor Guy Lewis stated that:

**Dekker was the one who informed Block that Solano was a person they could do business with, and that is how the case got started.**

A decision was apparently made that Solano would be an ideal victim to be "set up" for arrest by wildlife agents. According to Miami wildlife agent Picon, the plan was made:

**In December of 1992, when Mr. Block was talking to Mr. Dekker to put the Solano deal together.**

Solano was arrested in December 1992. He says he was arrested by wildlife agent led by Jorge Picon and Matthew Block, joined later by several more government agents. He even reported that an agent stuck a gun right into his abdomen.

Solano reports that plans to take him to Miami (a 9-hour drive) were changed when he became ill and emergency personnel from the Hastings Fire Department were summoned. So Solano's case was handled in Jacksonville, instead of Miami. He was charged with six counts of receiving smuggled wildlife, and agreed to a one-count plea-bargain in July 1993.

Solano, former operator of a failed trucking business, had suffered two strokes, had diabetes and high blood pressure, was almost killed in a vehicle crash, and had a variety of other ailments.

The Jacksonville judge took this into consideration at sentencing and treated Solano leniently. He received no jail time, due to "diminished mental capacity," instead getting 6 months house arrest. He got no fine because he was impoverished. Solano's plea bargain did not require him to become a government informant.

The 23 fledgling cockatoos were confiscated and housed with multi-millionaire Florida bird collector Richard Shubot, who himself owned hundreds of endangered birds, including dozens of highly endangered black palm cockatoos. Shubot died in May 1993.

The "Gorilla Suit" Sting

The "Mexican Sting" occurred in early 1993. The targets were Victor Bernal, Director of Toluca Zoo, and four Mexican nationals. They were offered a gorilla born at by the Miami Metro Zoo and agreed to buy him. The "Mexican Sting" ended with a dramatic climax worthy of Hollywood!

Wildlife agent Terence English sat in a shipping crate in a small plane at Opa Locka Airport wearing a gorilla suit. His boss Monty Halcomb had flown down from Atlanta to play the role of "pilot."

The three Mexican men arrived on the scene, apparently expecting to fly to Mexico with their gorilla. All were arrested at the airport. Press reports indicate that English leaped out of the gorilla crate yelling "Somos policia," which terrified the Mexicans. The two women were arrested later at their hotel. All five defendants were kept in Miami jails for ten days before being released on bond.

The sensational arrest of the Mexicans by the wildlife agents, accompanied by Matthew Block, won an enormous amount of international publicity. Writing in the 30 January 1993 issue of the Miami Herald, gossip columnist Joan Fleischman commented:

**In mega-demand: the undercover US Fish and Wildlife Service agent who posed as a gorilla to catch primate smugglers, going beyond the call of duty by donning a sweltering costume and grunting and banging in a smelly cage...One caller had a really tough time getting through. His name, Jay Leno. He wanted to make the gorilla-man a star...The Tonight Show host said he thinks the gorilla case is a hoot.**

Mr. English did not appear on the "Tonight Show," and the story soon dropped off the front pages. However, the near-forgotten "Mexican Sting" case is due to come back to life in May 1994 when the trial of the five Mexicans will start, unless all defendants accept plea-bargains. As of April 1994, Miami prosecutors had tried unsuccessfully to extract plea-bargains from the Mexican women.

IPPL believes that real smuggling of live baby orangutans is more serious than any attempt to buy a zoo-born gorilla or obtain smuggled birds' eggs, deplorable as these activities are and has therefore tracked both "Sting" cases.

Court files show that huge amounts of government time have been spent transcribing phone-calls and taped conversations made by Block and "wired" wildlife agents, and "enhancing" videotapes of the dramatic events.

There are set government policies regarding "stings" and they are divided into categories. Victor Bernal, Director of Toluca Zoo, is an official of the state of Mexico. Bernal's status as a foreign government official and the alleged approval of the gorilla deal by the Governor of the State of Mexico indicate that this was a "Class I Sting," which required advance review by a special committee at top levels of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Court documents filed in the "Bangkok Six" case confirm that Region 4 of the Fish and Wildlife Service has a strong sense of the dramatic. In August 1992, the government actually filed a pre-trial motion announcing its intention to bring a live orangutan into the court-room in the upcoming orangutan trial!
HEARING IN SANCTIONS APPEAL

Thanks to generous assistance provided to IPPL and Shirley McGreal by prominent First Amendment attorney Thomas Julian of Miami, Florida, Matthew Block's company Worldwide Primates may be called to account for the fraudulent lawsuit it filed against McGreal shortly after she requested the federal investigation that led to Block's conviction on criminal wildlife smuggling charges.

Block used his lawsuit to try to obtain all documents in McGreal's possession related to himself - not just documents related to the alleged "tortious interference" (i.e., "damages" caused by McGreal's circulation of official Centers for Disease Control and Department of Agriculture reports showing filthy conditions at Block's monkey warehouse - such as monkeys kept in two-tier cages with those on top urinating and defecating on those below).

In the United States, people who file lawsuits have to prove their cases. However, Block's company refused to prove its case, probably because there was no case to prove. Block never handed over one document, instead taking the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination a staggering 49 times. He also "stood up" McGreal's then lawyer Bill Billbrough and a court reporter waiting to take his sworn testimony.

In a normal situation, the case judge would have thrown the case out immediately, as the Fifth Amendment applies only to criminal cases, and cannot be used in civil cases. In addition, Block's lawsuit was filed under his company name. Companies have no right to the Fifth Amendment, which is reserved for individuals.

While its president stayed wrapped in the Fifth Amendment, Worldwide Primates tried to force McGreal to hand over all her and IPPL's documents mentioning the firm. McGreal resisted. She was concerned that exposure of IPPL's network of courageous conservationists around the world to a man suspected to be part of an international smuggling network could jeopardize their safety (a fear confirmed when Block later denounced his own accomplices as dangerous criminals).

As indictment drew closer, Block and his lawyer Paul Bass of Miami tried ever more desperately to extract money and McGreal's documents. These documents had however been subpoenaed by a Miami grand jury investigating the orangutan case. Grand jury documents are kept under seal.

On 22 November 1991, Tom Watts FitzGerald, then prosecuting the orangutan case, met Billbrough and offered to give him all the documents, if McGreal signed a release. That would have made them available to be handed over. McGreal declined to sign a release. FitzGerald, who has openly expressed his contempt for IPPL, has refused repeatedly to explain his conduct.

Block and Bass continued their frantic efforts to extract money and the coveted documents. However, all offers were rejected.

Three days after his indictment, Block's company dropped its lawsuit. However, in the end he got the documents. Trial of the orangutan case was set for 24 August 1992.

As Hurricane Andrew moved towards Miami, prosecutor Guy Lewis, who had succeeded FitzGerald on the case, handed the documents over to Block and his lawyers, with no redactions of names of vulnerable people overseas.

The network of concerned conservationists that IPPL had worked so hard to protect was betrayed to a criminal network by the US Government. In an ongoing unrelated criminal case in Miami, four government witnesses have already been killed.

Later Magistrate William Turnoff and Judge Kenneth Ryskamp rejected McGreal's effort to get Rule 11 sanctions, which would have included payment of legal fees, against both Worldwide Primates and its lawyer Paul Bass. Rule 11 was established to prevent the filing of frivolous lawsuits and abuse of the court system, by sanctioning both clients and lawyers.

At a hearing on the sanctions motion, Turnoff made the outrageous statement that he had to make preferential "judicial notice" of Block's new status as a criminal defendant because it "tied his hands" in his civil lawsuit!

After the lawsuit was dropped, Billbrough, who had done an excellent job, left the case. Thomas Julian, who had represented McGreal earlier and maintained his active interest, kindly offered to prepare an appeal of denial of sanctions on a pro bono basis. Julian prepared an excellent appeal and New York First Amendment lawyer Philip Byler, victor of the famous immuno case, kindly reviewed the legal briefs.

On 3 February 1994, a three-judge panel of the Atlanta-based United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit heard oral argument on McGreal's appeal. The panel consisted of Chief Judge Tjoflat, Judge Dubina and Senior Judge Roney. It was obvious that all three judges on the panel had carefully studied the case record as they asked searching questions of Block's lawyer Edgar Miller, which Miller seemed to have considerable difficulty answering. Due to court congestion, it may take 3-24 months to receive a decision on the appeal.

THANKS TO THOMAS JULIN

IPPL would like to express its gratitude to Thomas Julian for offering his pro bono assistance and for pursuing Rule 11 sanctions so aggressively. Denial of sanctions by Turnoff and Ryskamp was flagrantly unfair and a travesty of justice.

Thanks to Mr. Julian for helping ensure that criminals like Matthew Block cannot use the United States court system as a playground to harass our law-abiding, crime-fighting organization with impunity, and for his protection of our First Amendment right to speak up for our primate friends! Thanks also to Philip Byler for his support and advice.
TRAGEDY IN NAPA VALLEY

On the night of Tuesday 1 March 1994, 57-year old California criminal defense lawyer Michael Metzger, who was defending Matthew Block in the "Bangkok Six" orangutan case, shot his wife and then killed himself with a .357 caliber Magnum weapon. Mrs. Metzger received minor injuries to the legs from shotgun pellets. She explained to the San Francisco Examiner:

"It's just a tragic, tragic accident. I would never have happened if he hadn't been drinking. I don't think he intended to hurt me. He said he was aiming at the flower pot."

Formerly a heavy drug user himself, Metzger specialized in defending big-time narcotics traffickers, but also took on some other major cases.

Metzger started his last evening by getting drunk and going to La Prima pizza-house on Adams Street in St. Helena in the Napa Valley of California. While in the pizza-house, Metzger appeared extremely drunk, and brandished a .380 caliber handgun.

The 5 March 1994 issue of the Napa Valley Register reported that a frightened customer ran to the police-station for help. Police arrived on the scene, confiscated Metzger's gun and his "concealed weapons" permit, and also searched his car. A registered Uzi machine-gun found in the trunk was also confiscated.

Metzger failed a sobriety test. The police officers did not allow him to drive home, instead letting him ride home in the tow-truck. Later that night, he injured his wife, causing her only minor wounds, and then shot himself fatally in the mouth.

The 2 March 1994 issue of the Napa Register reported that Metzger kept "a virtual arsenal" of weapons, including "sporting guns, collectors' pieces and what appeared to be automatic weapons" at his home.

According to "US Drug Probe of Attorney Who Killed Self," an article which appeared in the 4 March 1994 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle, US Customs sealed Metzger's Napa Valley estate within hours of his death, as well as the luxury houseboat on Kappas Marina in Sausalito, California, where Metzger also maintained an office.

The Chronicle reported that Metzger was under investigation in connection with his possible advance knowledge of:

The shipment by a major drug ring of about 50 metric tons of hashish from the Far East. The hashish was delivered in mid-1992 to an isolated area on the Washington coast near the Oregon border.

In October 1992, US District Court Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong had ordered Metzger suspended from practice in Northern California federal courts for six months for "conduct unbecoming a member of the Bar." Armstrong also ordered him to undergo psychological counselling because of verbal abuse, proflity and threats he had meted out to prosecutors.

At the time of his death, Metzger was appealing Armstrong's decision, which applied only to Northern California courts, and thus allowed him to keep up his nationwide practice.

Despite his role in the "Bangkok Six" case, Metzger always claimed to be an animal-lover, even joining the Animal Legal Defense Fund some years ago and offering to represent animal activists in trouble with the law. He was referred four clients.

Although not openly representing Matthew Block at the time, Metzger sent a scurrilous letter to the Miami US Attorney's Office on 5 September 1991, around the time the grand jury investigation of Block's alleged orangutan smuggling activities began. Metzger denounced IPPL and Shirley McGreal and added:

"If an indictment is ever returned against Block, an intense investigation will be made as to the role of Shirley McGreal and her organization."

Around that time, private detectives were somehow able to obtain copies of McGreal's and IPPL's phone-bills and started trying to identify overseas people McGreal called and potential foreign witnesses, should Block's case ever get to trial.

Kurt Schafer is the German animal dealer who "blew the whistle" on the orangutan smuggling network shortly after confiscation of the babies in February 1990. Schafer told IPPL that he had, on Block's recommendation, hired Metzger to keep the US Government, which wanted him to testify against Block, "off his back." Later Schafer changed his mind and decided to testify against Block.

Schafer reports that Metzger turned up shortly afterwards in Schlechtern, Germany, and stood outside his house for 3 days, frequently ringing the door-bell and honking his car-horn. Schafer, who was out of town at the time, reported that his parents, both in their 70s and ailing, were traumatized by the alleged incident.

In March 1993, Metzger emerged from the shadows of the "Bangkok Six" case to become Block's official lawyer. He at
once tried to withdraw the guilty plea already entered and accepted by Judge Kehoe.

He also took out ads headed Scent of a Prosecutor in many newspapers, in which he passionately denounced the US Attorney's office in Miami for not recommending leniency for Block. In addition, he prepared and distributed nationwide a two-inch thick book, also entitled Scent of a Prosecutor, along the same lines.

In the spring of 1993, immediately after Block was sentenced to 13 months prison, Block and Metzger took off together for Africa, visiting Kenya and Tanzania.

During this trip Metzger sent a postcard from Nairobi to Shirley McGreal, whom he had never met. The card showed two zebras mating, and carried the message:

Dear Shirley,
Thinking of you!

Mad Dog Metzger
See you soon!

The last line was double-underlined. On 21 June 1993, a second postcard showing two zebras, head-to-head, reached IPPL. It was mailed from Oakland, California.

Metzger asked, “Shirley, is this better?” An identical card with a different message was mailed from Atlanta, Georgia, on 30 June. A fourth card, mailed from Charlotte, North Carolina, 150 miles from IPPL Headquarters, reached IPPL in July.

Metzger then proceeded to publish a booklet called A Tribute to the International Primate Protection League, from the files of Mad Dog Metzger. Metzger ridiculed IPPL officers as well as Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and included a sickening menu for his “Roadkill Cafe,” (“You Kill it, we grill it”)

Attorney in San Francisco - which had clearly been intercepted and “leaked” to him through his “spies” in the US Attorney’s office.

At two lengthy court hearings in the orangutan case Metzger put on a dazzling display that contrasted sharply with what can most charitably be described as the lackluster performance of the government. He alternately cajoled and bullied witnesses - and even Judge James W. Kehoe. After the sentencing hearing Metzger wrote Kehoe comparing him to General Schwarzkopf - and inviting him for a beer!

**IPPL REPRESENTED AT GENESIS AWARDS**

The Eighth Annual Genesis Awards were presented on 12 March 1994 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City, California. The Genesis awards honor people in the media who have “increased public awareness of animal issues.”

Evelyn Gallardo, IPPL’s West Coast Representative, attended the ceremony which was co-hosted by ice-skater Scott Hamilton and actress Brooke Shields. The chairperson of the event was actress Gretchen Wyler. John Paul Jones DeJoria, whose company produces cruelty-free hair products, welcomed the guests.

During the ceremony, a Lifetime Achievement Award was given to primatologist Jane Goodall, President of the Jane Goodall Institute and a long-time member of IPPL’s Advisory Board.

The Colorado newspaper Rocky Mountain News received an award for a series of news articles by Joseph Verrengia about “Gorillas in the Crossfire.” The articles described the problems caused for mountain gorillas by the 1993 outbreak of civil strife in Rwanda, during which Dian Fossey’s camp Karisoke was overrun by rebels. This war was recently reinitiated.

The TV program Network Earth produced by Turner Broadcasting System was honored for its investigation of Southeast Asia’s brutal trade in wildlife. Former Beatle Paul McCartney won an award for his “compassionate denunciation of animal testing.”
NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Dr. André Menache, a veterinarian, has represented IPPL in Israel since 1989

This is a brief overview of the situation in Israel today vis-à-vis primates, and the efforts of concerned individuals to help them. It is officially estimated that there are hundreds, and perhaps a few thousand, illegally-kept primates in Israel today. This is the informed opinion of the Nature Reserves Authority, which is the body responsible for dealing with primate protection and control.

Some of these illegally-owned primates may be kept in cages as part of a “pet corner” on a kibbutz, while others are kept as pets in apartment buildings. A well-known example is the case of a man who keeps a chimpanzee in his apartment in contravention of the law. This person has been charged on several occasions, taken to court, and fined, but the Nature Reserves Authority has not confiscated the chimpanzee because there is simply nowhere else to put her.

It is a fact that Israel does not have any primate sanctuary or facility specially built to house primates. This hard fact makes it very difficult, and often impossible, for the Nature Reserves Authority to confiscate any illegally-kept primate.

There are several zoos in Israel housing primates, ranging from vervets and capuchins to chimpanzees and gorillas, on a fairly small scale. There was an attempt made several years ago by the Israel Defense Force to train capuchins to look after soldiers who were handicapped from war (e.g. quadriplegics). As far as I am aware, the response by the soldiers was less than enthusiastic and so there are very few such examples in Israel today.

A recent phenomenon has been the use of chimpanzees in television advertisements. Our organization protested vigorously to the use of these highly intelligent animals in advertising and it would appear that our protests have been taken seriously.

Until fairly recently, all primates for medical research were imported into Israel (e.g. from the United Kingdom). However there is now a fairly well-established breeding colony of macaques, which were originally imported from Mauritius into Israel. These primates are primarily destined for overseas laboratories, but it appears they may also serve the local market. All our efforts to close down this facility have failed so far. And now for some good news!

Two months ago, the Israeli Parliament passed a new Animal Protection Act, whereby the maximum penalty for cruelty to animals was raised from 30 days imprisonment to 3 years imprisonment.

SINGAPORE ZOO FAILS AGAIN

Undeterred by the deaths of four gorillas it had imported in 1984, all of whom died that same year from the pathogen pseudomonas pseudomallei, a ground pathogen found all over Southeast Asia, Singapore Zoo managed to obtain two more gorillas.

Amazingly, it finally found European zoos either ignorant of the previous deaths, or satisfied that the zoo would now be able to keep gorillas alive. Sam and Arti, two gorillas born at Rotterdam Zoo, Netherlands, who were on loan to Dublin Zoo, Ireland, were shipped to Singapore in 1993.

The zoo kept them in a sterile enclosure but one of them, a 7 year old male named Sam, caught pseudomonas anyway and died in November 1993. Gorillas in captivity normally live at least 25 years. The surviving gorilla remained alone in his cage.

Fortunately, IPPL learned what had happened through our wonderful Singapore Representative, Marjorie Doggett, and at once contacted the zoos concerned and the European Gorilla Studbook keeper, requesting that the surviving gorilla be removed from Singapore. Arti was returned to Europe and is now alive and well, living at Hanover Zoo in Germany with three females.

Networking is what IPPL is all about. IPPL Headquarters is the nerve center to which our 30 representatives and hundreds of other concerned individuals report.

We believe that, without IPPL’s intervention, the surviving gorilla sent to Singapore might well be dead by now. It is too bad that one gorilla, a 7-year old male, had to die, in order to satisfy Singapore Zoo’s desire to acquire gorillas, despite already having lost four of four.

IPPL recently learned that British gorilla expert John Aspinall might be planning to send four gorillas to a safari park in Indonesia. Fearing similar problems, we contacted Aspinall directly, and he confirmed that he was indeed considering sending four gorillas in exchange for a Sumatran rhino cow for one of his zoos.

Aspinall assured IPPL that he would never send gorillas into a dangerous environment, and that the death of the rhino he was to receive might put an end to his plan to export gorillas to Indonesia.

IPPL believes that the biggest favor Singapore, a confirmed death-trap for gorillas, could do for the species is to abandon its plan to obtain and exhibit them.

LETTER-WRITING HINT!

Although hand-written letters are better than nothing, please try to type or word-process letters whenever possible, especially if they are going overseas where English may not be the first language of the reader.

When writing to IPPL Headquarters, please try to avoid hand-writing: if you have to send a hand-written letter, please be very careful to write as legibly as you can, as we often have trouble reading hand-written letters, and sometimes fail.

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GREETING CARDS DEMEAN PRIMATES

Have you ever seen greeting cards showing primates dressed in human clothing performing silly antics? Because of their resemblance to humans, chimpanzees are frequently used by the greeting card industry.

If you ever see such cards, please do not buy them. This kind of greeting card brings primates, who deserve human respect, into ridicule. Further, chimpanzees used for entertainment purposes are normally taken from their mothers at, or shortly after, birth to make them docile. In the wild young chimpanzees stay with their mothers for many years.

A Department of Agriculture inspector actually found an electric shock training device at one facility in the United States where chimpanzees are kept for entertainment purposes. However, the inspector could do nothing because the device was not used during the actual inspection. One would hardly expect a trainer to start electro-shocking an animal in front of a government inspector.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1) Never, ever, buy a greeting card ridiculing a wild animal or showing a wild animal dressed in human clothing. Instead, buy cards showing wild animals in natural surroundings.

2) If you see cards demeaning wild animals on sale, protest to the store manager. In addition, note the name and address of the company publishing the card and send a letter expressing your concern and your preference for cards of animals in natural settings.

3) Ask other animal groups to which you belong to ask their members not to buy cards showing chimpanzees and other wild animals in demeaning situations.

LAUGHING HIS HEAD OFF!

In March 1990, IPPL exposed the role of Vukosav Bojovic, Director of Belgrade Zoo, and others, in the international smuggling of six baby orangutans ("The Bangkok Six"). The orangutan babies were confiscated on Bangkok Airport, Thailand, on 20 February 1990.

Some months later, IPPL was contacted by Milka Knezevic-Ivaskovic, a former Belgrade Zoo volunteer who confirmed Bojovic's role in the smuggling incident. Milka additionally drew IPPL's attention to the fact that the Belgrade Zoo had acquired two young female orangutans, almost certainly from smugglers, just a few months previously.

Although Vukosav Bojovic was clearly guilty, he nonetheless sued Milka for purported "defamation." Milka was incredibly found "Guilty" and given a 3-month jail sentence and fine, which she is appealing.

In January 1993, almost three years after the orangutans were confiscated, Bojovic was indicted by a Miami grand jury as a conspirator in the "Bangkok Six" affair. There were numerous documents pertaining to Bojovic in the case file. These included a letter from Bojovic to the Government of Thailand demanding that the confiscated orangutans (which he called "monkeys") be immediately sent to him.

Despite having documents showing clearly the spelling of Bojovic's name, US government officials spelled his name incorrectly on the indictment. Showing almost unbelievable incompetence, they called him "Viktor Buljovic" repeatedly in court documents!

The misspelling means that Bojovic might escape arrest even if he arrived in the United States, as his name would be entered wrongly in US immigration computers. The fact that the US Government did not even take the trouble to get Bojovic's name spelled correctly shows the lackadaisical (at best) attitude the US government has taken towards the entire "Bangkok Six" case from Day 1.

On 28 January 1994, there was another hearing in Milka's court case, which has now dragged on for years. Although she presented documents clearly showing Bojovic's guilt, Bojovic is as "well-connected" in Serbia as some of the other conspirators appear to be in their home countries. Milka was found "Guilty" again.

Milka commented to IPPL:

The day before yesterday, my trial turned into a "Twilight Zone" story. Although I presented all documents, evidence, etc. I was found guilty again. Opposite side (Vukosav Bojovic) just laughed when he heard about USA warrant for his arrest!

Bojovic is not the only "Bangkok Six" smuggler who must be laughing his head off! Although almost the entire smuggling gang was identified in March 1990 by gang member Kurt Schaefer, not one of them has yet to experience any meaningful punishment. To date the only victims have been the six baby orangutans, any mother orangutans shot during their capture, and many law-abiding citizens around the world who have been severely harassed, including by government officials, just because they tried to get laws enforced.
TABLES TURNED IN ORANGUTAN BEATING CASE

beroSini VeroICT UNANIMOUSLY OVERTURNED

In 1989, Ottavio Gesundo, a Las Vegas dancer, secretly filmed entertainer Bobby Berosini striking his performing orangutans repeatedly backstage at the Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. The resulting video was shown nationwide and aroused public outrage. In 1990 Berosini sued People for Ethical Treatment of Animals and its employee Jeanne Roush, the Performing Animal Welfare Society and its President Pat Darby and Gesundo, alleging libel and invasion of privacy.

The case was assigned to Judge Myron Leavitt who allowed Berosini to put on an “orangutan show” in the courtroom. Throughout the case the defendants accused Leavitt of bias. Finally Berosini won a $4.2 million dollar judgment. The case was then appealed to the Supreme Court of Nevada.

On 27 January, 1994, the Supreme Court issued its unanimous decision. Berosini had not been libelled. His privacy had not been invaded. There would be no millions for Berosini!

Furthermore, the Court based its decision in part on the Nevada State Constitution which protects freedom of speech more actively that the First Amendment to the US Constitution. This means that the decision against Berosini is very unlikely to be overturned because the US Supreme Court cannot override state constitutional protections.

The litigious Austrian multinational corporation Immuno A.G. found this out in its protracted New York lawsuit against critics of its proposed African chimpanzee facility. Although lower court Judge Beatrice Shainswit tried desperately to extract settlements in favor of the Austrian company from all US defendants, she failed.

Appeals courts threw the company’s lawsuit out, partly on the grounds that the New York State constitution, like Nevada’s, protects free speech more actively than the US Constitution.

In any case, the US Supreme Court only accepts 3% of the lawsuits it is asked to consider. Unanimous decisions are less likely to be reversed than split decisions.

Extracts from the Nevada Supreme Court’s decision follow:

We conclude that the evidence was insufficient to support the jury’s verdict and, accordingly, reverse the judgment. The word “libel” comes from the Latin “libellus”, little book. The legal term derives from the practice in ancient Rome of publishing little books or booklets which were used by one Roman in defaming another.

The “little book” in this case takes the form of a videotape which shows world-renowned animal trainer Bobby Berosini backstage before the beginning of his show, shaking and punching his trained orangutans and hitting them with some kind of rod. We conclude that the “libellus” is not libellous.

The videotape is not “false” because it is an accurate portrayal of the manner in which Berosini disciplined his animals backstage before performances. The videotape is not defamatory because Berosini and his witnesses take the position that the shaking, punching, and beating that appear on this tape are necessary, appropriate and “justified” for the training, discipline and control of show animals.

If Berosini did not think that the tape showed him doing anything wrong or disgraceful, he should not be heard to complain that the defendant defamed him merely by “showing” the tape.

All of the members of this court have viewed the tape and what is shown on the tape is clear and unequivocal: Berosini is shown, immediately before going on stage, grabbing, slapping, punching and shaking the animals while several handlers hold the animals in position. The tape also shows Berosini striking the animals with a black rod approximately 10 to 12 inches long.

The testimony at trial exhibited a very wide spectrum of opinion as to whether Berosini’s actions constituted abuse or was proper and acceptable disciplinary action. For example, one of Berosini’s experts, Kenneth Gould Ph. D., a professor at Emory University, whose Primate Center provided orangutans for Berosini’s use, testified that the beatings portrayed in the videotape “show appropriate and necessary action on his part with regard to discipline and control”...

Dr. Roger Fouts, another university professor and expert in animal behavior... was of the opinion that what we saw on the videotapes was “unconscionable and unacceptable”...

Berosini testified that in his opinion it is often necessary to hit an orangutan to keep it under control. Although Berosini may be entitled to hold his own opinion on these matters, he does not claim that the defendants in this case or their experts did not honestly and sincerely hold the contrary opinion...

All viewers of the video are free to express their opinion on the question of whether they think Berosini was being cruel to these animals, and no one can be successfully sued for expressing such an evaluative opinion — even if it is “wrong.” There is no such thing as a false idea or a wrong opinion.

We believe that open and robust debate should be encouraged in Nevada and not deterred by what has appeared to appellant Gesundo and others as a “SLAPP” suit [Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation] a lawsuit whose principal intent and purpose is not to settle a legitimate dispute but to terrorize those who wish to involve themselves in public issues such as this one...

Article 1, Section 9 of the Nevada State Constitution provides that, “Every citizen may freely speak, write and publish his statements on all subjects”...

The judgment of the trial court is reversed in its entirety.

Instead of viewing the prospect of millions of dollars, Berosini is now liable for payment of court costs totally over $250,000 and may even get assessed the defendants’ legal bills, which totalled over $1 million.

Now furious Judge Myron Leavitt is threatening to sue the Las Vegas Sun and columnist Jamie Greenspun Gale for their criticism of his handling of the Berosini case. As early as 1990,
Gale had contended that:

Judge Leavitt was too involved with the Boyd Group, owner of the Stardust Hotel where Berosini was performing in those days, to be an impartial judge in the lawsuit.

Leavitt told the Sun that:

Mr. Boyd was my former partner in the practice of law. It is true that he was my college roommate. I offered to recuse myself and assign the case to another judge if the Stardust Hotel was in any way involved in the case.

Gale did not accept this statement, drawing attention to a 17 August 1989 letter from Mare-Bear doing business as the Stardust Hotel asking for copies of pleadings in the case because the Stardust was “an interested party in the above-captioned matter.”

Gale also drew attention to the Boyd Group’s contribution of $25,000 to Judge Leavitt’s campaign for office just two years before the trial.

Gale noted that she was not alleging corruption or dishonesty on Leavitt’s part—merely that Leavitt sitting on a case involving Berosini, an employee of the Boyd Group, gave an “appearance of impropriety.”

Defendants in the case have already filed motions seeking recovery of their court costs. Judge Leavitt has the option to force Berosini to pay all the defendants’ legal bills.

In addition, the former defendants have the option of “putting the shoe on the other foot” and becoming plaintiffs. The strong and unanimous Nevada Supreme Court decision appears to open the door for counter-suits for malicious prosecution and abuse of process.

Although Bobby Berosini, an entertainer, and scientists with doctorates might appear to have very little in common, Berosini’s lawsuit was viewed so enthusiastically by the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) that NABR had Berosini’s lawyer Harold Gwerter as star luncheon speaker at its November 1991 conference about defending the interests of experimenters by filing lawsuits, etc. Gwerter’s subject was “Counter-Attacking the Animal Rights Business.”

Presumably NABR felt that anyone who went after animal groups, no matter who he was, was a hero. Similar reasoning may lie behind the strange alliance between Dr. Peter Gerone, Director of Tulane University Primate Center and now-convicted criminal Matthew Block during Block’s lawsuit against Shirley McGreal.

To obtain a free copy of the Nevada Supreme Court’s ringing defense of animal protectors’ right to express their opinions, please contact IPPL-US Headquarters, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484 ,U.S.A.

TRAVEL BOYCOTT OF BARBADOS

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) has organized a travel boycott of Barbados to protest the country’s export of African green monkeys and suggests that animal-lovers travel elsewhere in the Caribbean. The island of St. Kitts also allows export of monkeys and is visited by international wildlife smugglers whose activities are not known.

The monkeys of the Caribbean came over in slave ships from Africa, and escaped monkeys thrived in the mild climate. Some monkeys would raid human farms and plantations. The foreign animal dealers who have established themselves on the Caribbean reason that they are helping saving the islanders by protecting crops from monkey damage.

According to BUAV:

Barbados, the sun-kissed Caribbean paradise of sloping white beaches and turquoise seas, is visited by thousands of tourists every year. But this beautiful island has a shameful secret. It is one of the world’s largest suppliers of monkeys for use in painful laboratory tests...Our investigators travelled to the island and filmed the monkeys’ suffering. They found baby monkeys huddled together in a barren case. One had lost an eye during capture. Other monkeys circled their bare metal cages, desperate for freedom. Yet, most sickening of all was the sight of a baby monkey still clinging to the skeleton of her long dead baby.

BUAV asks animal lovers to “Think Before you Book Your Holiday.”

...and neither do they.
BARBADOS SELLS WILD MONKEYS FOR LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS. THINK BEFORE YOU BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY.
IPPL REPRESENTED AT ORANGUTAN MEETING

The International Orangutan Conference was held at California State University, Fullerton, from 5-7 March 1994. The conference, which was co-sponsored by the Atlanta and San Diego zoos, was organized by IPPL member Norman Rosen, who succeeded in bringing together participants from Indonesia, Sabah, Japan, and many European countries, as well as North America. IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal and Dianne Taylor-Snow attended.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Birute Galdikas, President of the Orangutan Foundation and Dr. Terry Maple, Director of Atlanta Zoo, and a courageous witness at orangutan smuggler Matthew Block’s sentencing hearing.

Dr. Galdikas received her United Nations Environment Program’s Global 500 Award from fellow Global 500 member, Shirley McGreal, who was representing UNEP. Dr. Galdikas commented appreciatively that she has enough problems working solely for orangutans without having to work for all primate species as IPPL does.

Among foreign government officials present were Mr. Widodo Ramono and Daniel Sinaga of the Indonesian Wildlife Department and Mr. Patrick Andau of the Sabah Wildlife Department.

Mr. Andau showed a video of an orangutan translocation project in Sabah, which, along with Sarawak, forms the Malaysian part of the island of Borneo.

The video showed orangutans caught in isolated stands of trees. Surrounding trees had been destroyed by clear-cutting and the animals were stranded as if on islands with nowhere to go. Sabah wildlife officials would catch the orangutans by dart or hand, and move them to a protected area.

Viewers of the video were left with a sense of how tragic and horrendous for wildlife the practice of clear-cutting rain-forest is. While the translocation effort is to be applauded, the logging policy that causes the stranding of orangutans urgently requires modification.

MIAMI BIRD DEALER ARRESTED

Elias Mantas, a Greek national, was indicted in Miami in December 1993 for smuggling 1731 African gray parrots worth over a million dollars into the US. Mantas was arraigned before Magistrate William Turnoff. Turnoff had helped Matthew Block greatly in his lawsuit against IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal.

Although the government requested a high bond for Mantas, Turnoff allowed him out on a personal surety bond, which requires no actual deposit of funds, just as Magistrate Ted Bandstra had let Matthew Block off with a personal surety bond while awaiting trial (Bandstra facilitated Block’s world travel still further even right after he was convicted and sentenced to jail).

Mantas is represented by William Aaron, a Miami criminal defense lawyer, who is also a member of Matthew Block’s large team of legal protectors.
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SECRETARY: Marjorie Doggett
TREASURER: Diane Walters

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HOW TO JOIN IPPL

Complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to the International Primate Protection League to either IPPL, PO Box 766, Summerville, S.C., 29484 U.S.A. or IPPL, 116 Judd Street, London WC1H9NS, England.

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

I wish to join IPPL as:

( ) Patron Member $100.00 or £70
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All members receive complimentary copies of IPPL News. Individuals or organizations may subscribe to IPPL News at an annual fee of $20.00.

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

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

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