



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



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To: H.E. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso
Personal
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From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese
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Date: August 21, 1998

Subject: Executive Order 1,710

Mr. President,

Allow me to bring to your personal attention my deep concern upon receiving the news of the enactment of Executive Order 1,710, giving environmental law breakers practically a ten-year holiday and, in essence, overturning the Environmental Crimes Act.

I am aware of your personal commitment to concepts such as sustainable development or ocean governance; I am aware of all the support you have given to the Independent World Commission on the Ocean, of which Mario Soares of Portugal accepted the Presidency on our initiative. I am a good friend of Minister José Israel Vargas, and we have other ties with Brazil -- also considering that my father, Thomas Mann, was half Brazilian!

In my University teaching and in my writings, I have always used Brazil as a shining example with regard to the Environment and the Ocean. José Israel Vargas can attest to that. This Executive Order, which is being interpreted by the international community as a ruthless election manoeuvre, therefore deeply concerns and grieves me, and I would urge you, from the depth of my heart, to revoke it.

Please excuse my frankness, which is motivated by the deep commitment which we both share.

Respectfully yours,

Elisabeth Mann Borgese