



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. Federico Mayor

FAX No: 33 1 40 61 92 15

From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese

FAX No.: 1 902 868 2455

Date: November 8, 1994

Subject: World Commission for the Oceans

My dear Federico,

Layashi Yaker asked me to send you an up-to-date report on our proposal for the establishment of a World Commission for the Oceans. Preparations are going on very well indeed. I should say that the proposal is being received with enthusiasm everywhere.

I think Layashi explained to you all that needs to be explained. Let me add the expression of my own conviction that cooperation with you, with Unesco and with IOC -- as well as with UNEP, FAO, IMO, and the newly established International Seabed Authority -- is absolutely essential for the success of the project. This is why we invited you in the first place, and consultations and cooperation should continue throughout the two years of life of the Independent Commission. If indeed UNESCO or IOC could, through a Resolution, ask for, or encourage the establishment of the Commission, that would be splendid. Perhaps it would be possible for the upcoming Lisbon oceanographic conference to adopt such a resolution or make such a recommendation. It would be timely. Without wanting to rush the matter unduly, I do believe it would be useful not to lose too much time and momentum. We have created quite a bit of interest and expectation, and it would be a pity to lose it.

The following have already accepted to become members, if President Soares invites them.

Layashi Yaker, Vice President

Guido de Marco, Vice President

myself, Vice President

Mr. Suzuki (Nomura Research Institute), Vice President

(there will be a Brazilian, and perhaps one additional, to bring it up to 6. The Vice Presidents, with the President, will function as a sort of Executive Group -- at all times in close cooperation with you, Unesco, and IOC).

Alicia Barcena

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Umberto Colombo

Carl-August Fleischhauer

Abdul Koroma

Rudd Lubbers

Ronald St John Macdonald

Juan Somavia

Gus Speth

Klaus Töpfer

The total budget for the Commission's work is indicated in the revised document Layashi gave to you. I should add the following comment:

- . UNDP is taking care of the item "Hearings," at least in part. I expect an official confirmation for \$120,000 which will cover the hearings to be organised by our 4 GEF sponsored Centres (India, Fiji, Senegal, and Costa Rica). Japan will finance its own hearings; Canada will finance its own hearings; we are applying to the Sasakawa Foundation to cover the costs of the hearings in China.
- . The first meeting of Vice Presidents should take place in Lisbon. President Soares has indicated that there would be no difficulty in funding it.
- . The first Plenary Session of the Commission will certainly take place in Portugal. It will be funded by Portugal.
- . The second meeting of Vice Presidents will take place in Malta. It will be funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta.

The second Plenary Session of the Commission will take place in Japan. It will be funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

We have been encouraged to apply to the Ministry of the Environment of Germany for a grant of \$300,000.

As requested by Jan Pronk, we have applied for a grant of \$300,000 from his Ministry, for the first year, possibly renewable for the second year.

To sum it up, this means that over \$1 million appear to be well assured.

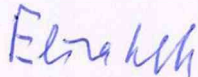
As pointed out in the document, these funds would go into a special Trust Fund, to be established by the Commission and administered under the responsibility of a Treasurer, appointed by the Commission.

A set of initial working papers is being prepared by the Secretariat, largely resulting from a workshop on the restructuring of the U.N., which was held last month in Malta in cooperation between the Foundation for International Studies and the IOI, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I believe we have done quite a bit of work, and it would be splendid if the first meeting of Vice Presidents could be held by the end of January next year.

We are confidently awaiting the outcome of your consultations with President Soares.

Yours as ever,



Elisabeth Mann Borgese



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. Federico Mayor
FAX No: 33 1 4567 1690

From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese
FAX No.: 1 902 868 2455

Date: 13 December, 1994

Subject: Independent World Commission for the Oceans

My dear Federico,

Layashi and I have discussed your concerns at length, and we have edited the original document accordingly. I am attaching the revised copy.

Of course close cooperation with UNESCO/IOC had been our intention from the beginning -- which was the reason why Layashi approached you as soon as we started planning this project; but if this intention results now clearer from the project outline, this is all for the better.

We are looking forward to meeting with you on December 21, at 11:30, at your office, to discuss the whole matter and move to the next stage.

All the very best,

Yours as ever,

Elisabeth



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FAXED

4 January, 1995

H.E. Dr. Federico Mayor
Director-General, UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris, France
FAX Number 33 1 4567 1690

Dear Director-General:

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has entered into force on November 16, 1994. The year 1998 has been declared by the United Nations General Assembly as the Year of the Oceans. The intervening years are fraught with important events bearing on the interaction between the new order for the seas and oceans, world order in the 21st century, and the restructuring of the United Nations system.

It is in this broad context that we are proposing the establishment of an Independent World Commission on the Oceans, as described in the attached document.

To emphasize the importance of cooperation between the Commission and the United Nations and its agencies and programmes, to increase the authority of the Commission, and to enhance the chances of effective implementation of its recommendations, we would like to request you, together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to select the President of the Commission who will then proceed to implement the project.

The infrastructure for the project is in place, and there are no financial implications for the United Nations.

We find the task we have set for the Commission challenging and exciting. An Independent, high-level Commission, working closely with the United Nations, could make a contribution in this dynamic and innovative area of national/regional/global, governmental/nongovernmental cooperation that could be highly beneficial to the United Nations system in particular and to the international community in general.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Mann Borgese
Founder, Chair,
International Ocean Institute



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. Federico Mayor
FAX No: 33 1 4567 1690

From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese
FAX No.: 1 902 868 2455

Date: 8 February, 1995

Subject: World Commission

My dear Federico,

I tried to call my office, but only got the answering machine. Thus the letter will reach you too late from there.

I therefore am sending you the copy I have, which is partly illegible. I have tried to decipher as much as possible. In any case, the meaning is perfectly clear.

Please note the date of the letter. It appears really quite surprising that Boutros-Ghali should have sent this letter at that date without letting you know that he had changed his mind!

I will be most grateful if you could clear up the matter.

We have lost another month. We are losing momentum. I have to keep our Vice-Presidents at bay. I had letters from Pronk and from the Ministry for the Environment of Germany. Both are ready to support the Commission financially, but they want definite information, confirmation of time schedules, etc. to which I cannot respond. Our other major donor, Japan, also presses me with requests for information, and the continuous delays cause difficulties.

My love to Layashi. I would be grateful if you could repeat to him that my phone number here is 386 69 65 541. My room number is 208, and I am in my room usually between 17:00 and 19:00, and after 20:00. I should be here until February 17, but if there is any emergency, or if we have to go to Lisbon sooner, I could of course always shorten my stay here at the spa, although it would be a pity, because my arthritis really needs it!

All the best, and thanks for everything,

Yours as ever,

Elisabeth

International Ocean Institute

FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. Federico Mayor
FAX No: 33 1 4567 1690

From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese
FAX No.: 1 902 868 2455

Date: 25 February, 1995

Subject: World Commission

My dear Federico,

I am sorry I have to disturb you once more.

I have just returned from Lisbon, where we had a talk with Mario Soares. The result, after consultations with Layashi Yaker, was a letter to the Secretary-General, attaching a draft letter he should address to President Soares. I am sending you these documents herewith.

I just had another talk with Layashi, who informed me about his conversation with you this morning. He also told me you would see the Secretary-General in Vienna on Monday, and we thought it would be most opportune if you could conclude this matter then and there. Of course we would like to leave it entirely up to you whether you and the Secretary-General would express your support jointly or individually. In case of a joint communication, which, hopefully could be sent directly from Vienna, I am attaching a draft we discussed with Layashi.

President Soares is waiting for such an expression of moral support for our initiative.

With all good wishes, and our thanks for all your help,

Yours as ever,

Elisabeth



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The Director-General

reference : DG/95/135

6 MAR 1995

Dear Elisabeth,

Many thanks for the full information you have provided concerning the establishment of an Independent **World Commission for the Ocean**, on the initiative of the International Ocean Institute (IOI). I welcome action that can contribute to addressing the multi-dimensional aspects of the oceans at a time when, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea having come into effect in November 1994, all "marine eyes" are now trained on Lisbon 1998 and the International Year of the Ocean, which was proposed by UNESCO and has been approved by the UN General Assembly.

I am willing to provide a link between the Independent Commission and the UN system through communication with the relevant UN mechanisms, including the ACC Sub-Committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, for which UNESCO provides the Secretariat through the IOC, as well as the Inter-Secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes relating Oceanography.

UNESCO and its IOC can certainly benefit from the studies and recommendations that will emanate from the Commission and I am ready to provide a number of facilities (information, contacts with world experts and institutions, etc.) in order to co-operate both in the work of the Commission and in the follow-up to its outcome, particularly through IOC but also through other concerned UNESCO programmes.

.../

Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese
Founder, Chair
International Ocean Institute
1226 LeMarchant Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3H 3P7

Fax: (1.902) 8682455

I have communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the intention of the Board of IOI to request President Mario Soares of Portugal to chair the Independent World Commission for the Oceans. His chairmanship is indeed most welcome and augurs well for the Commission's work, as do your own commitment and unstinting efforts.

I hope that the results of the Commission's work will be finalized in good time and in a way that would enable me to transmit them to the IOC and to forward them with the latter's and my own observations to UNESCO's General Conference and as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In order to keep the IOC and myself informed, I would propose that the Commission's Secretariat bring us periodically (every 6 months?) up-to-date with the activities and preliminary results of the Independent Commission. Without in any way wishing to affect the independence of the Commission, I consider it essential to establish, from the outset, close links between UNESCO and its IOC and the Commission. Not only would this enhance the Commission's relevance and efficiency. It would also correspond to your intention of having close co-operation with UNESCO and its IOC from the beginning.

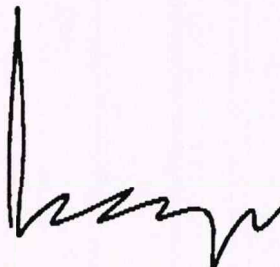
The paper "Establishment of an Independent World Commission for the Oceans" may well serve as a basis for determining the Commission's programme and methods of work. It is important, however, to leave the final decision in this regard to the Commission itself so as to ensure its highly functional and independent character.

The Independent Commission would have no co-ordinating function but would aim at providing, at this particular juncture and in relation to oceans, general guidelines for the intellectual and scientific contributions to the multiple facets of this highly relevant field. It would thus also heighten worldwide visibility and awareness of ocean-related issues and concerns.

You may consider this letter the formal expression of UNESCO's and its IOC's readiness to support the work of the Independent Commission and to review its outcome for appropriate action in due course. Its contents should also serve to revise accordingly the draft paper you so kindly sent me on the establishment of the Commission.

With my best personal regards,

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Federico Mayor', with a stylized, cursive script.

Federico Mayor



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. Federico Mayor
FAX No: 33 1 4567 1690

From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese
FAX No.: 1 902 868 2455

Date: 8 March, 1995

Subject: World Commission for the Oceans

My dear Federico,

My heart-felt thanks for your letter of support, with your promise of collaboration. This really is invaluable to us. It will guarantee the highest quality of the scientific contribution to our project, which, of course is of fundamental importance.

We cannot thank you enough and are looking forward to a most fruitful collaboration.

Yours as ever,



Dalhousie University

FAXED

International Ocean
Institute



INDEPENDENT WORLD COMMISSION ON THE OCEANS

Professor Federico Mayor
Director General, UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75 700 Paris
FAX 33 1 4567 1690

Dear Federico:

You should have received these days an official invitation from President Mario Soares of Portugal, the Chairman of our newly established Independent World Commission on the Oceans, inviting you to join the Commission and to participate in our first Plenary Session, on September 6, 7, and 8, at the United Nations University in Tokyo.

I am attaching today (a) a provisional agenda; and (b) some information on logistics which has been issued by the local organiser, INTERCOM. I hope that everything is clear.

You will note that you kindly should make your own travel arrangements, and that the air fare (business class) will be refunded in cash in Tokyo. You will also note that your expenses at the Westin Hotel in Tokyo are fully covered. However, if you prefer another hotel, you would be responsible for the difference in price between the Westin (23,000 Yen) and the Hotel of your choice. You should kindly advise Ms Masako Otsuka, INTERCOM, fax 81 3 3586 4706, of your decision as well as of your flight number and arrival time.

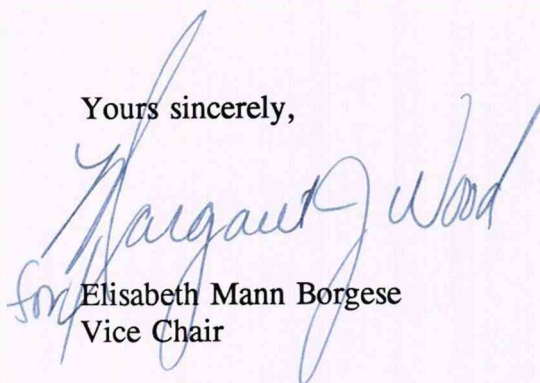
A set of documentation for the meeting will be sent within the next two weeks.

I very much hope it will be possible for you to join us in Tokyo. This first session of the Commission is of fundamental importance for the orientation and organisation of our work, and I am convinced that this Commission has a unique opportunity to offer a "vision" and make a long-term contribution to the making of a somewhat better world. But what we do today is decisive for the chances of realising the long-term vision. Ocean policy is being made this year and next year, and we are in an exceptionally good position to influence it. We need your help and cooperation.

The time between now and Tokyo is very short indeed, and I would be most grateful if you could let me know just as soon as possible whether you will be able to attend as I fervently hope.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elisabeth Mann Borgese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "M".

Elisabeth Mann Borgese
Vice Chair

WORLD COMMISSION



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The Director-General

reference: DG/2.10

- 1 SEP 1995

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for your letter of 24 July, informing me of the invitation to attend the meeting of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, Tokyo, 6-8 September 1995. I have not yet received the official invitation from President Soares, but, in any event, prior commitments will make it impossible for me to attend the plenary session on 6-8 September. I will be in Beijing, Seoul and I will arrive in Tokyo on 10 September. In any case, you know the Commission has my full support.

With my personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Federico Mayor

Ms Elizabeth Mann Borgese
Vice Chair, Independent
World Commission on the Oceans
Dalhousie University
1228 LaMarchant Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3H 3P7