

*The Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations*

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New York, July 9, 1998

Gentilissime Signore,

I was pleased to receive your most appreciated letter, also because it comes from the daughter of ^{an} eminent writer.

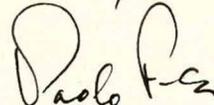
When we first met, you will recall that I mentioned what a profound influence *Joseph the Provider* has had on my life, helping to open my mind during the green years of my youth.

I found your proposal for the establishment of a United Nations Ocean Assembly quite interesting. Since it is such an ambitious initiative, it deserves the contribution of someone who has the necessary time and opportunity to dedicate to it.

I am unfortunately not that person, since my tour of duty at the United Nations is nearing its end. In a few months if not in a few weeks, I shall be retiring to Italy.

Naturally (unless the initiative is taken by someone else, such as Germany, which hosts the Tribunal for the Sea in Hamburg), I will be happy to support your proposal, and recommend it to the attention of my successor. In the meantime, I wish you the best of success, and my sincere compliments on a timely and well thought out proposal.

Very sincerely,



F. Paolo Fulci

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Mrs. Elisabeth Mann Borgese
Dalhousie University
1226 Le Marchant Street
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FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: The Hon. Charles Caccia
Fax No: 613 995 8202
From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese
Fax No: 1 902 868 2455
Date: March 27, 1999
Subject: General Assembly initiative

Dear Charles

You remember that, among the conclusions and recommendations of our "Halifax Declaration" adopted by the Pacem in Maribus XXVI Conference, there was the establishment, by the General Assembly, of a "Committee of the Whole" to deal with ocean affairs in a continuous, integrated and comprehensive way.

This initiative, has made quite some progress. I am attaching our assessment of the developments that have taken place.

I understand, Canada is leaning towards the alternative of a UN Conference on Oceans.

This, I think, would be most unfortunate, because such a Conference, at this time, is not needed. What is needed is an ongoing process to deal with these matters. Quite apart from the fact that that proposal would have financial implications which our proposal does not have.

I would be most grateful if you could give your personal attention to this matter. Canada's position is important and will influence others. If we get the Committee of the Whole this will open vast new possibilities for improving ocean governance at the global level, and this would fit precisely into Canadian policy!

I would be most grateful if you could let me have your reaction.

With all good wishes, sincerely yours,