



Dalhousie University

International Ocean  
Institute



FAXED

October 31, 1994

Dr. Heitor Gurgulino de Souza  
Rector  
United Nations University  
Tokyo, Japan

My dear Heitor,

First of all, thanks for the time you gave us. As always, I enjoyed, and profited from, the conversation. We are working on such closely parallel lines, and, on our part, have much to gain from exchange and collaboration.

In the meantime, I have carefully studied the Programme on Environmentally Sustainable Development. It is an excellent, well thought through document, even though perhaps -- like practically all literature emerging from the Rio Conference, it is a bit heavy on Environment and not heavy enough on Development. I have always been of a rebellious nature, and thus feel like rebelling against the environmental jargon whilst we are facing a new famine in Africa and violence and international civil war are smoldering where they are not flaming... But do not take this too seriously: it is a very personal reaction, and, let me repeat, the document is excellent.

I would like to focus my observations and proposals on the brief section on the oceans (p. 11) because I do believe there is much common work we could undertake.

While these two paragraphs are undoubtedly correct, and offer an important opening, they deal with the ocean problem in a very sectoral manner, remaining, for all practical purposes, in the sector of the natural sciences. This limitation is indicated quite clearly at the very beginning, on the Chart (p.ii), where "oceans" are linked to "Natural Science," but not to "Social Sciences and Economics, nor to "Public Administration, Law, Politics, Economics." I do believe, ocean development offers much more. It offers the opportunity for a case study, embracing all the areas of your programme.

Let us look at Economics: You have an excellent section on Analysis of economic restructuring relating to the environment and technological shifts.

The Advisory Team believes that the UNU should study some issues which are directly related to environmental concerns, and whose technicality requires a clear economic approach. Among these are efforts to determine the pollution content of imports, of production, and of consumption; to that end, current economic accounting methods must be improved so as to integrate environmental values such as the "natural capital" content of international trade...



The fact is that all the interesting attempts to generate a New Economics apply to land-based economics. Nobody has applied the new thinking to the uses of ocean space and resources -- except for fisheries economics, where, in particular, Dasgupta has done some path-breaking work, showing, on the one hand, that, basically, economic and environmental interests coincide in fisheries, but that "the market forces" cannot satisfy either, and that regulation is to the best interest of both.

With regard to the "natural capital," I have been particularly impressed with the work of my good friend Orio Giarini (especially his Dialogue on Wealth and Welfare), and have tried to draw his attention to the economics of the oceans. He has done some work on this, but it is only a beginning. Robert Bowen's work (University of Massachusetts) on the nexus: international sea-food trade/public health/water-quality control and integrated coastal management, provides another plank. An in-depth study, applying New Economics to the economics of the oceans is badly needed and would fill a lacuna which leaves the rest of the system unviable. It also would provide a much needed input into training programmes. As a matter of fact, we have already induced Orio Giarini to lecture in our programmes.

Could we go into that? We want to commission a study in any case, as a working paper for the World Commission for the Oceans (see attached document), Could we join forces on this? I would like to associate both Dasgupta and Giarini with this effort. An oil economist as well as a shipping economist should also be associated. Could we have one of your "annual colloquia" (p.14) devoted to this?

On the "governance" side, the oceans, I believe, are actually the lead sector. Most interesting beginnings have already been made within local and national governments, in the direction of interministerial, interdepartmental, interdisciplinary "horizontal integration" as postulated in the Brundtland Report. Legislation and institution-building, e.g., in Oregon or Hawaii, or in the Netherlands, are indeed quite promising, and more advanced than in any other sector of governance. There are good studies on this, including those of Stella Vallejo of the U.N. Law of the Sea Office.

At the IOI, we have started to study the implications of these changes for the structure and functions of the regional seas programmes. Last year, I amused myself by rewriting the Barcelona Convention the way I thought it ought to be written if were written today and had to integrate Environment and Development.. The emerging centre piece was a Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development and Comprehensive Security (these two concepts are really very closely related and mutually dependent). To my delight, the Government of Malta has taken up the proposal and is pushing it.

Thus there are highly interesting developments at the local-national-regional level. These now will have to be linked up with developments at the global level, i.e., with the restructuring of the United Nations system. We do have quite a few ideas on this, with which I will not bore you now, but they certainly will be taken up by the World Commission.

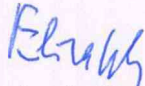
So there is a lot of work to be done there, with very wide implications!

We will have one session of the World Commission in Japan. It seems, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation is going to fund it. It will be next September. Its purpose will be to adopt the Interim Report, to be presented to the Fiftieth GA. Should we have this session at the UNU? Would UNU be interested to be the publisher of the Final Report of the Commission?

These are all big questions! As you see, our last conversation was rather inspiring...

With all good wishes,

Yours as ever,



Elisabeth Mann Borgese





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**FAXED**

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. Heitor Gurgulino de Souza  
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From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
FAX No.: 1 902 868 2455

Date: 13 July, 1995

Subject: World Commission on the Oceans

Dear Heitor,

In the near future --if you have not already received it --you will receive an official letter from President Soares of Portugal, inviting you and UNU to cosponsor the first plenary session of the newly established Independent World Commission on the Oceans and to participate in the proceedings as an Eminent Person associated with the Commission. As a matter of fact, we would like to ask you to speak at the inaugural session.

I know our Japanese colleagues will be in touch with you to arrange all the details.

I think the Commission will give us a unique opportunity to make a contribution to the shaping of world order for next century. The Law of the Sea today is at the cutting edge of international law, and we are looking at it in the broader context of peace, comprehensive security and development: at the confluence of the UNCLOS and UNCED processes and their joint impact on the restructuring of the United Nations system. It is a huge job!

We are happy indeed to launch it officially at the UNU!

I am sending you today my new book *Ocean Governance and the United Nations*.

Looking forward to seeing you soon, with all good wishes,

Yours as ever,