







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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

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P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya

Your Reference

Our Reference

ED/PCS/rwb

22 November 1994

Dear Elisabeth,

I am sorry that it has taken me some time to get back to you on your proposal for the establishment of a World Commission for the Oceans, but it needed careful consideration from several aspects.

First of all, although I am flattered that you invited me to become member of the proposed commission, I do not feel that I have the substantive expertise which needs to be brought into the commission. For that reason I must decline your kind invitation. Secondly, as you well know, my schedule would simply not permit me to give due time and attention to the commission's work.

This, however, should not be seen as discouraging your initiative. On the contrary, I feel that any initiative to strengthen sound and rational ocean governance is worth pursuing provided, of course, that it does not lead to a talk-shop and/or duplicates the myriad of already existing mechanisms dealing with oceans, such as for instance ICSPRO, IACSD, etc.

I would be interested in the final outcome of your initiative.

Again, I am sorry for the late response, but I am sure that you will understand. Very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Executive Director

Elisabeth Mann Borgese
Dalhousie University
1226 Le Merchant Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B8H 3P7



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. Elizabeth Dowdeswell
FAX No: 254 2 266 890

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

Date: 28 November, 1994

Subject: Your letter of 22 November

Dear Elizabeth,

Thanks for your fax letter of November 22.

Of course we are sorry that you will not be able to join us on the Commission, but we understand your reasons.

On the other hand, I am happy to see that you feel that our initiative to strengthen sound and rational ocean governance is worth pursuing. We most certainly will see to it that it will not lead to a talk-shop, and I am sure it will not duplicate the already existing mechanisms dealing with the oceans. Most of these, in fact, are still sectoral. They deal with the protection of the marine environment, or they deal with the marine sciences; or the law of the sea, etc. Inter-Agency coordination and integration of policies has started, and is moving; but I don't think it can achieve what an Independent World Commission of eminent persons could achieve. We can look at questions which are broader than Inter-Agency coordination.

One of the things that, I hope, will keep us from becoming a talk shop, is the plan for world-wide hearings. As far as I know, there have been world-wide hearings on Environment and Development in general, which of course included the oceans and resulted in Chapter 17, but there never have been hearings on the oceans as such, and we feel, they are overdue, especially now that the Law of the Sea Convention has entered into force.

We want to cooperate very closely with what the Law of the Sea Convention calls "the competent international organisations," among

which UNEP certainly is No. 1! This goes for all aspects of the project, but particularly for the hearings. Your cooperation will be most precious.

Even if you cannot join the Commission as a member -- perhaps we could invite you as an Eminent Person, to participate in one or the other of the Plenary Sessions -- and in any case, we want to remain in touch with you throughout.

All the very best,

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth

Elisabeth Mann Borgese



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Date: 20 December 1994

Dear Elisabeth,

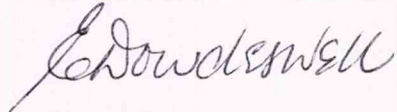
Thank you for your letter of 22 November which I found when I returned from mission and have read with interest.

I do believe, with you, that the opinions of eminent persons can provide us with broad-stroke guidance on global issues such as, for instance, oceans. Involvement of the public at large is necessary, but on global issues such as the oceans this is a rather lengthy, tortuous process as we could see from the considerably smaller "hearings" in the UNCED preparatory process. I hope we will not generate a proliferation of directions.

Although we need to give time to the development of institutions such as the CSD and the interagency cooperation effort, any initiative to strengthen rational and sound ocean governance, if properly focused and organized, is commendable and if my schedule permits me I would like to be of assistance.

Very best regards, merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,


Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Executive Director

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