



Dalhousie University

International Ocean  
Institute



FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. James Gustave Speth  
FAX No: 906 6998

From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
FAX No.: 212 702 5051

Date: July 28, 1994

Subject: World Commission

Dear Dr. Speth,

It was indeed a great pleasure to see you yesterday, and both Layashi and myself were delighted by your positive reactions. Let me confirm that our demands on your time will be non-existent. You give us as much of your time as you can -- and not more! If you cannot attend meetings, we shall come to see you to seek your advice, at your leisure (!) and your convenience. We know that your advice will be precious.

As to the financial contribution, we wait to hear from you as to what if anything you can mobilize within UNDP. Even if it is little, we shall be grateful.

On the other hand, I would immediately like to take up your very kind offer to help with fund raising from some Foundation, and, given that I shall be in New York attending the Law of the Sea Prepcom, could I ask you whether perhaps you could arrange a couple of meetings while I am here?

Foundations do have the same difficulties you are having: that is, international ocean affairs and the Law of the Sea are not among their priorities. So quite a bit of arm twisting will be necessary. I did have a talk with the Ford Foundation some time ago, and of course they are interested in the restructuring of the U.N. System, in the context of which I believe the Law of the Sea is of fundamental importance. But they are spending all their money on Yale -- and the Yale project, as far as I know, has no ocean

component. I suggested that we might fill that lacuna. They <sup>x</sup> seemed to like the subjects I had listed for the initial working papers. So, perhaps, with your support we might turn them around!

But perhaps you have some better ideas. I am attaching a letter from Jean-Pierre Levy. As you see, the Law of the Sea Division is also quite enthusiastic about the idea of the Commission.

I expect to hear from Layashi tomorrow, after his talk with President Soares, who, I am quite confident, will accept to be the President of the Commission.

I am here at the U.N. Plaza until the end of this week. Next week I shall stay with my daughter. Her telephone number is 876 7680. During the day I can always be found at the Law of the Sea Prepcom -- or you could leave a message for me with Jean-Pierre Levy.

Thanking you again for your cooperation,

Yours as ever,



Elisabeth Mann Borgese

\* In particular, Shepard Forman.

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017  
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE UNATIONS NEWYORK

26 May 1994

REFERENCE

Dear Elizabeth,

Your suggestion for the establishment of a World Commission for the Seas and Oceans does not come as a surprise to me as it is an idea that has been on our minds for years, and one which I have always considered as a necessity. Unfortunately, nobody up to now had the required drive and stamina to carry it through. We had to wait for you. I wish to let you know that I support this initiative wholeheartedly.

I would certainly provide the strongest encouragement to any financial institution that would consider sponsoring this initiative. I would like to discuss it further with you whenever we meet again, hopefully during the next round of consultations.

Love as ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Lévy', written over a horizontal line.

Jean-Pierre Lévy  
Director

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs

Mrs. Elizabeth Borgese  
Dalhousie University  
1226 LeMarchant Street  
Halifax  
Nova Scotia  
Canada B3H 3P7

COPY + Letter  
of  
9th Aug.

9th, August, 1994

Mr. J. Gustave Speth  
The Administrator  
UNDP  
1 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Speth,

Elisabeth Mann Borgese has asked me to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter which she has just written to Mr. Shepard Forman. As you will note, it concerns the **World Commission**.

Yours sincerely,

Madeleine Coffen-Smout  
Programme Assistant

Enclosure



The Administrator  
United Nations Development Programme

23 August 1994

RECEIVED AUG 31 1994

Dear Mrs. Mann-Borgese,

**World Commission for the Seas and Oceans**

Thank you for your fax of 28 July on our recent meeting. Jim MacNeill, who was present with me at our meeting, has indicated that President Soares has agreed to chair the Commission which will be formally announced in November. I congratulate you on this initiative and stand ready to lend my name to the work of the Commission.

I also understand from Mr. MacNeill that after your October meeting in Malta, you will be sending us a more detailed terms of reference for those studies in which you might feel UNDP would be interested. I invite you to contact Phil Reynolds of DGIP on these matters as appropriate.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

James Gustave Speth

Mrs. Elisabeth Mann-Borgese  
IOI  
1226 Le Marchant Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada B3H 3P7





Dalhousie University

International Ocean  
Institute



FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Mr. James Gustave Speth  
FAX No: 212 906 6998

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

Date: October 28, 1994

Subject: World Commission for the Oceans

Dear Dr. Speth,

I just had a long talk with Layashi Yaker, who is presently in Tunis. He told me he tried to get in touch with you during his recent stay in New York, but you were out of the country. He asked me now to bring you up to date on the most recent developments regarding the Commission project, and to see whether, perhaps, we could finalise an agreement on the UNDP financial contribution.

Two major developments took place recently:

We had our workshop in Malta, followed by a meeting with President Soares.

We went to Japan where -- as everywhere! -- our proposal was received most favourably.

I will deal with these developments in order, and examine their impact on the time schedule, the budget, and the possible UNDP contribution for the Commission.

1. Malta

The workshop was productive and will result in a volume which will be further discussed and refined at Pacem in Maribus in Madras and then submitted to the Commission as a "starting point."

The discussion with Mario Soares was excellent. He is prepared to accept the Presidency of the Commission. He wants to have 5-6 Vice Presidents who, together with him, will function as an Executive Group for the Commission. We agreed immediately on three: Guido de Marco (Foreign Minister of Malta) for the Mediterranean; Layashi Yaker (Africa); myself (North Atlantic); We agreed that there should be a Japanese, and we now have a candidate (Mr. Mr. Suzuki, President of Nomura Research Institute; formerly with the Bank of Japan; with a strongly international outlook and conversant in English). Mr. Noboru Takeshita, former Prime Minister, who represents Japan on all environmental fora, might be invited as an "eminent person," with the responsibility for hosting one of the plenary sessions of the Commission in Japan. I am now awaiting President Soares' approval of this nomination. We also agreed that the fifth Vice president should be Brazilian -- if possible: President Cardozo himself. This, however, may not be possible at this time; but perhaps Cardozo could designate somebody. President Soares was going to handle this personally during these days.

The sixth Vice President might be Klaus Töpfer, especially if, as we hope, Germany might make a major contribution to the initial budget. That would make: 1 Asian, 1 African, 1 Latin American, 1 North American -- and two Europeans; but Töpfer, after all, is the Chairman of the CSD.

President Soares felt that three conditions would have to be met if we were to announce the establishment of the Commission on November 16. First: the establishment of the group of Vice Presidents had to be completed; and we are well on our way. Second: an official approval of the Secretary-General of the United Nations was necessary. This, too, is not difficult to obtain, since, personally, he has already expressed his favourable opinion. It has now been agreed that President Soares should write to the SG, who then will send him a favourable reply. Thirdly, the initial budget had to be secured. Here, too, we have made good progress, as pointed out below.

## 2. Japan

The nomination of Mr. Suzuki was made after consultation with various authorities, including Mr. Tabuchi, Chairman of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Mr. Tabuchi also indicated that the Sasakawa

Peace Foundation would contribute 30 million Yen, which preferably should be spent on one of the Commission Sessions which might be held in Japan. During my stay in Japan, the IOI Japan Operational Centre was inaugurated at Yokohama University. The Centre, in cooperation with the Vice President, will be responsible for organising hearings for the Commission next spring; the city governments of Yokohama and Takaoka (Sea of Japan) will fund these hearings -- above and beyond the contribution of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

I have revised the project document, in accordance with all these developments, and am attaching a copy.

### 3. Time Table

The time table, for the first year of the Commission's work appears to shape up as follows:

- . Announcement of the establishment of the Commission: November 16, or certainly before the end of the year;
  - . Organising session of President and Vice Presidents: Lisbon, January, 1995.
  - . First Plenary Session of the Commission: March, 1995;
  - . Regional Hearings, organised by each of the 8 IOI Operational Centres, March/April, 1995.
  - . Second meeting of Executive Group, Malta, May, 1995.
  - . Second Plenary Session of the Commission, Tokyo, September 1995, to approve Interim Report to 50th GA.
4. Initial Budget. A revised initial budget is contained in the revised project document. The total amount needed for 1995 is about one million. Of these, about \$400,000 will come from Japan. We hope for a contribution from Germany of \$300,000. I am presently awaiting Minister Töpfer's confirmation. We are hoping for a matching contribution from Jan Pronk. Layashi Yaker is presently trying to get a confirmation. Dr. de Marco has assured a contribution of \$50,000 for the Executive



meeting in May; President Soares has assured us that Portugal will pay all local expenses for the first session of the Commission in Lisbon, but, most likely, not international air fares. This contribution might be assessed as about \$150,000. All this would amount to about \$ 1,200,000 -- which certainly would take us through the first year.

5. Possible UNDP contribution

The first question to be decided is that of the subject area to be covered by a UNDP contribution, which should fully fall within the UNDP programme areas. We had been looking at two possibilities:

(a) Regional hearings: These hearings will be organised by our operational centres in Malta, Canada, India, Fiji, Costa Rica, Senegal, Japan, and China. We probably will have an additional operational centre next year, in Qatar, but it does not yet exist. We would suggest hearings in that area could be organised in cooperation with the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee. In Africa, hearings will be organised in cooperation with the UNECA and conducted in Addis Ababa.

Four of our operational centres (India, Fiji, Costa Rica, and Senegal) are UNDP supported (GEF grant). The hearings to be organised by these Centres, focussing on the difficulties developing countries are experiencing in implementing, and benefitting from, the Law of the Sea Convention as well as Agenda 21 and other ocean-related UNCED decisions (integrated coastal management; small islands), will benefit these Centres in various ways. The information generated and the proposals that hopefully will emerge will not only constitute a major input into the work of the Commission. It will also be utilised to enrich and update the training programmes for which these Centres are responsible (development of human resources). It will also contribute to the strengthening of the Centres themselves. They will acquire new expertise and enlarge their data base. The project will have an institution-building effect.

We would propose a total contribution of \$120,000 to be divided among the four centres (\$30,000 per centre, as

budgeted in the over-all budget. This would be a most cost-effective contribution to institution building, development of human resources, and the implementation of the Agenda for Development within an already existing institutional framework.

(b) Elaboration of a research project on the implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention and Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and the contribution of ocean development and the Law of the Sea to the Agenda for Development. Alternative (a) as outlined above would offer an efficient methodology to produce the required data and information. The cost of collating, analyzing, integrating all this material and producing the final report (which will be a chapter of the final Commission Report) could be assessed as roughly \$100,000 of the over-all Commission costs.

I would be most grateful if I could have an occasion to discuss these questions with you and your staff as soon as possible. We still hope to meet the November 16 deadline: An announcement on that date would have considerable symbolic value which would be helpful!

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Elisabeth Mann Borgese



Dalhousie University

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International Ocean  
Institute



8 May, 1995

Dr. J. Gustave Speth  
Administrator  
UNDP  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
USA

*PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL*

My dear Gus,

I hear rumours to the effect that there is no money for our Commission Hearings and, that therefore, we should expect a negative reply to our application.

Let me turn to you personally, before anything irremediable happens!

Frankly speaking, more than \$100,000 or \$120,000 are at stake. Credibility is at stake.

Strong with your repeated and firm commitment that this contribution was forthcoming, strong also with Jim MacNeill's statement, "it is no longer a question *whether* you will get it, the only question is *how* you will get it --and that was, when he was still working with you --I always mentioned UNDP in my other fund raising efforts, and it looks *awful* if now there is no UNDP money. Our splendid Japanese Vice President, Dr. Yoshio Suzuki of the Nomura Research Institute, has been raising additional funding for these hearings --on the assumption that there was this basic UNDP funding. I have been raising funding for hearings in Canada from CIDA --I must say, quite a feat, considering the present situation at CIDA -- always on the assumption that UNDP was supporting the hearings in our GEF-supported Centres.

We have done quite a bit of work, following Jim MacNeill's suggestions. His experience in this area has been invaluable to us. I am happy to report that he was quite pleased with what we have done, in preparation for the hearings. And I may say --because I did not do it myself: our Executive Director, Krishan Saigal did it --it really is very good. Hearings in China are scheduled for May 10 and 11 (with Japanese funding), and everything is ready to go, in all parts of the world.

Let me add that these are the first hearings on the oceans ever, and that the results will be useful for lots of institutions and people, for lots of purposes --way beyond the scope of the Commission. And we have counted on this money, and we need it.

Having said all this; where do we go from here? Limits are limits, and if there is no money, there is no money: even I can see that! But I do see two ways out of this stalemate:

1. Perhaps you could give us the money later, maybe early next year: I always can borrow it from somewhere, until then. Would that be a possibility?
2. Perhaps you could help us to get this funding, through you, from other sources. You had promised, in fact, to assist us with the fund rising in general. I could imagine, for instance, that somewhere in the World Bank, there are some discretionary "pockets" from which a peanut like \$120,000 could be extracted. But such "pockets" may be accessible to you, not to me. Could you get it from there? Or perhaps from one of the Foundations?

There must be a way.

The only thing I would implore you *not* to do is to send me an official letter that our application has been turned down! And this, for all the above reasons.

I do hope you understand our situation. I do hope you forgive me my frankness. I do hope that, rather than rescinding your promise, you adjust it to the difficult situation that undoubtedly exists!

I just finished a book, *Ocean Governance and the United Nations*. It should be out next month. You will get the first copy.

We have also designed a chart --similar in format to the IUCN Chart on the Law of the Sea, UNCED, and the conservation of the environment-- but far more comprehensive: showing convergences between the Law of the Sea and ocean governance, the Agenda for Peace, the Agenda for Development, and the Social Summit. You will get that too. It is just being printed.

With my highest regards, and thanking you in advance for whatever you may do to help in this difficult situation,

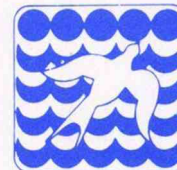
yours as ever,

Elrakh



Dalhousie University

International Ocean  
Institute



**FAXED**

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Dr. J. Gustave Speth  
FAX No: 212 906 6998

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

Date: 15 June, 1995

Subject: World Commission on the Oceans

Dear Gus,

here is a little updating on the development of our World Commission: all very positive: I will end with a request, hoping that you can react to it favourably.

1. We now have 5 Vice Chairmen in place as follows:

Africa and Arab countries: Layashi Yaker  
Asia: Yoshio Suzuki  
Europe: Guido de Marco  
Latin America: Juan Somavia  
North America: myself

We probably will add a sixth one who may be from South Africa (close to Nelson Mandela.

These Vice Chairpersons, together with President Soares, form the Executive Committee of the Commission.

2. A Trust Fund for the Commission has been set up in Malta.

3. A meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled in Lisbon on June 30 - July 2.

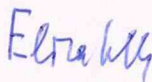
further development of our training programmes and policy research projects. The hearings are the most cost-effective vehicle to achieve just that: to give us a needs assessment on the basis of which we can re-orient the programmes and projects of our Centres.

Your contribution thus not only enhances the work of the World Commission as such, it also is a most valuable input into our GEF/UNDP project in its completion phase.

I do hope to hear from you as soon as possible.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
Founder and Hon. Chair  
International Ocean institute



Dalhousie University

International Ocean  
Institute



**FAXED**

10 July, 1995

Dr. James Gustave Speth  
Administrator, UNDP  
FAX 212 906 5778

Dear Gus,

Time goes...I am just back from Lisbon where we had a series of meetings with President Soares and our Vice Chairmen.

Everything is on course. We now have all 5 Vice Chairmen in place. Together with the Chairman, they form the Executive Committee:

Africa: Layashi Yaker, Algeria

Asia: Yoshio Suzuki, Nomura Research Institute, Japan

Europe: Guido de Marco, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malta

Latin America: Jose Vargas, Minister for Science and Technology, Brazil

North America, myself, Canada

We agreed on about 30 members -- including yourself -- and President Soares is sending out the invitations for the first Plenary, in Tokyo, at the UNU, September 6 through 8. The session will be preceded by a one-day meeting of the Executive Committee. It would be splendid if you could come, but I fully realise that this may not be possible.

The second plenary will be in February, and it will be either in Rotterdam or in Monaco. We have fully paid invitations from both. The third meeting, in the late Spring or summer, will be either in Canada or in Brazil. We are still working on Canada. Brazil has already offered a fully paid for invitation (it means about \$300,000). They also will contribute \$100,000 immediately to assist with the starting.

Japan, which has given \$420,000 has better than matched the amount we hope to get from you for the regional hearings. They have earmarked \$120,000 for the hearings to be conducted by our 4 Asian-Pacific operational Centres. Add to this, \$30,000 I am expecting from CIDA for hearings in Canada. There will also be hearings in Australia and New Zealand, financed locally, as well as in Malaysia.

The hearings have to be concluded by the end of the year --if they are to make a useful contribution to the discussions and decisions of the CSD in April. In fact we are now preparing guide lines for the drafting of an interim report to the CSD. These guide lines should be approved by the first plenary, and the report (not more than 30 pages) should be adopted by the second plenary.

You see, we have our hands very full!

I would be most grateful if you could confirm your grant before the Plenary in Tokyo. Even if it were just a "pledge," maybe even to be paid next year. Of course we do need the money, and we have budgeted it, but, as I explained last time, even more important is the moral aspect. The Japanese have matched your grant which we have, in good faith, announced; and it looks awfully bad if, once it has been matched by a second donor, it disappears....

As already mentioned, the hearings will have multiple functions: among other things they will serve the purpose of "needs assessment" for the training programmes in our GEF supported operational centres. There has been much emphasis on the need for a needs assessment in the UNDP evaluation, and we want to comply with the recommendations.

All the very best,

Yours sincerely



Elisabeth Mann Borgese





Dalhousie University

International Ocean  
Institute

FAXED



## INDEPENDENT WORLD COMMISSION ON THE OCEANS

Dr. James Gustave Speth  
Administrator  
UNDP  
United Nations  
1 U.N. Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
fax 1 212 906 5778

Dear Gus:

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.

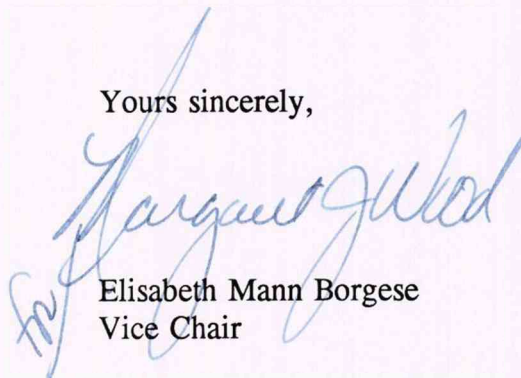
I very much hope it will be possible for you to join us in Tokyo. This first session of the Commission is of fundamental importance for the orientation and organisation of our work, and I am convinced that this Commission has a unique opportunity to offer a "vision" and make a long-term contribution 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', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'E' and 'M'.

Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
Vice Chair



RECEIVED AUG 09 1995

Dear Elisabeth,

I regret the delay in responding to your earlier communications bringing me up to date on the World Commission for the Oceans. You have indeed been very active and successful in your endeavors so far.

In collaboration with various colleagues in UNDP, I have been reviewing how UNDP might support your efforts. Unfortunately, our current financial situation does not leave us any viable options. After much thoughtful consideration I regret to advise you that we will not be able to offer special financial support for the activities for the World Commission for the Oceans at this stage. I sincerely hope that conditions will improve so that somewhere down the road we can make a more positive financial response. Given uncertainties about the level and nature of possible funding for this type of activity, it is unfortunately impossible at this time to provide you with a guarantee of future funding.

Nevertheless, I would like to confirm my participation in the World Commission and my willingness to provide non-financial support to your efforts. In particular, I would be willing to support any requests to other donors which you may wish to copy to me. I am also pleased to learn that the IOI Regional Centres in Fiji, Madras, Costa Rica, and Senegal, which have received assistance under our global GEF project, have been able to play a critical role in the work of the Commission.

I congratulate you on the publication of your new book, Ocean Governance and the United Nations, and I wish you all the best in your work with the World Commission.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Gustave Speth', written over a vertical line.

James Gustave Speth

Mrs. Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
Founder International Ocean Institute  
Dalhousie University  
1226 LeMarchant Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada B3H 3P7



RECEIVED AUG 22 1995

14 August 1995

Dear Ms. Borgese,

On behalf of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mr. James Gustave Speth, who is at present away from New York, I thank you very much for your letter inviting him to join the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and to participate in its first Plenary Session, to be held in Tokyo from 6 to 8 September 1995.

Much as Mr. Speth would have wished to accept your kind invitation, we regret that he will not be able to do so owing to previous firm commitments, notably the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing, which he will be attending at that time.

Please accept our regrets, along with best wishes for the success of your meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafeeuddin Ahmed'.

Rafeeuddin Ahmed  
Officer-in-Charge

Ms. Elisabeth Mann Borgese  
Vice Chair  
Independent World Commission on the Oceans  
Dalhousie University  
1226 LeMerchant Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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