



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FAXED

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To: H.E. Prime Minister Jean Chretien
FAX No: 613 941 6900

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

Date: 13 June, 1995

Subject: G7

Mr. Prime Minister,

Permit me to draw your personal attention to an "Open Letter to the G7" which I have just sent to the *Globe and Mail*.

The subject is indeed important and timely.

We have taken another initiative, the establishment of an **Independent World Commission on the Oceans**, about which I should contact your Government in the near future.

With all good wishes the for the success of the Halifax meeting,

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Mann Borgese



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An Open Letter to the G7

Excellencies,

Permit me to draw your attention to one subject that does not appear on your agenda but which we feel should be addressed, considering, in particular the importance it has for the venue of your meeting, Halifax, and for your host country, Canada.

The subject I am referring to is "Ocean Governance and the law of the Sea."

Halifax is the home of the largest oceans research and development complex in Canada and one of the largest in the world; The Government of Canada is about to table a Canada Oceans Act in Parliament and to resume its role as a world leader in ocean affairs which the previous government had neglected.

The oceans cover three-fourths of the surface of our planet. They are of crucial importance for the economy/ecology of the 21st century. The new order for the oceans created by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, converging with the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, could be model for, and must be part of, a new global order capable of meeting the challenges of the next century.

Excellencies, if you could include a sentence or two on the importance of sustainable ocean development in your final statement, you would do a great service to your host country and to the international community.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Mann Borgese

Professor

Chair, International Ocean Institute