



Dalhousie University

FAXED

International Ocean
Institute



FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: H.E. Ambassador Bhagwat Singh
FAX No: 212 734 7608

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

Date: 15 January, 1995

Subject: World Commission

Dear Bhagwat:

Here is some additional information about the present status of the World Commission:

Membership

There should be 30 members altogether. The following have already been contacted and agreed to join:

President, Mario Soares

Vice Presidents:

Guido de Marco (Europe)

Layashi Yaker (Africa)

Elisabeth Mann Borgese (North America)

Yoshio Suzuki (Asia)

a Brazilian is to be designated by the President of Brazil
one position is still to be decided.

A first meeting of the President and the Vice Presidents will take place the end of February or early in March.

Members:

Alicia Barcena
Mohammed Bedjaoui
Umberto Colombo
Carl-August Fleischhauer
Abdul Koroma
Ronald St John Macdonald
Robert Muller
Arvid Pardo
Christopher Pinto
Juan Somavia
James Gustave Speth
Danielle de St Jorre
M.S. Swaminathan
Klaus Toepfer
Joseph Warrioba
Alexander Yankov

These are 16, plus 6 Vice Presidents. It leaves some room for President Soares' nominations. I know he has some. But he has approved already of these.

Among others who might be invited, we have listed

Rene Jean Dupuy
Jens Evensen
Tommy Koh
Mircea Malitza
Ted Turner

Schedule

The schedule for the first year is in the document I faxed you (two meetings of Vice Presidents (Lisbon, Malta); two Plenary meetings (Lisbon, Tokyo); global hearings, to be organised by the Vice Presidents, in cooperation with IOI operational centres.

Methodology

The Commissions work will be based on

Members' creativity
commissioned expert papers (especially on ocean economics and marine
technology)
global hearings.

We thus intend to integrate grass-root inputs, the most advanced academic thinking,
and politics.

Funding

The funding for the first year is secured. We are working on the second year.

Next, most urgent and important step:

On December 21, we had an excellent meeting with Federico Mayor in Paris. He is extremely interested and favourable to the project. He wants it to be as effective as possible. For this reason he suggested that President Soares should be nominated by Boutros-Ghali and himself. It would underline the close relationship with the U.N.; it would enhance the authority and prestige of the Commission, and it would ensure that the final Report, with its recommendations, would be seriously considered and, as far as possible, implemented. He said that, since there are no financial implications for the United Nations, he and the S-G could do this without any difficulty and immediately.

The letter asking the SG and Mayor officially to make this nomination was sent by fax on January 4. Federico Mayor promised he would contact the S-G immediately and urge him to proceed without delay.

The purpose of this note is to ask you to explain to Dr. Corell the urgency of the situation. This appointment should be made this week. Otherwise our whole schedule is jeopardized and we lose momentum and credibility.

Monday morning: Hot good news. I just talked to Layashi in Addis, who had just talked to Federico Mayor. Mayor had talked to the S-G, who agreed to the proposal for the joint nomination. He intends to proceed without prior recourse to the

deliberative organs of the U.N. (as Federico Mayor suggested they should). He has to clear this question with the Legal Counsel. He thinks the whole process will be completed within 8-10 days.

So Hans Corell will be approached by the S-G.

What remains for me to say is that we really would appreciate it if this matter could be concluded within 5 days rather than in ten; or, better within 2 days rather than 5! I do think I am aware that the U.N. has other priorities at the moment!!! but just because this matter is so small, it could, with good will, be handled very fast!

Let me hear from you soonest.

Yours as ever,

F. Corell