



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



27 January, 1995

COPY

Professor Tommy Koh, Chairman
National Arts Council
Singapore

My dear Tommy,

Thanks for your beautiful New Year's card, and all the best to you too, and to your family.

The world goes on: in spite of everything.

Our Law of the Sea Convention entered into force, which is a great thing, although I know that you and I would to some extent disagree on the usefulness of the "Implementation Agreement" of last July. I think we would agree on the point that something had to be done, because Part XI certainly could not be implemented the way it was written. It was obsolete, and there is no mining. But we probably would disagree on the way this problem was dealt with. To my mind, the "Agreement" is a clear violation of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, and I fear, even the American signature is not worth the ink it was written with. The way this agreement was drafted really made it impossible for them to sign without violating their own Constitution; and now, after the November elections.....

Apart from the procedural and international-law problems that some of us see, I also find the content -- that is: the new structure and functions of the Authority -- extremely poor.

Well, there we are, and I think we all agree that now we must do the best we can to make it work!

I would love to know what you really think about it, and what you think could be done now to strengthen the Authority and make it useful.

But this is not the main reason for this letter. The main reason is to inform you that we are establishing an Independent **World Commission for the Oceans**. President Mario Soares of Portugal will be the President. There will be six Vice-Presidents and 30 members in all, among them Bedjaoui, Fleischhauer, Koroma, Robert Muller, Gus

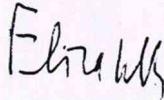
Speth, Swaminathan, Juan Somavia, and there still are a lot of open places, which we shall fill in February.

What I wanted to hear from you is whether, in principle, you would accept an invitation to join?

I am enclosing the basic document.

Much love to your family and all the best,

Yours as ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Elisabeth'.

Elisabeth Mann Borgese



THE INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES

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National University of Singapore
Kent Ridge Drive, Singapore 0511
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8 February 1995

COPY RECEIVED FEB 08 1995

Professor Elizabeth Mann Borgese
International Ocean Institute
Dalhousie University
1226 LeMarchant Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada

Fax: 005 1 902 494-2034

My dear Elizabeth

Thank you very much for your letter dated 27 January 1995.

First, Siew Aing joins me in sending you our love. You may remember our two boys, Wei and Aun. Wei (25) is a graduate student, specialising in film, in San Diego. Aun (22) is a third year student at Columbia in New York. He is majoring in political science and minoring in art. The two young men are doing well and have fond memories of you and our summer in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Second, I am kept extremely busy, both in Singapore and overseas. At home, I hold 4 concurrent appointments, as Ambassador-at-Large; as Director of the Institute of Policy Studies; as Chairman of the National Arts Council and as Chairman of the Empress Place Museum.

Third, I will be teaching from March to May 1995, at Stanford University, as the Payne Visiting Professor.

Fourth, in view of the above I may not be able to attend many or any of your meetings. However, if that is not a problem, I would be happy to join the Independent World Commission for Oceans.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR TOMMY KOH
Director



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: H.E. Ambassador Tommy Koh
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Government of Singapore
250 North Bridge Road
39-00 Raffles City Tower
Singapore 0617

FAX No: 3394 330

From: Elisabeth Mann Borgese

FAX No.: 1 902 868 2455

Date: 9 July, 1995

Subject: World Commission on the Oceans

My dear Tommy:

It has taken longer than anticipated, but, at last, we are there.

We had a good meeting with President Soares of Portugal, on June 29- July 1, and our World Commission is on course. He has finally and officially accepted to be the Chairman of the Commission. We have five Vice Chairmen:

Africa: Layashi Yaker, Algeria

Asia: Yoshio Suzuki, Japan

Europe: Guido de Marco, Malta

Latin America: Jose Vargas, Brazil

North America: myself, Canada.

The Chairman and the Vice Chairmen form the Executive Committee.

Membership, as of today, is as follows:

Region	Member	Expertise
Africa	Bedjaoui, Algeria Khalid, Sudan* Osmal, South Africa* St Jorre, Seychelles Koroma West Africa*	International Law Law, Environment Natural Resources Tourism, Environment Law ?
Asia S. Pacific	Koh, Singapore Su Jilan, China Swaminathan, India Najeeb El Nuaimi, Qatar Solofa, Western Samoa* Australia*	Law of the Sea, Environment, Climate Plant Genetics Law, Oil Education ?
Europe	Dupuy, France Ruperti, Italy* Hedrich, Germany Fleischhauer, Germany Lubbers, Netherlands Ulf Lie, Norway* Ruivo, Portugal Busuttil, Malta Mayor, Spain Kendrew, U.K.* Kolodkin, Russian Fed. Yankov, Bulgaria	Law, Human Rights Science & Technology Development Economics International Law Economics Oceanography Fisheries Biology Economics Education, governance Chemistry Maritime Law (Shipping) Law of the Sea,
North America	Speth, USA Turner, USA* Macdonald, Canada	Resource Economics Media International Law
Latin America	Barcena, Mexico Somavia, Chile Arias, Costa Rica* Muller Don Mills, Jamaica* Patrica Bernal,*	Environment Law, economics Peace, Demilitarisation Peace, Education Environment, Law
Eminent Persons		

* Not yet confirmed

The first Plenary of the Commission will meet at the United Nations University in Tokyo, on September 6, 7, and 8. The Plenary will be preceded by a one-day meeting of the Executive Committee.

Among other things, we will have to approve a message to the 50th General Assembly, as well as a tentative table of contents for our final report and guide lines for an interim report to the Commission for Sustainable Development next year. We will also discuss a list of background papers to be commissioned as well as plans for global and regional hearings. You will receive draft documents in the near future. It will be a very busy session.

There will be a Press Conference in Tokyo, for the official launching of the Commission.

You will receive an official invitation from President Soares in the near future. We would be grateful if you could make your own travel arrangements. Your air fare (business class) will be refunded in Tokyo.

Fund raising is well in hand. We have already raised well over a million dollars

It is a great relief that everything is on course now. This Commission is a great challenge and offers a formidable opportunity for a unique kind of contribution to the making of a genuinely new order for the next century.

Looking forward to seeing you in Tokyo, with all good wishes,

Yours as ever,

Elvira



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
SINGAPORE.

12 July 1995

COPY

Tel: (65) 3305600
Fax: (65) 3381908

Ms Elisabeth Mann Borgese
International Ocean Institute
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada

(Fax: 005-1-902-868 2455)

Dear *Elisabeth*

WORLD COMMISSION ON THE OCEANS

Thank you for your fax of 9 July 1995 informing me of the composition of the Executive Committee of the World Commission on the Oceans, and that the first Plenary of the Commission will meet at the United Nations University in Tokyo from 6 to 8 September, to be preceded by a one-day meeting of the Executive Committee.

I write to inform you that I will be unable to attend the meeting of the Executive Committee and the first Plenary of the Commission as I will be in Los Angeles for another meeting during that period.

With warm regards and best wishes for a successful session in September,

Yours sincerely

PROF TOMMY KOH
Ambassador-At-Large



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Professor Tommy Koh
Institute of Policy Studies
Singapore

FAX No:

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

Date: 17 August, 1995

Subject: World Commission on the Oceans

My dear Tommy,

At long last, the World Commission is getting off the ground. The first plenary session, as you know, is taking place in Tokyo, at the UNU, on September 6-8.

As we already know, you cannot join us for this first session, but I do hope it will be possible for you to join us later. The next session, most probably will be in Brazil early next year. We have already invitations from Brazil, the Netherlands, and Monaco. The general reaction to the announcement of this Commission is quite enthusiastic.

One of the major inputs for the Commission are the global hearings we are organising. These are being conducted through the IOI Regional Centres, in cooperation with the Vice Chairmen of the Commission. I think we sent you the background paper for the Hearings some time ago, but, in any case, I am asking our Executive Director to send you another copy.

Hearings for Asia are being coordinated by our Japanese Vice Chairman, Dr. Yoshio Suzuki of the Nomura Research Institute.

Hearings in China have already taken place. They were organised by our Centre in Tienjin in cooperation with SOA. In Japan, hearings are in three different places. In Yokahama, I think, just following the Commission Session.

In India, hearings will be held in Madras, Goa, and Delhi, in cooperation between the IOI Operational Centre, the NIO, and the Government of India. Professor Rajagopalan, the Director of our Operational Centre in India, is the responsible person.

Professor Rajagopalan is attending the meeting in Tokyo, from there he will go on to Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, to assist with arrangements for hearings in these two places.

Now we were wondering whether we could not have hearings in Singapore as well? Could you help in setting them up?

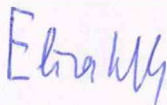
As far as we know, there have been lots of hearings on the Environment, but not on sustainable ocean development and all the implications of the Law of the Sea Convention, in conjunction with Agenda 21. I do believe it would be useful for Singapore to have such hearings, and the outcome would be a most valuable contribution to the work of the World Commission.

If you think this is a practical proposition, Professor Rajagopalan could stop in Singapore between September 13 and 15 and discuss the matter with you.

Please do let me know as soon as possible.

All the very best,

Yours as ever,



Elisabeth Mann Borgese

COPY



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
SINGAPORE.

18 August 1995

Tel: (65) 3305600
Fax: (65) 3381908

Ms Elisabeth Mann Borgese
International Ocean Institute
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada

(Fax: 005-1-902-868 2455)

Dear Elizabeth

WORLD COMMISSION ON THE OCEANS

Thank you for your fax dated 17 August 1995 and for the useful information which it contains. I am afraid that my schedule is completely booked out for the months of September, October and November. I will be abroad for practically the whole month of September. I will, therefore, be unable to see Prof Rajagopalan between 13 and 15 September.

A little while ago, my Canadian friend, Douglas Johnston and I co-chaired a conference in Singapore to look at the impact of Agenda 21 and the LOS Convention on the management of marine resources, and the use of the seas in Southeast Asia. We were able to get quite a good group of people from various disciplines for the meeting in Singapore. I will arrange to send you a copy of the report.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

PROF TOMMY KOH
Ambassador-At-Large



Dalhousie University

International Ocean
Institute



FAXED

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Professor Tommy Koh
FAX No: 65 777 0700

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

Date: 4 September, 1995

Subject: Singapore Conference on sustainable Development

Dear Tommy,

Thanks for sending me this excellent report.

Recently I sent you a copy of my new little book, *Ocean Governance and the United Nations*. You might perhaps be interested in the final chapters. I have spent a lot of time in figuring out institutional implications. My case study was the Barcelona Convention, but many of the discussed changes might be applicable also to other regional seas/areas and might therefore be interesting for SEAPOL.

In any case, I would love to have your reactions.

The first session of the World Commission has been postponed to December 13-15. It will be in Tokyo, at the UNU. Any chance of your attending at that new date? The second session will be in Brazil, next Spring.

In the meantime, there is *Pacem in Maribus XXIII*, in Costa Rica, on ocean governance and the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace, December 3-7. Any chance of your attending that? We would pay of course for all expenses.

All the very best,

Yours as ever,

Elisabeth



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RECEIVED SEP 07 1995

World Commission

COPY

5 September 1995

Prof Elisabeth Mann Borgesse
International Ocean Institute
1226 LeMarchant Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada

Fax: 902 494-2034

Dear Elisabeth

I write to thank you for your fax of 4 September 1995.

2 I am afraid I will not be free to attend the World Commission which will be held in Tokyo from 13-15 December and the Parcem in Maribus XXIII in Costa Rica from 3-7 December. I am chairing two conferences in Singapore from 4-7 December and 11-13 December. *This has been a crazy year for me. I am grossly over-committed to work. As a result, my health has suffered.*

With warm regards, from Siew Aing, Wei (San Diego), Ann (New York) and from me.

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR TOMMY KOH
Director