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25 January 1995
(Received in Halifax Feb.6,95)

Dear Ms. Borgese

Thank you for your invitation to select, jointly with the Director General of UNESCO, the President of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans which the International Ocean Institute is proposing to establish as a result of the entry into force of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

I am honoured by your Institute's invitation to be associated with the Commission and the worthy initiative proposed to be undertaken by it. I note [that these initiatives would have some common...with the Organization's mandated role with respect to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It would appear, therefore, to be...] of promoting a constructive debate on the issues on which the United Nations has, and the Commissions will have, a vital interest, and of ensuring that the proposed "independent" Commission is seen as truly independent, to maintain an appropriate distinction between the Organisation and the Commission in our respective and separate endeavours.

Based on these considerations I have come to the conclusion that it would not be appropriate for me to accept the invitation. I am obliged therefore, with regret to decline your kind invitation.

May I take this opportunity, however, to wish your institute and the new Commission much success in the initiative being undertaken in pursuit of the common goals we share in promoting greater awareness and appreciation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Yours sincerely

/s/ Beatrice Beatrice-Ghazi

Ms. Elisabeth Mann Borgese
Chair
International Ocean Institute
Halifax