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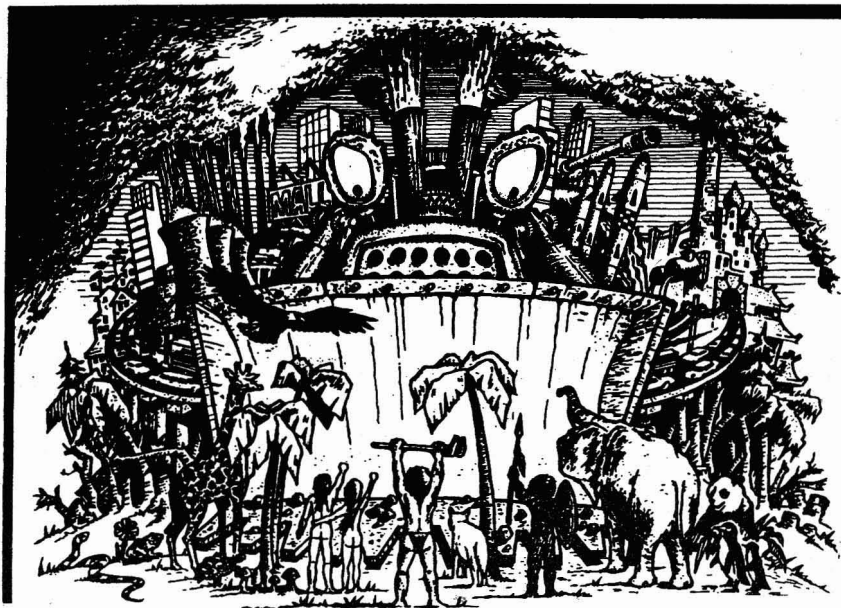
Malaysian Deforestation Proceeds Apace

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Melbourne RAG Blockades Its 14th

On 27 July 1990, the Melbourne Rainforest Action Group (RAG) blockaded the *Kabite* as it traveled up the Yarra River into Melbourne. It was the fourteenth rainforest timber ship blockade undertaken by the group.

There were about 50 people at the action, 26 of whom went into the water - either swimming or on surfboards. The ship was carrying rainforest timbers from Southeast Asia and was chartered by the Kansai Steamship Company of Japan.

Because of our nonviolent discipline and police support for our campaign, we had successfully negotiated access to the blockade location. RAG had planned two multiple bow rides on this vessel: one of swimmers and one of surfers. However the ship was moving so fast that the line of swimmers holding hands in front of the ship was washed down its side. The surfers were also washed away, though one managed to ride the bow wave.

Our organization of the 'Save the Rainforests Pickets' is now under way. We intend to picket the dock where rainforest timbers are unloaded. We will ask the people of Melbourne to join the picket line and unionists not to cross it.

—Robert Burrowes, Melbourne RAG

Yangtze Still Threatened by Huge Dam

A committee has been established in China to make a decision on the Three Gorges Dam Project. According to reports in the *South China Morning Post*, arguments in favor of the project have been revived by the pro-dam lobby, which is headed by Prime Minister Li Peng. The project, which was shelved last year following growing public pressure, would consist of a 185 meter high dam, producing an estimated 17,000 megawatts. If built, the dam's reservoir will displace more than a million people.

The Yangtze River, 6300 kilometers long, is the third longest river in the world and captures roughly one billion cubic meters of water annually. Springing from the glacial mountains of northern Tibet, it rushes down through the mountains of southwestern China. From there the river heads northeast, surging through the Three Gorges, a spectacular 200 kilometer stretch of deep canyons, then meanders across

southern China's vast fertile plains to the East China Sea at Shanghai.

The Yangtze River Valley encompasses nearly two million square kilometers (equivalent to one-fifth the area of Canada) and is China's agricultural and industrial heartland. Supporting some 347 million people, roughly one-third of China's population, the valley produces 40% of the nation's grain, 70% of its rice, and one-third of its cotton.

It is important to act now, before the project is approved, and before a major multilateral lending institution begins funding it. The World Bank, despite protest, continues to fund projects in China, and will be asked to fund Three Gorges Dam. It is likely that the government of Japan will also be approached as a possible partner.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: 1) Write to Li Peng, Premier, c/o State Council of the People's Republic of China, Beijing, CHINA, and remind him that there is popular opposition to the project, even outside China. 2) Write to both the President of the World Bank, Barber Conable, and to the new head of the World Bank Environment Unit, Robert Goodland, at The World Bank, 1818 H St NW, Washington, DC 20433. 3) Write to Japan's Minister of Finance, Ryutaro Hashimoto, 3-1-1 Kasumigasaki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN; and to Taro Nakayama, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2-2-1 Kasumigaskik, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN. Express your support for Japan's recent decision to halt funding of the destructive Narmada Dam project in India, and ask for equally sound judgement on the Three Gorges Dam project. It would help us if you would send us copies of your letters.

—International Rivers Network, 301 Broadway, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94133

Last Southern Hemisphere Temperate Rainforests Need Your Help

Chile's President, Mr. Patricio Aylwin, will soon decide whether to allow or ban the Project Corral-Terranova, put forward by the Chilean enterprise CAP and the Japanese company Marubeni. This project would destroy 15,000-23,000 hectares of evergreen forest in the south coastal range of Chile to form a eucalypt plantation.

Please send a fax as soon as possible to President Aylwin, Fax # 056 2 6973262. Ask

classic poem, the center can no longer hold. But whether the final release will happen through an American glasnost, or via the culmination of our worst nightmares remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, analysts in the US media will draw mainly wrong conclusions from all this. Most journalists will fall in step with the official White House view, however flawed its assumptions. People in general will tend to react out of their emotions and perceptions rather than dispassionately. Arabs, already typecast by the US media as oil rich sheiks, terrorists, or camel riding Bedouins, will probably be transformed into Nazis as well. At least Iraqis will.

Soon, it will no longer be possible to distinguish between conservation issues and politics, because the two will come together over a barrel of oil. Hence the burning need for an in depth discussion of the Middle East crisis and the politics of oil.

Mark Gaffney is an expert on Mideast political issues and Northwest forest issues. He is the author of *Dimona: The Third Temple and an old-growth field surveyor for Audubon Society.*

him not to allow the replacement of native forest by eucalyptus.

—Hernan Verscheure

Rondonia Forest Fund Started

There is a chance to protect some of the Rondonian rainforest I wrote about in "Fragmented Forest" several issues back. A fund has been set up to purchase land around Fazenda Rancho Grande and protect it as a reserve and ecotourism facility. While the reserve will benefit a vast array of plants and animals, the unusual diversity of butterflies and other insects in this part of Rondonia is of special concern. For more information contact Dr. Thomas C. Emmel, Division of Lepidoptera Research, Zoology Department, U of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2019. Tax deductible contributions should be made out to University of Florida Foundation - SOS Tropical Rainforest Fund, and sent to the same address.

—R. Wills Flowers

Dolphin Update

As reported previously in this journal, on April 12, HJ Heinz Company, which owns StarKist, announced that it would no longer buy or process tuna caught using fishing methods that kill dolphins. Soon after, Chicken of the Sea and Bumble Bee made similar announcements. This decision was simply good business sense, as environmentalists had organized a tuna boycott.

An estimated 125,000 dolphins drown each year in the purse seine nets of the 150 or so boats that make up the Eastern Tropical Pacific Yellowfin Tuna fleet. Only Yellowfin travel with dolphins and only in this area of the Pacific. Yellowfin Tuna accounts for less than 10% of all tuna caught worldwide. About 30 of these boats have US flags. The rest are mostly registered in Mexico, with a few from Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador.

StarKist, Bumble Bee and Chicken of the Sea have been buying from these boats on a "no questions asked" basis. Now they will have to ask. Our challenge is to make sure the answer is not a lie, that they have indeed stopped "fishing on porpoise." Relying merely on US government observers for the compliance of the US fleet may be enough — though some observers have been harassed by fishermen aboard US boats to under-report dolphin mortalities — but relying solely on observers aboard the foreign fleet will definitely not be enough. We need a government backed label with strict penalties for consumer fraud, not just a voluntary industry label on the can.

Reports indicate that StarKist has indeed stopped buying not only Yellowfin "caught on porpoise" in the ETP, but also Albacore caught in driftnets. Bumble Bee is not cooperating, however, perhaps because they rely heavily on driftnet-caught Albacore and may still have contracts outstanding with boats that fish on dolphins. Chicken of the Sea apparently is coming around to dolphin-safe ways. For now, if you want to buy canned tuna, please buy only StarKist brand tuna with the dolphin-safe label.

Sea Shepherd will continue to monitor the tuna companies to make sure this is a permanent victory for dolphins. We will run advertisements in newspapers in San Diego, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica offering a \$5000 reward for documentation of tuna canners or tuna boats that try to sell tuna that isn't dolphin-safe. Sea Shepherd will also visit the tuna boats in the ETP again if necessary.

—Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Box 7000-S, Redondo Beach, CA 90277; or Box 48446, Vancouver, BC V7X 1A2

Malaysian Deforestation Proceeds Apace

A hunger fast, dubbed Fast Action, was staged in front of the Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu on July 20 to protest the destruction of the most ancient and biologically diverse ecosystem on Earth. Organized by Hawai'i Earth First! and the O'ahu Rainforest Action Group, Fast Action was designed to alert people to the destruction of tropical rainforests in Sarawak, Malaysia. Protesters demanded an immediate moratorium on the cutting of rainforests in which the Penan and other native peoples live.

The rate of deforestation from logging in Malaysia is the fastest on Earth. By Malaysia's own estimates some 1.73 million acres of primary forest are logged annually, and the rate is increasing. Most of the wood is exported to Japan in the form of raw logs. Once in Japan the logs are processed into

various products, including disposable scaffolding, concrete forms and throw-away chopsticks.

Between 1963 and 1985, 30% of Sarawak's rainforest area was logged. In 1984, another 60% was licensed out for logging. In anticipation of increased demand for raw logs from Sarawak, the Malaysian government is sanctioning increased cutting of logging roads into the forest. Logging continues around the clock, seven days a week. Japanese timber companies predict that Sarawak's timber resources will be exhausted within seven years.

The Penan have been fighting the destruction of their forest homeland for three decades now. Those Penan who have tried to find justice through the legal system have been frustrated. On the Malaysian law books the Penan have legal title to the land they occupy; but the government of Sarawak maintains that until the Penan prove in court that this is their customary land, it will continue to sell timber leases. The Penan, who are prepared to make their claims in court, have been waiting over ten years to be granted a trial. According to Juwin Lihan of the Sarawak Penan Association, "We want the outside world to know our plight and for the authorities to act to stop logging now ... We want our customary rights to land and forest recognized in practice."

The problems of the Sarawak natives are growing worse: soil erosion, water contamination, lack of food, increased disease.... The Penan are the most adversely affected of the native groups since they rely completely on the forest for survival. They have organized periodic blockades of the logging roads in a last ditch effort to stop the destruction. Many Penan individuals have been arrested; some are in jail.

Within the next two months, a network of logging roads will completely fragment the homelands of the semi-nomadic Penan people. The Penan families will be forced to abandon their hunting and gathering livelihood. Immediate action is essential. It has been estimated that the current levels of tree felling may kill as many as 31,000 Gibbons, 45,000 Macaques, and 346,000 Langurs every year.

Eighty percent of the timber exported from the province is sold to Japan. Corruption is rampant in this industry, and revenues generated by logging do not benefit the people who live in the forest. While concession holders and sub-contractors get rich, tribal peoples are pushed off their homelands into a life of poverty. Government officials in Malaysia own the largest logging concessions, and loggers are given licenses by friends and relatives in government. The Chief Minister of Sarawak, for example, controls about one-third of the rainforest lands under concession. Sarawak's Minister of Environment summed up the situation in a now famous answer he gave to a question about rainforests and global climate: "We get too much rainfall in Sarawak. It stops me playing golf."

During our protest we met with the Japanese consul and his senior aide. Their misinformation was appalling. They tried to convince us, for example, that the main cause of deforestation is "the destructive slash-and-burn method of agriculture that poor farmers in developing countries use." They told us that the tribal peoples are the villains.

Along with Japan, the United States must be held accountable for the loss of tropical forests globally. The US buys 70% of all tropical hardwood plywood and veneer entering the world trade. While the US role is small in terms of sheer volume as compared to Japan, our imports are about equal in value, because of their higher quality. Hawai'i EFi is asking people to boycott all tropical hardwood in the US. If you are looking to buy furniture, find out where the wood is from. And refuse to use disposable chopsticks. In 1988 the US imported \$47 million worth of wood products from Malaysia, according to the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service.

We are joining our Penan friends to bring attention to this urgent problem. By fasting we symbolically shared in their struggle.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Boycott all tropical timber products. Boycott the Japanese corporations involved in the tropical timber trade, and write letters explaining why you are targeting them. Tell them their subsidiaries are deforesting Sarawak and that you cannot support their company as long as they are involved in the destruction. Some of the main players are:

Mideast . . .

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interpretation.

In other words, the US could not sit down with Arabs and Israelis to negotiate a ban on chemical weapons and nukes, since to do so would imply a willingness to rein in our ally Israel, which has both. In fact, mere acknowledgement of Israel's nukes by US officials would, in and of itself, trigger an earthquake in US foreign policy, for the US has laws on the books (good laws presently being ignored) mandating a cut-off in aid to states engaged in secret nuclear proliferation. Hence the US could not take even the first small step toward what must be done, could not allow the door to be opened even an inch, since the daylight from one small crack would begin to exhume embarrassing details about US collusion, cover-ups, the imminent collapse of the non-proliferation regime — would begin to expose US policy for what it is, a rotten corpse. (For documentation see my book *Dimona: The Third Temple?*)

As these contradictions become increasingly transparent, US politicians can be expected to waltz around this pivotal issue in ever widening gyrations, until, as in Yeat's



Cryptic news from Poland. This and three other photos of people blocking big trucks came to us from Warsaw with a note stating only "DIKE FOR DIKE" IT IS NOT TOO LATE. Was this an action against some "flood control" project? A lesbian eco-warrior event? Who knows?

*C. Itoh & Co. Ltd. (Pentax lenses, Isuzu cars and trucks), 2-5-1 Kitaoyam, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 108 JAPAN

*Marubeni Corp. (Nissan cars and trucks, Canon cameras), 1-4-2 Otenachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 104 JAPAN

*Mitsubishi Motors Corp. (Mitsubishi cars, Nikon), 2-6-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

Also write to Malaysia's Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Sarawak. Tell them you will not visit Malaysia until the destruction stops.

*Datuk Seri Dr. Mahatir, Prime Minister, Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

*YAB Datuk Patinggi Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak, Chief Minister's Office, Bangunan Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Patra Jaya, 93503 Kuching, Sarawak, MALAYSIA

—Paul Faulstich, HI EF!

DuPont's Road to Genocide

Ecuador's Huaorani people are struggling to save their Amazonian homeland. DuPont, through its subsidiary, Conoco Ecuador Ltd., wants to build a road and oil pipeline penetrating 100 miles from the Rio Napo into Huaorani lands. The road will open the forest to settlers, who will chop down the trees, overhunt, and bring alcohol and diseases to which the Huaorani have no resistance.

The Huaorani are fighting back with lawyers and direct action. Also the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit in June before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission against the Ecuadorian government charging that building the road would violate the Huaorani's human rights. The government is indifferent toward indigenous people. It wants the oil, which is the country's main foreign exchange earner.

DuPont has masterfully greenwashed its campaign against the Huaorani. It inoculates some Huaorani against a few diseases and says it won't build a bridge over the Rio Napo. It also says it will cluster oil wells to reduce the number of clearings. Meanwhile, many Huaorani have died of secondary pneumonia, caused by the so-called common cold, and highly assimilated Quechua settlers are intermarrying with them to get their land. Even the World Bank refuses to fund Ecuador's oil sector because of its horrendous record in the Amazon.

Members of *Amazonia Por la Vida*, a coalition of environmental and peace groups, non-violently occupied Conoco's headquarters in Quito on August 23 to protest its recklessness. The action went well, but international support for their efforts is crucial.

CONTACT: 1) For information on education and direct action, write Ivonne Yanez, Accion Ecologica, Casilla 246-C, Quito, ECUADOR. 2) For legal details, write Sarah Bates, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, 2044 Fillmore St, San Francisco, CA 94115. 3) Conoco's front man is Alex Chapman, Manager, Environmental Protection Project, Conoco Ecuador Ltd, POB 2197, Houston, TX 77252. 4) DuPont's front man is Bruce Karrh, Vice President for Safety, Health, and Environment, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co, 1007 Market St, Wilmington, DE 19898.

—Rhona Mahoney, Stanford, CA

MCA Plans to Pave English Marsh

Rainham Marshes, an internationally important wildlife area and the largest remaining expanse of wetland on England's Upper Thames Estuary, is under threat from a series of development proposals.

The immediate proposal is for a theme park, film studios and other commercial development on 245 hectares (600 acres), of this Site of Special Scientific Interest. The plans are being put forward by a consortium of companies headed by the Music Corpora-

tion of America (owners of Universal Studios) and British Urban Development (a group of 11 development companies), with the support of Rank and the BBC. The developers have offered objecting groups, led by the London Wildlife Trust, the remaining 160 hectares of the SSSI as a nature reserve plus an interpretation centre and 7 million pounds.

Rainham Marshes is grazing marsh reclaimed from the Thames Estuary between the 12th and 17th centuries. Over 170 species of birds have been recorded there in recent years, nearly 20 of which are identified in the EC's Bird Directive as requiring special protection, e.g., the Hen Harrier and the Short-eared Owl. Locally and even nationally scarce plants survive there, including Golden Dock and Divided Sedge. The Emerald Damsel Fly was discovered on the Marshes in 1983, having previously been thought to be extinct.

WHAT TO DO: Contact MCA Universal, the BBC, and Rank. Tell them we don't want more concrete; we want wilderness. Tell them you will demand a Public Enquiry. Tell them you will boycott Universal and Rank movies. Give out information at cinemas showing their films.

*Chris Patten, MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA ENGLAND

*BBC TV Centre, Wood Lane, Shepherd's Bush, London

*Rank Organisation, 6 Connaught Place, London, W2

*Lew Wasserman, Chairman, Music Corp of America, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608

Boycott Gold!

Because of our greed for gold, rainforests are dying in Brazil, Borneo, and Zaire. Aboriginal forest dwellers are being killed by gold prospectors and by the illnesses the miners have imported, in a search for gold not needed: most gold mined is used to make jewelry or mint coins.

The motorised pumps drone from dawn till dusk. A man aims a jet of water at the loose topsoil around the edges of the metre-deep pit; another, waist-deep in water, pumps what's left of the jungle floor from the pit into the cleaning and filtering installation. They mix their find, thinly dispersed gold dust, with mercury. Mercury acts as a binding agent. It is then evaporated so that pure gold may be won. The mercury goes on to poison the air and rivers.

In the last three years, Roraima, the northernmost province in Brazil, has become a kind of El Dorado. Between 40,000 and 100,000 prospectors have advanced into previously virgin rainforest. All supplies, including the diesel to run the pumps, are flown into the jungle. More planes land on the jungle airstrips here than on the runways of the airport in Brasilia, the country's capital.

Roraima is the home of the last great Indian tribe on the borders of Venezuela, the Yanomami. Gold miners are destroying their forests and bringing diseases such as malaria, which have decimated their numbers. Where the Yanomami do not hand over their land voluntarily, they are driven away or killed, the women misused or forced into prostitution. "The Indian-hunting season is open," Manuela Carneira da Cunha, chairwoman of the Brazilian Society of Anthropologists, recently said.

The new Brazilian president by turns pledges to banish the gold diggers from Indian territory altogether, then succumbs again to financial pressures. For apart from the prospectors, many pilots, middlemen, speculators and politicians also depend on the gold trade.

"If the market price of gold was to sink from 20,000 to 15,000 francs," says Pierette Birraux-Ziegler, from the CIP in Geneva (an institute for the census documentation of indigenous peoples), "the search for gold in

Yanomami-territory would become unprofitable. Prospecting would be suspended."

Brazil officially mines in the region 100 tonnes of gold a year — roughly one-sixth the quantity produced by South Africa. However, authorities estimate that 80% of the gold from Yanomami land is illegally exported, thus never appearing in published statistics. Likewise in many other equatorial countries, actual gold production levels exceed the official figures.

Roraima's plight mirrors the impact of the gold rush on jungle regions worldwide. Powerful mining corporations and desperate day labourers compete for the better claims in many tropical forests. Yet, either way — with the traditional gold prospector's pan or the industrial excavator — the earth is brutally raped.

In Indonesia, large parts of the island of Borneo, as well as parts of many other smaller islands, have been given to large-scale industrial exploiters — in total, 28% of the country's land. International corporations such as British Petroleum, Pennzoil, and Shell are competing with impoverished farmers for the control of mining sites in the jungle.

On the Ok Tedi River in Papua New Guinea (PNG), the biggest gold mine in the world is being worked by an international consortium which includes some German companies. Barrels containing poisonous chemicals are leaking into the river. On PNG's island of Bougainville, large-scale mining for gold and other ores has led to a civil war.

Most of the world's gold comes from South Africa. Gold in jungles of Zaire and Ghana is also being exploited.

Only about 15% of all this plundered gold is used for filling teeth or in industry, where it constitutes a small part in the manufacture of such things as electronic components. Even this small quota is, due to new production methods, constantly sinking. Another 15% is minted into coins or medallions, most of which (like the South African Krugger Rands) are purchased as an investment. Popular theory has it that investing in gold coins or ingots helps stem the tide of inflation; but times have changed. In the wake of a worldwide surplus, gold's significance in stabilising monetary exchange rates has dwindled. Gold has fallen in value in recent years.

The lion's share, 70%, of gold goes to jewelers. Huge tracts of land are being contaminated with mercury and enormous quantities of energy consumed to produce earrings, necklaces and rings.

Each of us may unsuspectingly carry on our wrists and fingers the responsibility for several tonnes of churned up rainforest topsoil, for a couple chopped-down primary forest trees — one of which was home, perhaps, to a sloth that died when it was felled — for the destruction of habitat for parrots and other rainforest birds, orchids, butterflies, beetles ...

In underground vaults in Frankfurt, on the premises of the German Bundesbank, behind metre-thick concrete and guarded by armed marksmen, are Germany's gold reserves. The Bundesbank owns 2,960,000 kilograms of gold. Part of this hoard is held in Fort Knox, Kentucky, United States, together with the USA's own national reserves, almost three times that owned by Germany.

The gold stocks in Germany's Bundesbank alone are worth 68 billion German marks. If gold was not hoarded in such quantities and some of these reserves were sold, it would push down the price of gold, thereby making further production unprofitable. Rainforests could be at peace again.

—Chris Bell, Hamburg, West Germany

Aussy Rainforest Policy

Dear friends,

We need your help. Australia is poised to take a historic step later this month with a new policy statement on rainforest protection. It is considering protecting the remaining rainforests in Australia and stopping the import of tropical timber from primary rainforests. The Australian environment movement is unanimous in calling on the Government to take these steps, however there are still forces within the Cabinet that are trying to weaken this policy.

International support at this time will make a crucial difference to the strength of the policy decision that is made. Australia was the first nation to ban whaling, and has led the world on other environmental issues, including the protection of Antarctica. If Australia can be made to take a strong stand on rainforest protection this could shift the approach of many other nations.

Please help save the rainforests of Australia and the world.

* Write/fax/phone the Australian Consulate or Embassy nearest to you immediately. A draft letter follows with recommendations prepared by NGO's from Australia, the Philippines, Malaysia and the U.K. Each recommendation is followed by details on the positions that NGOs in Australia are calling on the government to adopt. Please use the draft letter to make your own letter. You can just list the main recommendations or include any of the details and background provided.

* Organise an action. On September 24, there will be demonstrations around the world outside Australian Embassies.

—John Seed, Patrick Anderson

****DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT****

The Hon. R. J. Hawke

Prime Minister of Australia

c/o The Australian Embassy,

1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW

WASHINGTON D.C. 20036

tel: 202 797 3000 fax: 202 79731 68

Dear Sir,

I/we understand that the Australian Government is soon to make a policy statement on rainforests, and that your cabinet is considering the protection of remaining rainforest areas in Australia, and supporting rainforest protection internationally by stopping the import of timber from primary rainforests.

As you may know, the global rate of tropical deforestation has doubled in the last decade. If this rate of increase continues, all unprotected rainforests will be destroyed within 20 years. At present, less than 5 per cent of the rainforests of the world are actually protected. These areas will only be able to preserve a tiny fraction of the estimated 25 million species that live in these forests. The livelihoods and cultures of millions of indigenous and forest people who depend on the rainforests are threatened. Unless tropical deforestation can be stopped, the Earth will suffer the greatest loss of biological and cultural diversity ever to take place.

One of the leading causes of rainforest loss is the tropical timber industry. There is no example of sustainable rainforest logging in the world today. In the Asia-Pacific region, the timber industry is the major cause of primary rainforest destruction. Worldwide, industrial logging operations destroy some five million hectares of primary forest each year. Wherever the rainforests are being logged, local communities are actively opposing the destruction of their forests. Throughout Malaysia, which supplies most of the rainforest timber used in Australia, indigenous peoples are blocking logging operations to save the last of their rainforests. In the state of Sarawak, it has been estimated that all remaining primary rainforests will be logged out within seven years, causing immense suffering for the 200,000 indigenous peoples in these forests. The ecological consequences will include the extinction of many species.

I/we are aware that Australia is the only developed country with large areas of rainforest, and that it has stopped logging in tropical rainforest on State lands. I/we also understand that half of Australia's rainforests are still unprotected. Australia is known internationally as a leading country in the area of environmental protection. We urge you to continue this good work, and to adopt the following recommendations:

1. Protect all remaining rainforests in Australia. (Three quarters of Australia's rainforests have been destroyed already. Only half of what remains is protected. Many areas are still being logged, burned and cleared.)

2. Ban the import of tropical timbers from primary forests. (As almost all tropical timber imports presently come from primary forests, the government should impose a moratorium on the import of tropical timber and place the onus on producers to show that their timber is environmentally benign.)

3. Provide financial and technical development assistance to help protect tropical rainforests in other countries. (This assistance should be used to: establish the legal rights of ownership of forest dwellers to the lands they traditionally occupy or use and to survey and register these lands; promote community-based sustainable forest management projects to meet local needs; reforest degraded lands to restore ecosystem functions; help create extractive reserves, protected areas, fauna and flora reserves and national parks.)

4. Lobby tropical countries to protect

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