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FAX COVER NOTE

TRANSMITTING TO : **THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO
H.E. PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN AZOCAR**

FAX NO : (0056 2) 697 03 95

NO OF PAGES
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FROM : FAX (022) 347 91 59

DATE : 29th April, 1993

RE : 45th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling
Commission, Kyoto, Japan

Sir,

We would be most grateful if the attached fax communication from Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan could be brought to the attention of His Excellency President Patricio Aylwin Azocar.

A copy to the original text will be forwarded in due course via the customary diplomatic channels. Brief acknowledgement that our fax has been well received would greatly oblige.

Thanking you in anticipation of your kind assistance in this matter,

Yours Sincerely,

B. Gilbert-Miguet

Barry Gilbert-Miguet



Bellerive Foundation

PO Box 6 · 1211 Geneva 3 · Switzerland · Telephone: (022) 346 88 66 · Telex: 42 98 35 MURC CH · Fax: (022) 347 91 59

THE PRESIDENT

28th April, 1993

Dear Mr. President,

I have recently learned of last month's Declaration by the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS) regarding the protection of whales in their zones of national jurisdiction. May I offer my most sincere congratulations for this important decision, and wish you every success in its implementation.

I have closely followed the workings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) as well, and wish to express my deep appreciation for Chile's good work there in recent years.

As you may know the Commission's 45th Annual Meeting, convening next month in Kyoto, Japan, will be considering some important proposals, including a French initiative to declare the waters south of 40 degrees South an international sanctuary for whales.

May I strongly urge Chile's full support for this important initiative. The recent declaration within the framework of the CPPS would seem to make the perfect complement to the French initiative. I am aware of Chile's position regarding sovereign rights, and appreciate that its official reservation to the 1946 Whaling Convention allows its acceptance of IWC decisions without in any way detracting from those rights. I do hope that this arrangement would allow Chile's full support for this worthy proposal.

I assure you that a favourable position by Chile on the French proposal will be applauded the world over. Protection of the world's whales has so captured the hearts and souls of millions of people around the world that the issue continues to remain high on the international agenda, and its successful resolution is of intense public and media interest.

..I.

Certainly, the decimation of the richest concentrations of whales the world has ever known, in the waters of the Southern Ocean, by the pelagic fleets of northern hemisphere countries earlier this century was an environmental tragedy that robbed us all, and generations to come, of a unique and precious heritage. There is tremendous resistance throughout the world against ever again allowing the resurgence of a commercial pelagic whaling industry. Chile's own transformation from a whaling country to a strong conservationist member of the IWC has been heartening for all of us, and I urge its support of the French proposal as a further consolidation of its position.

Such support would, in addition, emphasise Chile's positive commitment to environmental protection of the Antarctic region. I have admired Chile's determination to highlight at recent meetings of the Antarctic Treaty states and at CCAMLR, for example, the dangers of the possible effects of ozone depletion for all life in the region, and would suggest that a positive position on the sanctuary would be well in tune with Chile's leading role on this broader issue.

As you are no doubt aware, UNCED, through its Agenda 21, explicitly confirmed last year that the exploitation of whales - due to their special legal status as highly migratory species and as marine mammals - may be regulated more strictly than that of other marine species, or prohibited altogether. Thus the Southern Ocean Sanctuary proposal is fully in accord with UNCED decisions.

I wish your Government every success in its admirable work to further the protection of the world's environment, and look forward to hearing of Chile's support for a whale sanctuary in the Southern Ocean.

With highest consideration.

Sadrudin Aga Khan

Sadrudin Aga Khan

His Excellency
 President Patricio Aylwin Azocar,
 Palacio de la Moneda,

SANTIAGO,

Chile.

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Santiago, Mayo 03 de 1993

Señor
Barry Gilbert-Miguet
Bellerive Foundation
P.O.Box 6 - 1211 Geneva 3
Suiza

Estimado señor:

En relación a su carta de fecha 29/04/93, S.E. el Presidente de la República don Patricio Aylwin Azócar ha impartido instrucciones para que su solicitud sea debidamente estudiada en la Subsecretaría de Pesca.

Para tal efecto, este Gabinete ha remitido su carta mediante oficio GAB.PRES. 93/0002247 a dicha instancia para que, de ser posible, sus inquietudes sean atendidas.

Saluda atentamente a Ud.

Carlos Bascuñán Edwards
Jefe de Gabinete Presidencial

c.c.: Archivo Presidencial