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March 03, 1993

Office of the President
Capital Building
Santiago, Chile
South America

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ARCHIVO

Dear Mr. President:

This morning on CNN news I watched a brief news story on some stranded Chilean fishermen. This was not one of those stories with the happy ending; you know, the one where the grateful fishermen were found and deeply indebted to their rescuers. This story was about large piles of dead or dying seals.

There is an expression in the U.S. that you "don't bite the hand that feeds you". If these seals provide the bait for these fishermen (and I hope that that is not a customary practice) then they should be treated as thoughtfully as you would any benefactor. Instead, these seals, including young babies, were brutally beaten and thrown in death piles to lie screaming and angishing in pain until their inevitable death.

I am writing to you because it is my understanding that, although this is illegal, it is not rigidly enforced. I don't know of any way that I, as a single citizen, can stop this practice except to make a contribution to Greenpeace and/or appeal to you to stop this practice from the fishermen. The only means that I have of expressing how adamant that I am about your enforcing your laws against these people is to write to my U.S. Office of Foreign Policy. I will suggest to them a withdrawal of any duty-free trade status or an increase in duty and/or a total embargo of seafood and fish meal products. I will do so by copy of this letter to them.

The only way that you, in turn, can enforce these laws for your fishermen is to maintain a "Tough Policy" against offenders; starting with these fishermen. My first instinct told me that these fishermen should be returned to their island, beaten and thrown in a heap and left HELPLESSLY to writhe in pain. My Christian upbringing demands a better solution, one that would not make us, the "judge", no better than the criminals we prosecute. At the least, these men should be forbade from fishing of any kind, fines and/or imprisonment and made to provide some sort of needed service to seals or other wildlife. If the loss of fishing meant the loss of one avenue of attaining a livelihood; so be it.

For each letter similar to this that you may receive, understand that there are millions more Americans that don't know where to begin in their appeal but have a negative impression of Chili in their minds (and pocketbooks) if this trajedy is not curtailed.

Please give this problem your attention. Our wildlife, like our children, are dependent upon us "thinking" adults.

Sincerely,

Edith Hill

cc: U.S. Office of Foreign Policy
Florida Senator

Ciudadana norteamericana que
escucho en los noticieros de CNN
la matanza a palo de los
marineros en Chile.

Busca como relacionar esto y
que no vuelva a pasar. Separe
que los pescadores que
mataron a los lobos son
prohibidos de volver a pescar