

2632 Palmerston Avenue,
West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 2W6
May 25, 1992.

Mr. Lewis T. Preston,
President,
International Finance Corp.,
Washington, D.C., 20433

Dear Mr. Preston:

It's hard for me to believe that your organization is considering financing yet another mega dam - a project which will destroy the ecosystem of the Bio-Bio River area and displace the indigenous Pehuenche people; a dam in an area whose stability is at risk from both active volcanoes and seismic activity.

It makes no sense to me that you finance this kind of havoc in the name of development, while the local people are prohibited from participating in the decision, and even from access to the environmental study required by the World Bank.

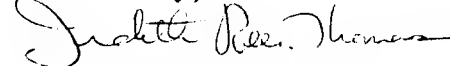
Including the requirement of an environmental study was one of the World Bank's more responsible ideas. Now, what about insisting that environmental and social assessments, and technical and economic feasibility studies, as well, be disclosed to any member of the public who asks?

What about recognizing and enforcing the rights of the Pehuenche people to determine the use of their ancestral lands?

What about the right of those affected by this project to a hearing; to sue; to protect their land, their water and their forest ecosystems from irresponsible and unjust expropriation, and to otherwise hold the proponents liable for their actions?

I propose that your Finance Corp. call a halt to the Bio-Bio project now, and do some serious rethinking about what constitutes development.

Yours truly,



Judith Rees-Thomas

cc: President Patricio Aylwin, Chile ✓

Jaime Toha Gonzalez, Comision Nacional de Energia, Chile.

Frank Potter, World Bank and IFC.

Hon. Donald Mazankowski, Governor, World Bank and IFC

Jim Hollingworth, M.D.

"Personal well being demands planetary well being"

146 Keays Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 3N2
Res. (519) 524-2592

Goderich Medical Centre
181 Cambria Rd. North
Goderich, Ontario N7A 2R2
Office (519) 524-9911

May 25, 1992

Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile

Attention: President Patricio Aylwin

Dear Sir:

I am deeply concerned about the ecological dangers and the traumatization to the Pehuenche people that the Bio-Bio dams will cause.

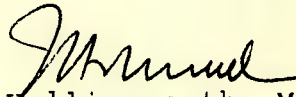
I urge you to call a halt to further work on the dam's construction. In addition, I call upon you to pay adequate compensation to the indigent people whose lands, forests and livestock have already been destroyed by the work done so far.

I would also ask that in the future, you encourage prompt disclosure of all technical, economic, environmental and social assessments for all the six Bio-Bio dams to be released to any member of the public or any organization that so requests.

The cultural survival of the Pehuenche people is dependent on their ancestral homes being maintained. I call upon you to recognize and enforce the right of the Pehuenche people to determine the use of their own ancestral lands.

I look forward to your comments on these important matters.

Yours sincerely,


J.L. Hollingworth, M.D.

JLH:jya

609 Cecelia Street
PEMBROKE, ONTARIO K8A 1T6

May 27, 1992

President Patricio Aylwin
Palacio de la Moneda
SANTIAGO, CHILE

Dear President Aylwin:

I am writing to protest the Bio-Bio dams. The construction of these dams threatens the cultural survival of the Pehuenche people; farmers; the unique and diverse river ecology as well as the region's seismic stability will be negatively affected.

I recommend:

- the immediate recognition and enforcement of the Pehuenche people's rights to determine the use of their ancestral lands;
- the right of all those affected to a hearing, to sue, to protect their land, their water, and their forest ecosystems from irresponsible and unjust expropriation, and to otherwise hold the proponents liable for their actions;
- the prompt disclosure of all relevant information (including technical and economic feasibility studies, environmental and social assessments for all six Bio-Bio dams) to any member of the public that requests such information;
- a halt to all work on the Bio-Bio dams; and
- compensation for Bio-Bio residents whose land, forests, and livestock have been destroyed by work to date.

A Concerned Citizen,



Fay Edmonds

FE/sw