

Smithsonian

64218

March 28, 1977

S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Dillon:

Thank you for your recent notes.

I have passed along your request for an appointment with the President to the President's personal scheduling staff, and I am sure that you will be hearing from them directly very soon.

I have also placed your note and Peter Scott's interesting proposal in Dr. Brzezinski's hands. I suspect it is one of those ideas that will be put away for awhile, but might suddenly flower at some critical juncture.

I am very much looking forward to my first Board of Regents meeting in May and I hope to see you then.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Walter F. Mondale



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C. 20560
U.S.A.

21 March 1977

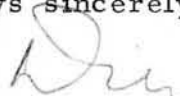
The Honorable Walter F. Mondale
The Vice President of the United States
Regent of the Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Fritz:

As Vice Chancellor of the Regents, it seems to me that the enclosed letter from my very old friend and colleague, Sir Peter Scott, addressed to President Carter should be given to you. I would appreciate it very much if you could arrange to forward it to the President in such a manner as to have him have a chance to consider it. The suggestion represents a wholly novel approach towards the problem of demilitarized zones between the warring states in the Middle East, and as Cy Vance is going out there very shortly, I think it high time, that at least, be tucked away somewhere in someone's portfolio currently considering this matter. You must recall that the setting up of the DMZ between North and South Korea has not only created an uneasy stability between the two countries, but has also served as a non-human buffer zone, which in itself has become a fantastic national park. Animals and plants, including major species of both, have returned to the DMZ zone that had not been seen alive in Korea for many years prior to the Korean War. This is merely because, perforce, an isolated zone was created free from human interference. So the naturalist and conservationist might have here a suggestion of considerable importance in the realm of contemporary political and military affairs?

With best wishes and regrets that you could not come to the Smithsonian to greet the three new Congressional Regents this evening, I am,

Always sincerely yours,


S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary

Enclosure

Phone : Cambridge (Glos.) 333
(STD: 045-389 333)

SIR PETER SCOTT CBE DSC LL.D

THE WILDFOWL TRUST, SLIMBRIDGE
GLOUCESTER GL2 7BT

Hon. Director, The Wildfowl Trust
Chairman, The World Wildlife Fund
Chairman, Survival Service Commission of the International
Union for the Conservation of Nature
Chancellor, The University of Birmingham

From : Sir Peter Scott CBE DSC



THE NEW GROUNDS
SLIMBRIDGE
GLOUCESTER GL2 7BT

*Tele : Cambridge (045-389) 333
Cables : Wildfowl Dursley*

March 15, 1977

Dear Mr President

A Proposal for International Nature Reserve Status
for Certain Territories in Dispute
between Israel and Neighbouring States

Reading of your renewed initiative to solve the border disputes in the Near-East, and aware of your personal interest in wildlife conservation, as indicated by your forthright statements on the subject, I am submitting to you an idea which I first put forward in 1969. It went to Gunnar Jarring at the time, but was shot down in flames by both sides. Since then it has been resurrected at least twice. But I have never known whether it has reached any top decision-makers. Inherent in the idea is that Israel as well as the Arab countries should set aside some of her original territory as a counterpart.

I have no reason to suppose it would be any more acceptable now than before, but I felt I would like you to know of the proposal's existence, just in case it could be helpful in reaching a final settlement. Conservation has advanced a little, in terms of public acceptance, in the last nine years.

Yours very sincerely
Peter Scott

A Proposal for International Nature Reserve Status
for Certain Territories in Dispute
between Israel and Neighbouring States

A Proposal by Sir Peter Scott

1. It is suggested that the States concerned might consider the creation of international nature reserves as 'buffer zones'. One such area might incorporate major parts of the Sinai and Negev deserts, including some of the adjoining coastlines and coral reefs. From the point of view of the fauna and flora and the special ecology of deserts, as well as the marine life of the coral reefs, the area is of enormous scientific and aesthetic interest.
2. The Scenery is of outstanding beauty, with geological formations in fantastic shapes and exquisite colours.
3. There is a need for wildlife conservation, especially of the large mammals which include the Nubian Ibex, two kinds of Gazelles, the Hyaena, the Sinai Leopard, the Caracal Lynx, and two other species of wild cats, the Crested Porcupine, the Sand Fox, the Rock Hyrax and many smaller species of exceptional scientific interest. Round the coast there are still Dugongs, gravely threatened with extinction. The migratory birds pass in vast numbers through the area, and there is an outstanding wealth of birds of prey including a number of Eagle species currently in danger of extermination.
4. The wild flowers are of particularly striking beauty, and the desert vegetation is of special interest and importance in terms of microclimate and of the biological productivity of arid regions.
5. The Scenery, wild animals and wild plants in this region are part of the long term heritage of mankind.
6. The human population density of the area is relatively very low.
7. Attention has recently been focussed by a number of relevant UN Organisations on the future of large desert areas, and the control of further desertification.
8. It is possible that similar nature reserves would be appropriate in other disputed frontier areas round Israel.
9. There are a number of examples in other parts of the world where frontier areas might become international nature reserves, (such as the Rann of Kutch), thus the present proposal could constitute an inspiring precedent.
10. 'Buffer zones' are usually negative in character and suggest the sterilisation of the land in dispute. The present proposal may offer a positive, creative and non-political land-use solution.

11. By including desert areas of the Negev in the international nature reserve, both Egypt and Israel would be making comparable concessions on the former frontier pattern.

12. Supervision of such international nature reserves might be national or international through the United Nations. Three possible mechanisms exist which might be utilised for the purpose:

- i) The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 17th session in November 1972.
- ii) Project 8 of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program (MAB) which provides for "Conservation of Natural Areas and the Genetic Resources They Contain", by means of Biosphere Reserves. This was first implemented in September 1974.
- iii) National Covenant Reserves - a concept which is currently being developed by the International Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. This will invite Governments to enter into a Covenant to set aside certain areas which for technical reasons do not fall within the UN requirements for a National Park. Technical advice on a continuing basis could be provided by IUCN which has consultative status with UNESCO, FAO and UNEP.

13. This matter was first proposed in 1968 to Mr Gunnar Jarring and has been raised twice during the nine years since. It has been discussed by the Executive Board of IUCN and by the International Trustees of the World Wildlife Fund, both of which believe that from a scientific and conservation point of view the proposal has merit provided that the practical and political difficulties can be overcome.

14. It may be relevant to consider the experience so far gained in implementing the Antarctic Treaty (which also concerns an area of low human population density.)

15. It is held that the basic idea would be especially acceptable to world opinion as a positive and imaginative step. The field of nature conservation is becoming increasingly recognised as a world problem for which mankind has deep moral and cultural responsibilities to future generations.

Peter Scott
March 1977.



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D. C. 20560
U.S.A.

March 21, 1977

Honorable Walter F. Mondale
The Vice President of the United States
Regent of the Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Fritz:

I enclose a copy of my recent letter to President Carter in which I convey to him my deep interest in the cultural affairs in our national life and request his guidance on ways and means by which the Smithsonian can assist at this time in the task of heartening and informing people everywhere. Also enclosed is a copy of my next "View from the Castle" in which I speak about President Carter's message.

I would much appreciate it if you could see whether there was a possibility that I might be able to schedule a visit with the President? I believe this would be in the interest of the Smithsonian.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary

Enclosures



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560
U. S. A.

March 7, 1977

Dear Mr. President;

Not since the period of early 1964 when I came to my post at the Smithsonian under the new incumbency of President Johnson, have I sensed such a welcome recognition of the significance of cultural affairs in our national life. This gives me courage and heart to continue with our work at this Institution which now speaks to so many Americans. In this past Bicentennial Year we have made our Country's history patent to many millions of our citizens, have helped to reawaken pride in our folkways, and have continued to develop our own themes on ways and means to protect our environment.

As head of the Smithsonian I would request an opportunity to meet with you to seek your guidance, at the commencement of your own incumbency, on ways and means by which we can assist at this time in the task of heartening and informing people everywhere.

Faithfully yours,

S. Dillon Ripley
S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary

The President
The White House.

DRAFT "VIEW"

One of the most responsive chords which President Carter has struck across the Nation and internationally is his personal sense of humanity.

"I look on our country as more of a beautiful mosaic, with different kinds of people involved in freedom, individuality, pride, cooperation, understanding, searching for answers to difficult questions in their own way, each contributing, hopefully, the strongest single characteristic of their background and heritage and special sensitivity to a common purpose," he said in mid-February in a question and answer period at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

To us at the Smithsonian these remarks symbolize the very essence of our Folk Festival and our historical collections. In our festivals we have demonstrated the evolutionary product of customs and cultures derived from experience of tribes and clans scattered across the continents. In our historical collections we show the end products of adaptations to living, inventions as "answers to difficult questions" for modes of life from the poles to the equator. We celebrate folkways and the persistence of traditions among all the minorities.

The point of our festivals and our display of man's diversity comes home to the people who come to our museums and reach out

for reassurance from the sight of these things. It is to them a re-affirmation of identity. We fear the loss of it in the sense of anomie that comes with being a cipher, a numeral, a set of digits. We fear big government, big business, megastates that might rule the world.

Coupled with the fear of homogenization is the fear of the loss of our own souls. I feel that our new President recognizes this fear, and views part of his task as President to be the reassurance that comes with a renewed sense of faith in our institutions, a humbling sense of the duty of our government to work for all our citizens and a conviction that identity will be preserved.

This message is of the first importance. Those of us who follow peoples across the world, families, clans, tribes, especially in the less developed areas of our planet are desperately aware of the tensions created by the suppression of roots, the traditions which nurture the sense of identity. Much of the persistent unrest in countries today stems from strivings for identity. As I have written elsewhere ^{1/} "The people of our world in their inchoate strivings are telling .. the governors of the nations something we should .. listen to. Perhaps in their folkways exist patterns of (trans-national) interdependence for the future, and perhaps in this we can learn, those of us who live in urban centers, careless of the earth, how much we still must learn .. in understanding if not enlightenment... Here then lies salvation."

^{1/}

From, The Paradox of the Human Condition, 1975,
Tata McGraw-Hill, New Delhi

In this age of technical development we worry about "peace, food..no more people than the earth can take", as Lord Snow describes our real problems. We also worry about schools training children to be literate enough to function with the skills needed for day-to-day industrialized life, as well as teaching professionals enough in a technical age to maintain a dialogue about each other's specialty. And so there is a new element which must be added to the governmental technician's craft -- humanity.

In his book, Why Not the Best?, the President speaks of the leadership of which this government is capable in the world community. Peoples everywhere, he writes, know of us, our standards of ethics, honesty and morality to which all can aspire. They sense also our essential humanity. One way to demonstrate that, in a way which may elude the technicians, busy at the helm of our vast bureaus of government, is a reaffirmation of the differences among us, the persistence of our traditions at the groundroots of life, a counter-current for survival.

44218

August 24, 1978

The Honorable S. Dillon Ripley^x
Secretary
The Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Mr. Ripley:

Hal^x Thank you very much for your letter to the Vice
President of August 21st informing him that Congresswoman
Boggs has decided to resign as a Regent of the Smithsonian.
I will certainly pass this information to him as well as
the information that relates to the Speaker's appointment
of Congressman Ryan to fill the vacancy.

^x
Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. S. Berman
Michael S. Berman
Counsel to the Vice
President

44218

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 26, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter N. Kyros, Jr. P.

RE: Smithsonian Board of Regents Meeting

When you arrive at tomorrow's Smithsonian Board of Regents Meeting, I am sure that the Chief Justice will make some brief welcoming remarks. If you have the opportunity to reply, I believe that you should say that:

- you are sorry that overseas missions kept you from attending the first two meetings of the Regents this year; and
- that you and your staff stand ready to assist the Regents and the Smithsonian in any way possible and particularly in its relationships in the Executive Branch.

Tomorrow's meeting will be a lengthy one, beginning at 4:00 o'clock and probably running well past 6:00 o'clock. I have told Ripley that it is very unlikely that you will be able to stay that long, and you should feel free to leave whenever you wish.

The major matter on tomorrow's agenda will be the recommendations contained in the consultant's report prepared by the Audit Review Committee, of which Senator Jackson is Chairman. The recommendations coming from this report are the first steps toward improving the Smithsonian's poor relations with Congress, essentially by providing for much more consultation and for more careful handling of the Smithsonian's private trust funds. I believe that you should follow Senator Jackson's lead and support tomorrow's motions as a useful starting point for reforming the Smithsonian's practices.

I am attaching a short summary of the report. A lengthy agenda and briefing book will be at your place tomorrow.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Audit Review Committee of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution sought, and the Board of Regents authorized, the employment of a consultant "to conduct an independent study of the Smithsonian's relationship to the Federal Government. Following is a summary of the report prepared pursuant to that authorization.

Interviews of concerned persons in and outside of Government disclosed a rather overwhelming approbation of the Smithsonian Institution's programs as a whole and a general feeling that their quality was high. However, many of the most knowledgeable commentators expressed concerns about administrative policies, practices, or methods.

The interviews re-emphasized concerns similar to those expressed during the course of appropriation hearings with respect to various research awards programs and the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange. Concern was also expressed that the Congress was too often "surprised" by new programs or projects, some started with trust funds and then switched over to Federal funds. The concerns over "surprises" and over the awards programs appeared to have generated a more basic uneasiness over the Smithsonian's management policies and practices and its use of appropriated and trust funds.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE SMITHSONIAN AND
THE CONGRESS

Of fundamental importance in considering specific steps which can be taken to eliminate Congressional concerns is the definition, in as clear terms as possible, of the relationship between the Smithsonian Institution and the Congress. Examination of the Smithsonian will, the 1836 and 1846 Acts, the authorization and funding patterns of the Institution, and the administrative relationships which have developed between the Institution and the rest of the Government produce the following highlights of that relationship: (1) Smithsonian clearly wanted the United States to be involved in the Institution, since he gave his property to the United States of America; (2) Congress accepted this involvement and took statutory action in 1836 to accept the bequest and in 1846 to carry out the trust; (3) growing Federal appropriations over the years have tended to further emphasize the Federal nature of the Institution; and (4) administrative actions involving the use of appropriated funds have followed the prevailing Federal agency pattern and the trust funds, and personnel paid from them, have been covered under several Federal statutes of general application.

In the above circumstances, the Smithsonian Institution seems practically and operationally to be a Federal "establishment," which was created to carry out the trust objectives of the Smithsonian will. The charter and mission of the Institution are broadly set forth in the 1846 Act; later legislation adds detail, but not scope.

The confusion as to the nature of the Smithsonian (whether it is "private" or Federal, for example) seems to have come about because the Regents and the Secretary have several kinds of funds at their disposal for achieving the Institution's basic mission.

Smithsonian trust and self-generated funds are used by the Regents and the Secretary with wide discretion and with only very general Congressional oversight to insure conformity with the trust. For about 100 years, however, the Institution's largest single source of income has been funds appropriated to it by the Congress in accordance with normal budget and appropriation procedures. These funds are not treated any differently from funds appropriated to Executive or other agencies of the Government. All of the applicable statutes and rules and constraints apply, and the Congress' oversight responsibility is the same as that involved in other expenditures from Federal appropriations.

Recognition and general acceptance of the Smithsonian as a Federal establishment spending funds derived from several sources according to differing statutes and operating practices would clarify and simplify relationships between the Smithsonian and the Congress without adversely affecting the interests of either. The Congress' oversight rights and responsibilities with respect to appropriated as well as non-appropriated funds would be preserved. The Smithsonian's unique characteristics would also be preserved, including management by the Regents and the Secretary and the program flexibility derived from having non-Federal funds at their disposal.

The table on page 19 of the report deals with certain questions as to the authority of the Smithsonian with respect to real property under its control.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations which follow center around the basic question of the accountability of the Smithsonian to the Congress, including aspects of the Institution's internal structure and management processes which affect accountability.

I. Improving the accountability of the Institution to the Congress

1. The Regents and the Secretary should adopt the policy of seeking specific authorizations for all significant new programs or projects involving the use of Federal funds. While the terms of the 1846 Act frequently have been deemed adequate to encompass new activities that are clearly for the increase and diffusion of knowledge, specific authorization will ensure Congressional awareness.

2. The Regents and the Secretary should adopt a policy of discussing with the Appropriations Committees any proposed use of trust funds which may involve the future expenditure of Federal funds. Such discussion should take place at a timely point before any commitment is made by the Institution.

3. The Regents and the Secretary should establish a 5-year forward planning process for the Institution covering all activities. Such a process should establish the general direction of the Smithsonian program

efforts and identify areas for priority and emphasis, but permit flexibility enough to take advantage of ad hoc opportunities. It will be a useful management tool, will provide a basis for periodic oversight hearings by the authorizing committees, and will communicate to those committees and the appropriations committees important information about the forward plans of the Institution.

4. With regard to various research awards programs, in addition to the changes proposed by GAO, the Institution should adopt the practice of a special review by the Regents or the Executive Committee thereof, of any awards which the Secretary believes might be perceived by the Congress or the public as self-serving or inappropriate.

II. Internal management matters

1. As an early and fundamental step in the planning process, the Smithsonian Institution should develop a comprehensive list with informative descriptions of activities which it carries on. Administrative and internal management functions should be listed and described separately. Such a list, kept current, will help to describe the Smithsonian to the Congress as well as to the public in a systematic and consistent manner and will permit appropriate note to be taken by the Regents, Congressional committees, and the public, of significant changes in the Institution's activities. As a related matter, the Institution should develop and keep up-to-date an organization chart accurately and completely reflecting the structure of the Institution.

the Under Secretary should be a permanent part of the management structure. His availability will also have the further advantage of permitting the Secretary to concentrate his attention on broad policy matters, substantive leadership and program innovations, and scientific interests which have been the concern of all Smithsonian Secretaries.

In addition to giving day-to-day direction to the management and service staffs of the Institution, the Under Secretary should take the lead in identifying and developing solutions (or alternative courses of action) to major policy and program questions at the request of or for consideration by the Secretary. He should also share with the Secretary, along mutually agreeable lines, the day-to-day supervision of the "line" activities of the Institution as they affect established program objectives, sound management practices, and accountability concerns. The Under Secretary should work through existing institutional staff. He should neither duplicate nor supplant existing key staff but should combine his and their efforts to add new strength to the Smithsonian's management team.

4. The Smithsonian's Office of Audits should be augmented by such additional positions as will permit it to maintain a 5-year audit cycle. Also, that Office should make available its audit reports to the Regents' Audit Review Committee at the same time that they are transmitted to the Secretary.

III. Recommendations contained in the GAO's report

The GAO's recommendations appear generally sound, and the report indicates general concurrence in them. However, certain modifications in approach are discussed in the report.

64218

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: Peter N. Kyros, Jr. *P. Kyros*

RE: Smithsonian Matters

As you no doubt read in the Post, the GAO last Friday issued its initial report on the Smithsonian's fiscal practices. GAO focused on three (3) particular problems:

- (1) The Smithsonian, through a private, non-profit research corporation, has transferred appropriated funds in a way that makes it possible to avoid Civil Service laws and regulations and the fiscal year limitations contained in the Appropriations Act.
- (2) The Smithsonian has reprogrammed certain funds without properly advising the Appropriations Committees.
- (3) The Smithsonian has not provided the Appropriations Committees with adequate information about the uses to which it plans to put income from its private trust funds. This information is important because the Smithsonian can use these private funds to initiate projects, the later costs of which will have to be borne by federal appropriations.

To solve these problems, GAO has recommended that the Smithsonian dissolve its private, non-profit corporations and establish much clearer policies with respect to the kind of information that it will provide to the Appropriations Committees.

My understanding is that a good deal of the current difficulty between the Smithsonian and the Appropriations Committee has developed because of the Smithsonian's continued unwillingness to provide the Appropriations Committee with full and complete information on planning, budgeting and spending. Apparently, there has been a good deal of tension between Dillon Ripley's office and the staffs of the Appropriations Committee. Although about 90% of Smithsonian funding is provided through federal appropriations, Ripley takes the general position that the Smithsonian's Charter makes it a special kind of quasi-public agency not subject to all of the normal Congressional oversight procedures.

Today, the Chief Justice (as Chairman of the Executive Committee) appointed a special Audit Review Committee which includes among its members, Senator Jackson and Congressman Cederberg. This Committee is going to meet on April 20 and 21 to make initial proposals for dealing with the GAO's recommendations. Ripley's office has promised to keep us advised on this process, and to give us plenty of advance warning of any proposals that you might have to vote on at the Regents meeting on May 13. I will keep you posted on any developments. If you are asked about this, I recommend that you indicate that you are waiting to see what proposals the Smithsonian develops in response to the GAO report.

Penny/Jim

7707-B

44218



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE VICE PRESIDENT
FROM: PETER KYROS *Peter*
RE: Smithsonian Institution

This morning I had a long talk with Dorothy Rosenberg, who is Executive Assistant to S. Dillon Ripley at the Smithsonian Institution. We discussed your role as a statutory member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian.

The Board of Regents meets three times a year, usually in January, May and October. It passes, in very general terms, on major new Smithsonian initiatives. Most of the day-to-day supervision of the Smithsonian's work is handled by a five-person Executive Committee, chaired by the Chief Justice.

The next meeting of the Board of Regents is on the morning of May 13, 1977. (You missed the January meeting which took place while we were in Europe.) Vice Presidents Rockefeller and Humphrey attended these meetings regularly, and I would suggest that we try to arrange for you to attend this next meeting if that is at all possible, especially since your membership is a statutory duty.

The Smithsonian's major problem right now centers around the flurry of bad publicity which you may have noticed in the Washington Post. Among issues that have caused difficulty are: 1) the maintenance of large non-interest bearing accounts in the American Security and Trust Company (of which S. Dillon Ripley was once a Director); 2) acquisition procedures for a watershed study area along the Chesapeake Bay, and 3) problems of handling federal and private trust

funds held by the Smithsonian. The GAO is presently completing a study of the Smithsonian accounts, both public and private, which is expected to be submitted to House and Senate oversight committees within the next two weeks. Smithsonian officials did not volunteer what they thought the contents of this report would be, and I thought it best to remain uninvolved.

Michael and I are going to do a short memorandum for you summarizing and analyzing the major issues in the current dispute. We suggest that you steer clear of substantive comment on the Smithsonian issues should anyone put a question to you.

If it does work out that you will attend the May meeting of the Board of Regents, I will do a full briefing for you well in advance.



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: HAMILTON JORDAN
FROM: THE VICE PRESIDENT *Wm*
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL BOXES AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

I think Greg Schneiders' recent suggestion that we distribute extra Kennedy Center tickets to handicapped or elderly persons is a good idea.

I would also suggest that we distribute such tickets to Members of Congress. In fact, we might encourage Cabinet officers to attend Kennedy Center performances with key Members of Congress.*

It appears that there are enough tickets and enough performances so that all these good ideas can be accomplished.

cc: Frank Moore

** I like this idea best.*



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