

Dear Friend,

Let's be precise from the start: the ship Hai Yen is a pirate, an outlaw. When it sails next month, it will do what it's done for the last four years: kill whales, as many as possible, as quickly and profitably as it can. Manned by expert Japanese crews, it will leave Taiwan to roam the Pacific -- and leave devastation in its wake.

The Hai Yen's owners don't care about the survival of whales, or international limits on whaling. Taiwan doesn't have whaling limits, so the Hai Yen and other ships like it are free to kill whatever they find -- thousands of whales a year.

The killing itself can be monstrous.

When the earth's largest mammals surface for air, the harpoon with its explosive iron tip is fired. With luck, the harpoonist's aim, the swell of the seas, the turn of the whale all combine to place the harpoon deep within the whale's spine where the shock of the explosion does its work quickly, tearing through the inside of the creature.

But often, "luck" escapes. The harpoon strikes badly, inaccurately, burying itself deep inside the whale but not killing. Then the whale sounds, diving deep in a desperate attempt to escape. But the escape is seldom successful -- in time, shock, the bleeding, the exhaustion take effect, and the boat slowly comes alongside, reeling the harpoon's line. When the animal finally dies, cable is attached and it is winched aboard, to be carved up and sold as oil, as fat, or even as "Quick Frozen Quality Whale Meat."

Pirate whaling -- based in Taiwan and other nations which ignore international treaties, are a growing danger to the whales. As other nations cut back on whaling, their share of the total increases. Last year that total cost the lives of more than 20,000 whales.

That's why when the whalers put to sea this year, Greenpeace will be there.

Once we sight their ships, we'll then do what we have done for the last six years: scramble into tiny rubber boats, and set out to place

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ourselves between the hunters and the hunted, between the harpoons and the largest relative of mankind.

But this year we need your help -- more than ever before -- to save the whales.

Every 26 minutes a great whale dies in agony at the hands of men. All nine species of great whale are on the U.S. Government's endangered list ... and some may soon enter the pages of history, as the Atlantic Gray Whale already has. Before intensive hunting began, the great Blue Whale -- the largest animal that has ever lived -- numbered over 300,000; today it is commercially extinct.

Answers
objection-
Shows
Substitutes
exist

The tragedy of the slaughter is that there is no need. Once upon a time perhaps there was: whale oil was used to light lamps and lubricate machines. Delicate ambergris was used in expensive perfumes, and baleen was used for stays in women's corsets. But once upon a time there were millions of whales.

Today every single product made from the whale can be replaced by something else. Clearly, whale oil for lamps was replaced long ago; its use as a delicate lubricant for machines is now finally done by synthetics. Baleen corsets haven't been seen on women in decades, and ambergris for perfumes can be replaced by a number of other substitutes.

Indented
for visual
variety

But that doesn't stop the whalers.

Which is why Greenpeace exists, and why we need your support.

If governments and politics aren't stopping the whalers, worldwide protest is. In the past six years, Greenpeace has non-violently confronted whalers in every ocean in the world. From the stormy North Atlantic to the mid-Pacific to the shores of western Australia, we have pursued and protested relentlessly.

What
Greenpeace
has done in
the past

-- Last summer, for example, our ship the Rainbow Warrior, saved several pods of rare North Atlantic Fin whales from Icelandic whalers, then turned south and pursued Spanish whalers until we were nearly seized by the Spanish navy.

-- In 1978, out in the mid-Pacific, the ex-minesweeper Peacock chased the industrial whaling fleets of the North Pacific 2,500 miles from North America, freeing vast stretches of ocean from their grisly presence.

-- Off the western Australian coast in 1977 we gathered in 14-foot Zodiacs to protest the operation of a shore-based whaling station, drawing international attention to its activity.

This year, we're going to go out again. And again. And again.

Does it work?

**Since 1971 the United States has ceased commercial whaling entirely.

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**Under heavy pressure, the International Whaling Commission has cut the quota for whale hunters by 47% in the last six years. And large factory fleets are now prohibited from taking all species except minke whales.

Proof that
organization
is successful

**Congress passed the Pelly Amendment giving the President power to cut off trade with nations that continue to engage in illegal whaling activities.

**The Packwood/Magnuson Amendment allows the President to reduce the fishing quotas for nations involved in illegal whaling.

**The Australian whaling station we protested against has shut down entirely, the last of its kind in the English-speaking world. After an official inquiry, the Australian government completely reversed its policy -- to one of advocating a total ban on all commercial whaling.

For the whales, those are not small victories. For a growing sense of the interconnectedness of man and his environment they are victories, too.

But for all the victories the whaling hasn't stopped.

statement
that help is
still needed

This year, however, the International Whaling Commission will be debating a call for a complete moratorium on all commercial whaling. If it passes, it will save the lives of more than 15,000 whales a year. And it will place tremendous pressures on the governments of the "pirate" whalers -- pressures, which if successful, will mean for the first time in 2,000 years, whales will be at peace with man -- free of centuries of slaughter.

Greenpeace believes that this complete moratorium on all commercial whaling is the only answer.

Such a moratorium would not only give the whales time to repopulate, but also give scientists the chance to assess the effects of large-scale whaling operations on other species of marine life. We know little about whales themselves, and to allow the disappearance or rank decimation of the species -- given man's history with the bison, the carrier pigeon, the Blue Whale and other species too numerous to mention -- seems an act of criminal neglect.

More immediately, we believe it is time to create marine sanctuaries -- large coastal areas designated specifically for such research and study. Group behavior, mating patterns, forms of communication are all vital areas of investigation if we are to come to know more about the world's largest mammals.

But none of this will happen without the involvement and support of people like you.

What money
will be
used for

Right now, Greenpeace is getting ready for the whaling season, outfitting the Rainbow Warrior that will sail the oceans this year, searching out and non-violently confronting the whalers wherever we can find them. But the

Figure 12.3

(concluded)

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What money
is used for
(cont.)

Rainbow Warrior costs money -- for fuel, for supplies, for medical equipment, for radio systems, for shore support.

Moreover, Greenpeace will launch a major public campaign -- from radio and newspapers, to neighborhood meetings to lobbying at the International Whaling Commission for a complete moratorium on commercial whaling.

Indented
for visual
variety

Why organization
needs private
funds

More than once in the past we have had to turn back, leave the whaling grounds for want of fuel or some other basic necessity. This year we expect the cost to reach over \$200,000 -- an enormous sum, but one vital if we are to stop the senseless slaughter of whales.

Greenpeace receives no government grants or large corporate support. We rely, as we always have, on people who believe as we do in the fundamental debt we all owe nature -- and in the sacred right of whales to live, peacefully, in harmony with other living creatures including mankind.

Please, won't you help Greenpeace this year launch its boats in defense of the whales -- and help us forever put an end to their needless death. If you agree with Greenpeace that we must feel for and support all forms of life as we feel for ourselves, won't you take just a moment right now to:

- 1) Send the enclosed postcards to the Japanese and Icelandic ambassadors demanding an end to their whaling operations.
- 2) Share with your friends, your community, your church or club or classroom the need for a moratorium on all commercial whaling -- so that the senseless slaughter may stop.

Action
close

Alliteration

Amounts
should be in
descending
order

- 3) Support Greenpeace with \$15, \$25 -- whatever you can afford will help (your contribution is tax-deductible). Send as much as you can. But please do it today. The whalers are putting to sea. We must be there to meet them.

Suggests
urgency of
need

Sincerely,

Susan Fountain

Susan Fountain
for the men and women of Greenpeace

Adequate P.S. -
large fund raising
drives use

Several lists -
reader may get
more than one letter -
P.S. presents this fact positively -
involves reader by asking
reader to share letter

P.S. In our efforts to save the whales, we've tried to reach as many people as possible. Forgive us if you receive more than one appeal -- please share it with a friend.

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