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Dear George:

Many thanks for agreeing to do the "Species" articles. I used the title "Special Assistant to the Chairman" in the "Species" article I just sent to George Rabb. At the same time, I informed his staff that they should contact you regarding deadlines, etc. Notice that the new "Species" is being produced in Chicago. So far, I have been very impressed with George Rabb and his staff. I hope it continues.

I agree that you should wait to write a letter to Japan about Palau until after the meeting. Kazuo has told me that the Japanese (I believe the Ministry of the Environment) is again very concerned with the Palau situation--probably as a result of your report. Shortly after our Nagasaki meeting, Hiroyuki Suganuma (director of the Ogasawara Marine Turtle Research Center) will be going to Palau with an assistant, Fumihico Sato. Mr. Suganuma will only spend about a week, but Mr. Sato will remain a year, trying to improve the situation. Kazuo, who has also been to Palau several years ago, will be working for Suganuma when Kazuo finishes his degree here. Suganuma seems to be a good conservationist--we have worked together on a few projects. I am trying to get Uchida to include Suganuma as a participant at Nagasaki and Kazuo and Mr. Sato as observers, but I have heard nothing. Kazuo told me that Suganuma has been quite anxious to learn of IUCN opinion of Palau, so I gave him a copy of your opinions that were adopted as official IUCN doctrine and your video. Kazuo has sent both to Suganuma, and I know they are anxious to speak with you at the meetings. Kazuo says the plan now is for Mr. Sato to stress greater enforcement of turtle protection in Palau and to take eggs from only a very few nests to the rearing center and then work with the personnel to improve techniques. This is all very vague and second-hand through Kazuo. It would be great if we could all (you, me, Kazuo, Sato and Suganuma) get together and discuss the situation in Nagasaki. Mr. Suganuma speaks some English, Kazuo speaks quite well, and I do not know about Mr. Sato.

I went through my archives and -- GREAT SHOCK!!!! -- I was actually able to find something I knew was there. I have kept three copies of your photo here in case these do not reach safely. I don't recall ever seeing the negative, but I'll look though a few more files just in case. Hope these help.

My final note is the most important. George, would you please consider serving as Deputy Chairman of the MTSG, with the new triennium beginning this fall? Stanley de Silva officially retired from the post when he moved to Canada, but agreed to stay on until the end of the triennium (he never did anything anyway). With the enlargement of the Group, the development of the Action Plan, a better staff working with George Rabb and the imminent departure of Steve Edwards, I really hope that the MTSG can start accomplishing good for turtles. The enlargement of the Group allows certain strident voices to be diluted (no names mentioned!) and the major work of the Group to be placed in the hands of a small (4-8 people), hand-picked steering committee. This is how the large Freshwater Turtle and Tortoise Group is run, and apparently very successfully. Please give this your serious thought, as time allows, and we can discuss it in Japan.

Did you see Ehrenfeld's review of Groombridge/Luxmoore in the last Copeia?
Hope all is well; I look forward to seeing you in Japan. -- Karen

Copy

SELF-ASSIGNED DUTIES OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, ..

IUCN/SSC MARINE TURTLE GROUP

1. Serve as an information officer to the Group Chairman by forwarding copies of relevant publications, news articles and correspondence.
2. Carry out special assignments as may be recommended by the Group Chairman.
3. Make recommendations for conservation action to the Group Chairman.
4. Correspond and interact with all Group members in order to determine conservation and research problems.

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