

hard that he laid down the rifle for good and picked up the camera. The immediate result of this change of heart was the setting up of the Maharaja Fatehsingh Zoo, less than 100 yards from his bedroom in the main Palace at Baroda,\* in the form of 'mini Africa' reflecting characteristic habitats.

As Fateh's metamorphosis from hunter to conservationist had taken place in Africa, the first occupants of his zoo were a selection of African mammals, reptiles, and birds. Indian additions to the zoo began with his rescuing of a pair each of Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) and Himalayan Black Bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*) cubs, only a few weeks old, from a market in Calcutta. Both these pairs were hand-reared by him to adulthood. His was the first zoo to breed the Indian Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus khur*) in captivity. His main species for research had been various crocodilians and Indian Starred Tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*). Also an avid aquarist, he maintained that he could communicate with, and relax among, other animals far more easily than with human beings. One of his principal joys was a (perhaps the only existing) troupe of performing parrots, trained by a special family in his Palace, which did such things as running a model railway and firing a toy cannon, while at his funeral there were nine elephants of the Golden Circus standing and patiently waiting until the oldest female among them (Rani, the queen) came forward and deposited a floral tribute.

Soon after Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands became President of the World Wildlife Fund, he asked 'Fateh' to join its Board of International Trustees, on which the latter served for two 3-years' terms. It was during his tenure of this international trusteeship that 'Fateh' set up the Indian National Appeal of WWF in 1969. Starting as a one-man outfit, WWF-India now has four regional sub-organizations and active branches in almost every State in the Indian Union.

'Fateh' Gaekwad was also a Councillor of the World Council For The Biosphere, a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, and a member of the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and numerous other learned societies and scientific organizations. He participated actively in, and contributed often impressively to, a large number of international conferences and symposia connected with conservation, being a memorable participant in the first two International Conferences on Environmental Future (Polunin, 1972, 1980). At future meetings of such bodies Fateh's penetrating understanding, superb chairmanship and speaking presence, and exemplary good humour, will be sadly missed, as will be the outcome of his unique experience.

'Fateh' was also, for 37 years—possibly a world record—Chancellor of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, which he served in an exemplary manner, seeing it

\* We recall that the main Palace had about a dozen satellites around it for guests, it being a 'tradition' that only members of the Gaekwad family and their staffs should sleep in Laxmi Vilas Palace though we understand that this stipulation was latterly relaxed for conservationists and Nature-lovers.—Ed.

make rapid and significant strides in the development of higher education, art, culture, sports, and the preservation of wildlife. These were at least as near and dear to him as politics—even when he was serving for three terms in the Lok Sabha (the Indian Lower House of Parliament).

His marriage in 1950 being to a family choice (Princess Padmavati of Jodhpur, who died in 1984), his most passionate pursuits in his middle- and later-life were cricket and conservation, both of which he espoused actively as labours of love. His eminent services to cricket and his country being well documented already in the impressive obituary notices in *The Times* (September 2nd) and *Daily Telegraph* (the next day), we have concentrated in this appreciation on the parts of his life which supported conservation.

Fateh's gift of warm and understanding friendship helped him to win over prominent scientists and laymen alike to that—in our opinion—greatest-of-all modern-day causes. Indeed there can scarcely be any parallel to the former Prince and Maharaja of Baroda who, with no selfish motive whatsoever, poured in millions of rupees and donated much time and tireless effort to saving threatened wildlife and its habitats. For such noble acts he never seemed to wish for any return, let alone personal glory; and paradoxically enough, he never figured in lists of recipients of national honours or international recognition, though it is known that certain elections and expressions of approval in enlightened quarters gave him deep satisfaction. Perhaps that and a conviction of doing the necessary was enough, as it often seems to the undersigned his friends, who share his aspirations for an ongoing world in which Mankind and Nature live in harmony as parts of an ever-viable Biosphere.

GUNAVANT M. OZA, *Reader in Botany*  
*The Maharaja Sayajirao University*  
*of Baroda*  
 Baroda 390 002;  
*General Secretary of INSONA & Founding*  
*Editor of Environmental Awareness*  
*Oza Building*  
*Salatwada*  
 Baroda 390 001, India,

&

NICHOLAS POLUNIN

#### REFERENCES

- GAEKWAD, FATE[H]SINGHRAO P. (1976). Indian Society of Naturalists. *Environmental Conservation*, 3(4), p. 254.
- OZA, G.M. (1983). World Wildlife Fund. *Tigerpaper*, 10(4), p. 20.
- POLUNIN, N. (Ed.) (1972). *The Environmental Future: Proceedings of the first International Conference on Environmental Future*. Macmillan, London & Basingstoke, England, and Barnes & Noble, New York, NY, USA: xiv + 660 pp., illustr.
- POLUNIN, NICHOLAS (Ed.) (1980). *Growth Without Ecodisasters? Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Environmental Future*. Macmillan, London & Basingstoke, England, and Halsted Press Division of John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY, USA: xxvi + 675 pp., illustr.

### New Journal on Environmental Policy in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

Dr Ze'eb Wolfson, more popularly known as 'Boris Komarov', has emigrated from the Soviet Union and is now attached to the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Dr Wolfson is best known in the West for his book *The Destruction of Nature*,

which describes environmental problems in the Soviet Union. It was written in the Soviet Union when he was a Soviet citizen and only later emigrated to the West. It is unclear if the Soviet authorities identified him as the Author of that courageous book before he emigrated.

When the book was published, it created a sensation. This was largely because Dr Wolfson had access to information inside the Soviet Union that no Westerner could obtain. Indeed, the environment which he described was so frightening, that for a long time there was suspicion that the book was really an exercise in disinformation by the CIA. In fact, it was a forthright description written by a man who, because of his work, was able to travel throughout the Soviet Union and gain access to otherwise secret environmental reports.

Now that he has settled down in Jerusalem, Dr Wolfson has decided to embark on a new project. He has begun the publication of a new journal called *Environmental Policy Review: The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe*. So far there have been two issues, the first in June 1987 and the more recent one in January 1988. Overall, the journal is a useful compilation and review of environmental problems in the Eastern Bloc. Dr Wolfson's focus is primarily on the Soviet Union, but in the January 1988 edition, in particular, he has commissioned articles about Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

One of the themes that seems to underlay many of the articles which have appeared in the two issues available so far, is that protest about environmental disruption begins first with the protest but then leads to a form of nationalism. One of the more interesting examples of this occurred in Armenia. The Armenians protested about what was happening to the republic as early as March 1986. Subsequently, that has led to the demonstrations which we witnessed in February 1988. Similarly, there is a nationalist movement in the Russian republic itself which found its first spark because of the concern about the destruction of forests and old churches and homes. That concern with the environment has now blossomed full-blown into nationalism and into an organization called *Pamyat* which espouses many fascist ideas. Among other things, Dr Wolfson quotes one of the leaders of the movement as complaining that the Latvians and the Georgians do not mind when they despoil Soviet territory. This discussion arose

out of the debate over the reversal of Soviet rivers which flowed north. Wolfson, based on his personal recollection, reports that some estimated that the project would cost 50 to 60 thousand million roubles or more. That would have been an enormous burden for the Soviet Union and ultimately was the reason given why the project was put on hold. It also turns out, of course, that those who would have had to bear the burden of the river reversal were those people in the north, whereas it was in the south, in Uzbekistan, that the beneficiaries were located.

What is unique about this journal is that Dr Wolfson can take material published in the general Soviet press, and bring to bear on it his own personal recollections from within the Soviet Union. That provides a perspective which is missing in so much of the work that is done by those of us who write in the West but have never really worked in the Soviet Union.

The one concern that the reader has about this new journal is whether or not Dr Wolfson can continue to provide enough new subjects to make the journal viable. So far, the first two issues do indeed focus on different questions. However, after a time there may be a danger that some of the articles will become repetitive. He has provided us with a list of articles to come, and they do seem to show enough diversity for now. But after a while, unless he brings in other outside Authors in addition to those from Eastern Europe, it may be that we will find there is not enough which is new.

So far, there is promise. For the sake of *glasnost*, both in the Soviet Union and in the West, let us hope that Dr Wolfson can continue to find subject matter that is fresh and unique. In that way, the Soviets will learn more about themselves and what they are doing to their society.

MARSHALL I. GOLDMAN, *Associate Director  
Harvard University Russian Research Center  
Archibald Cary Coolidge Hall  
1737 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts 02138, USA.*

### International Sasakawa Environment Prize for 1988 Awarded to World Commission on Environment & Development and Royal Commission for Jubail & Yanbu of Saudi Arabia

The 1988 International Sasakawa Environment Prize has been awarded to the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu of Saudi Arabia. As approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1982, this 'is the World Prize in Environment', that is considered to be on distinctionary parity with the Nobel Prizes which have no provision for environmental or ecological studies or advances. The winners are chosen by a distinguished international jury.

The selection of the World Commission was based on 'its outstanding report, *Our Common Future*—a valuable analysis of the environmental problems confronting the world community, and which provides clear and positive guidance for their solution, *inter alia* through economic growth based on sustainable development'. The report is also credited with raising public awareness and moving forward the concept of sustainable development.

The selection of the Royal Commission of Jubail and Yanbu of Saudi Arabia was based on its successful bringing together of industry and Government and for 'excellent planning and implementation of environmentally sound

management plans in two cities, Jubail and Yanbu, making them model towns of our time'.

The prizes, of \$25,000 each, were presented in Bangkok, Thailand—as usual during World Environment Day ceremonies on Sunday, 5 June. On the recommendation of the Selection Committee, UNEP's Executive Director, Dr Mostafa K. Tolba, invited the Chairman, Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, of Norway, to accept the award on behalf of the World Commission, and the King of Saudi Arabia to designate a senior official to receive the prize on behalf of the Royal Commission.

The Selection Committee, appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, was chaired by H.E. Pastrano Borrero, former president of Colombia, who, from his nomination in 1970, addressed environmental issues and has continued to be involved in seeking solutions to environmental problems world-wide.

INFORMATION SERVICE  
*United Nations Office at Geneva  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland.*