

TO: ALL NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION COMPANIES

IMPORTANT
NOTICE TO AVOID DEFORMATION

THE RAINFOREST FOUNDATION

This notice is from the Trustees of the Rainforest Foundations AND IS IMPORTANT for notifying you of incorrect statements that appear to be circulating. We wish to reduce the prospect of you repeating these incorrect facts.

- X 1. The Rainforest Foundations are properly constituted and registered charities, under the close supervision of the relevant charity authorities.
2. All proper professional advice was taken for setting up the charities and in instigating administration systems and financial authorisation and control procedures.
- ✓ 3. Messrs Stoy Hayward, who are the auditors for Band Aid, Greenpeace, Comic Relief and many other charities have, at all times, been the auditors to the Rainforest Foundations.
- ✓ 4. Since inception of the world tour with Raoni, Sting and others, an International Treasurer, being a senior chartered accountant, experienced in international financial arrangements, has overseen all financial matters of a day to day nature.
- ✓ 5. Proper cheque and payment authorisations exist so that a number of authorised signatories have to act together to authorise any payment.
6. All monies sent to Brazil have been sent by inter-bank telegraphic transfer from one Foundation account to another. No cash transactions have taken place, except one urgent payment, for which the accountants have receipts from Brazil.
7. All the funds of the Foundations are in banks subject to proper authorisations and controls.
8. The Trustees have been acutely aware of the strict charity law and taxation restrictions affecting them and all such arrangements are continuously monitored.
- X 9. The ex-Chair of Amnesty International, a highly respected international lawyer, is also a Trustee.
10. Three eminent additional Trustees are being nominated by the international affiliates of the Foundation to serve as Trustees.
11. The Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International has been appointed Executive Director of the Foundation.
12. (a) With regard to Raoni, World In Action chose to interview him in a hostel provided by Funai (the Brazilian Government Indian agency) for Indians visiting Brazil e.g. for medical treatment, lobbying purposes.

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- (b) The other Indians at the hostel, when World in Action filmed, were not Raoni's tribe, but a collection of various Indians from different tribes.
- (c) Raoni lives, permanently, in his village (not in the hostel).
- (d) With regard to moving Raoni's village, this has been moved and paid for by the Foundation.
- Raoni became aware of Malaria problems in June 1989. He then requested help from the Foundation. Immediate financial aid was given for medical help.
- (e) In August 1989 a further US\$15,000 was made available to Raoni.
- (f) The move started in July/August 1989, with helicopters being used, with funds provided through the Foundation.
- (g) One of the Trustees visited Raoni in September 1989 to establish if further help was needed.
- (h) Opinion was divided as to whether the move should take place. Medical opinion was finely balanced on whether vaccination was sufficient. The Board of Advisers to the Brazilian charity were not in favour of paying for the move, believing vaccination sufficient.
- (i) Medical advice was that no villagers infected with malaria should go to the new village, as it would spread malaria to the new village.
- (j) 250 of Raoni's villagers now live at the new village. 150 remain behind, pending clearance of infection from malaria. Also some villagers need to stay behind e.g. pregnant women requiring access to medical treatment.
- (k) The rainy season started in early September 1989, instead of the usual late October. This interfered with the move. The rainy season is due to stop in April. The move will then be completed.
- (l) The Foundation has paid for the move costs to date and is paying for the cost of finishing the move.
- (m) It takes months to build the new village and to start crops. It is not an overnight event. The move has been moving ahead according to plan, but the early rainy season interfered with arrangements.
14. (a) It is wrong to state that 10 Indians died as a result of delay in the move.
- (b) Official death records show a total of four deaths in 1989 and only one from malaria.
15. (a) The Foundation has sent about £170,000 to Brazil for medical relief, moving Raoni's village, field research and other matters necessary to progress the Plan of Action in Brazil.

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(b) The rainforest problems are highly complex. All experts agree it is no good throwing money at the problem - the money will be wasted. Considered and detailed research has to be finalised and budgets approved before money is spent. This is being done.

16. (a) £500,000 has not been spent by the Rainforest Foundations on overheads.

(b) Approximately £361,000 has been spent over more than a one year period on (i) organising the world tour (ii) making the public appeal video used throughout the world to ask for funds (iii) setting up the international operation of the Foundation, so as to maximise fund raising potential (in the short and long term), which includes having to satisfy local charity laws and tax laws (iv) the costs of an office in London and the USA (v) the cost of the necessary staff to organise the world tour, fund raising, sponsorship, lobbying, educational programmes, medical plans, obtaining the input of experts on the Plan (vi) travel costs for an international appeal (vii) telephone and fax costs (viii) publicity costs (ix) insurance (x) audit, accountancy, banking and other professional fees needed to comply with charity and tax laws and to collect in and administer the funds, (xi) all the other costs that all charities are faced with - the £361,000 being in respect of all the above and for more than year.

17. (a) The total of the above overhead costs is about 21 per cent of total funds raised.

(b) 21 per cent is substantially below the annual percentage for e.g. WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature), Greenpeace, Royal Society for Nature Conservancy, Help The Aged, Shelter.

(c) (i) The Rainforest Foundation, in its first year raised (net of overheads) in excess of 250 times the amount Survival International raised (net of overheads) in its first three years of operation.

(ii) The Rainforest Foundation, in its first year of operation, raised nine times the amount collected by Survival in 1988.

18. The Rainforest Foundation has collected about £1,720,000 so far.

→ 19. (a) J.P. Dutilleux, a founding Trustee, is no longer a Trustee.

(b) J.P. Dutilleux received not one penny from the Foundation.

(c) J.P. Dutilleux signed only one payment authority, for an inter bank transfer, which was countersigned by two other people.

→ 20. J.P. Dutilleux has been paid a fixed fee for the buy out of his photographs for the Jungle Stories book, in repayment of his costs, over 16 years of travel, accommodation, photographic costs, payments to third parties etc. He has stated he intends that all other royalties from the book should go to the Rainforest Foundation.

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21. Sting has given every penny from the Jungle Stories book and from interviews and articles on the rainforest/Indian problems to the Foundation.
22. Sting has donated and is donating a substantial amount of his own monies to the Foundation.
23. The total value to the Foundation of Sting's donations is in excess of £150,000.
24. The Brazilian charity, Fundacao Mata Virgem, has finalised its short term, medium and long term plan for the problems.
25. By J.P. Dutilleux leaving the Foundation, he has separated out his career as a film maker, photographer and reporter on Indian/Amazon topics.
26. A large number of eminent experts advise the Foundation and an immense amount of hard work has been and is being put into making the Rainforest Foundation a success for the future.
27. Please do not repeat inaccurate and defamatory facts which will seriously damage our help for the rainforest problems, the Indian the environment.


The Trustees
The Rainforest Foundation
2nd April 1990

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