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January 17, 1975

Dr. Jacques Verschuren  
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Dear Jacques;

I have been ill with flu for several weeks which has prevented my replying to your letter of December 6th. Naturally I am distressed by what you described as the difficulties and anti-European sentiment which has developed in Zaire. Let us hope that the Union's General Assembly in Kinshasa can make a change for the better!

I share your concern about a badly managed killing of hippos in the Virunga National Park, and only hope that the decision regarding this matter might be delayed until after the General Assembly next September. Some time ago I accepted an appointment as a foreign consultant to the Institute for the Parks of Zaire and had hoped that the Government would pay my air fare to the Kinshasa meeting but have had no encouragement to believe that this might happen. I wrote a note to Mr. Tanganyika but have not yet heard further from him. He would like some American ecological advisers to help his Government, but I know of none who have a knowledge of French which would be most necessary.

I am glad to hear that you are going to Senegal and Mauritania. I shall gladly keep you in mind and consult with Lee Talbot about other assignments. With best wishes for 1975! and warm personal regards.

As ever,

Your admiring friend

Harold J. Coolidge

HJC/ss