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26 th.Feb.1975

Dear Harold,

Many thanks for your letter Jan.17th. I hope you have well recovered from flu.All my best wishes.

I am so sorry that I am unable, at the present time, to help you directly for the air fare to Kinshasa. Till - let us say 10 monts ago - ? I was in a position to do something in that way, but in the actual circumstances, an intervention from me would not only be useless but having bad effects.As you know, Africans are never prompt to answer letters.They are always pleased to get help from overseas, but when they can "reciprocate",they do nothing! And I think that nobody has done so mu for Africa than YOU! Of course,if the situation is improving,I will do t best,but at the actual moment,it cannot help.

I hope so much that National Park will survive in Zaïre. At the actual moment, I have the impression that it is much better not to speak about this cropping.Let us be careful .They do not appreciate actually interventions from foreigners.

As you suggested it to me, I especially inquired about the possibility to have ALL the GORILLAS protected in Zaïre;unhappily,a I discovered it,the lowland Gorilla from Mayumbe(low-Congo) is most probably no more existing in Zaïre,as the forest is practically all destroyed.Anyway the mountain gorilla (and its different sub-species) is well protected in 3 national Parks (Virunga,Kahuzi and Maïko) and, of course,wise,lives in very remotes areas ,where it is protected by humself.

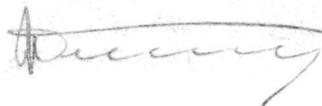
At the moment, I am preparing different publications but I hope very much to do again "field work".

I am always so pleased to keep in contact with you. All my best wishes for you and all our common friends.And also, so many thanks, for all you did - since so long - for Nature Conservation in Africa,and also to help my cooperation.I am so grateful to you.

As ever,

Yours very sincerely,

Jacques VERSCHUREN



Apologize me for my poor english!