

Bianca Jagger

August 26, 2003

Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias
President
Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Ave, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20577
U.S.A.

Dear President Iglesias:

I am writing regarding the Camisea Gas Project to urge you to ensure that public money from the Inter-American Development Bank will not contribute to the devastation of one of the planet's most ecologically prized rainforests which contains invaluable biodiversity, described by scientists as "the last place on earth" to drill for fossil fuels. Furthermore, if this project goes forward as currently planned it will contribute to the demise of isolated indigenous populations in the Lower Urubamba valley. I am aware the project was recently delayed for Board approval, but much more must be done.

I was in Peru as an observer to the last Presidential elections and have been a strong supporter of President Toledo's efforts to advance the process of democratization. However, I must caution against the rapid and dangerous turn that the Camisea project is advancing. The Amazon rainforests are the lungs of the earth and this project will put the progress of Peru and our common future in jeopardy. There must be a better way forward for countries in the developing world and the planet than destroying these sacred places and their indigenous cultures in the name of fossil fuel consumption.

I am concerned that the Camisea Gas Project as currently planned violates many international environmental standards and runs contrary to global commitments to protect biodiversity and indigenous peoples' rights. I urge you to hold the Peruvian Government and the companies involved accountable and trust that you will not allow a project that will produce devastating impacts on indigenous populations and their primary rainforest.

Before allocating any public financing to the Camisea Project, the Inter-American Development Bank needs to ensure that the demands of civil society groups in Peru are met. In particular:

1) That there is no drilling or exploration inside the Nahua Kugapakori Indigenous Reserve, which was established by the Peruvian Government to protect isolated

indigenous populations. The reserve's inhabitants may have already contracted diseases from outsiders to which they have no immunity.

2) That access to the primary rainforests of the Lower Urubamba is restricted. This rainforest up to now has been completely untouched by human activity. The pipelines that are now under construction are likely to serve as roads opening up this area to illegal loggers, settlers, and hunters.

3) That the industrial facility planned in the buffer zone of the Paracas Marine Reserve needs to be relocated to another area as Paracas is Peru's only marine reserve and it is considered as a "Wetland of International Significance" under the Ramsar Convention.

I do hope that you will demonstrate leadership on this issue sending a clear message to Halliburton, Hunt Oil, PlusPetrol and to the world that the Inter-American Development Bank is committed to safeguarding the global environment and human rights and will not be a party to a project that puts at stake the survival of isolated and vulnerable indigenous populations.

Sincerely,

Bianca Jagger