

REALLY RHINOS!

74 Winter, 1993

Happy holidays, rhinophiles! Please visit me and the 'Rhino Museum' when you are in the Tucson area.

THE PRINCESS BRIBE

"A Bhutanese princess was arrested in Taiwan on September 18, 1993, accused of trying to smuggle 22 rhinoceros horns into the island in her luggage, an airport police spokesman said. Princess Dekiy Wangchuck, 43, was taken into custody. It was one of Taiwan's biggest hauls of endangered wildlife parts. If convicted, she could be sentenced to seven years in prison. Police seized the rhino horns, weighing 31 pounds and worth at least Taiwan \$20 million (U.S. \$740,000), as Wangchuck arrived on a flight from Hong Kong, the spokesman said. (Source unknown, sent in by Tony Nichols.)

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UPDATE FROM THE RHINO MAN

(Reprinted from "One Man's Work for an Animal" by Michael Werikhe, The Rhino Club, 11, 8/91)

Last month, Michael Werikhe completed another mission to save the world's rhinos. Visiting Taipei, Werikhe received a warm reception and tangible signs of progress impressed him but his praise for Taiwan's efforts remained measured. "In the last one year or so there seems to have been some progress. I'd like to be fair on that," Werikhe said. "However it has taken quite some time to actually make that move. A lot has been said since 1985 and it's kind of been on paper. There is a tremendous need for the Taiwanese people to actually come up and say they are going to make the sacrifice, they're going to give the rhino a break, and believe me if we are going to save the rhino then Taiwan is going to be highly respected in the world," he said.

Werikhe promoted the doubling message of stiffening the Republic of China's current one-year or NT\$30,000 fine for importation or trade in horn, and using a substitute ingredient for powdered rhino horn in traditional Chinese medicine. He said the need for a replacement is urgent. "There is a tremendous need for a substitute for the rhino horn because what was once an inexhaustible resource is about to become exhausted," he said.

Michael reminded the public that the rhino is not the only victim of this trade. "The horn that comes in here is blood horn, human life has been sacrificed," he said. He equated the business with narcotics smuggling in the ruthlessness of its criminal element. For Werikhe there was little question of what to do with existing stocks of horn, including the more than one ton registered in Taiwan. "Being someone from Africa, who has seen the destruction who has seen the carnage, I'd like to see them destroyed," he said.

Kuang Hsi Hsin Nien!

PLUGGERS By Jeff MacNelly



A pluggin' rhino vote.



A pluggin' rhino's choice for a name, just because my own isn't available.