

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

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Notification

to the Members and Signatory States of the  
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN  
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA  
signed at Washington on 3 March 1973

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RESERVATIONS RELATING TO APPENDICES I AND II  
OF THE CONVENTION ENTERED BY CANADA, AUSTRALIA,  
SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SOVIET UNION

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I

During the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Berne, November 1976) proposals for amendments to Appendices I and II regarding two species of whales (Balaenoptera borealis and Balaenoptera physalus) had been adopted. Afterwards, as an error in the wording of the aforementioned proposals had been detected, the affair was referred to the Special Committee. At the time of its meeting on 21 and 22 February 1977 the Committee considered that the amendments regarding those two species should be accepted in the formulation proposed by the United States of America, that a rectification should be sent to the interested Parties, and that a new period of 90 days should be granted them for entering a special reservation regarding these amendments. The notification, fixing a new period until 2 June 1977 for entering a special reservation regarding solely the species Balaenoptera borealis and Balaenoptera physalus has been sent to the Parties on 4 March 1977 by the Secretariat of the

Convention. Following the resolution of the Special Committee the reservations mentioned hereafter have reached the depositary.

1. By note of 19 April 1977, which was received on 21 April 1977, and of which a copy is attached hereto, the Embassy of Canada at Berne has entered on behalf of its Government a special reservation according to Article XV regarding the species Balaenoptera borealis and Balaenoptera physalus scheduled in Appendices I and II of the Convention.

2. By note addressed to the Federal Political Department, dated the 2 June 1977, and received on the same day, the Embassy of Australia at Berne entered on behalf of its Government a reservation according to Article XV, Paragraph 3, regarding the species Balaenoptera borealis and Balaenoptera physalus scheduled in Appendix I of the Convention. This reservation includes the following declaration:

"In entering this reservation I have been asked to indicate that contrary to the interpretation of the effect of a reservation given in article XV paragraph 3 of the Convention, Australia does not and does not intend to engage in trade in Fin and Sei Whales products. The reservation is intended to preserve Australia's position pending discussions at the next session of the International Whaling Commission which will meet in Canberra later in June."

3. By note to the Federal Political Department, dated 2 June 1977, and received on the same day, the Embassy of South Africa at Berne has entered on behalf of its Government a reservation according to Article XV regarding the species Balaenoptera borealis and Balaenoptera physalus scheduled in Appendices I and II of the Convention. This reservation is motivated as follows:

"The trade in whales takes the form of whale products. Ready identification of products of different stocks of the same whale species is not possible and difficulties are therefore anticipated in the application of the required control measures on international trade."

II

By note of 23 June 1977, received the same day (after expiration of the period of 90 days stipulated in Article XV, Paragraph 3), the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has remitted to the Federal Political Department the duplicate of a letter dated 14 January 1977 containing reservations addressed by the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR to the Head of the Political Department. The original of that letter, which the Ministry had dispatched by mail, has not reached its addressee. According to the unofficial translation of the letter of 14 January 1977, of which a copy is attached hereto, the Soviet Union has entered reservations in conformity with Article XV, Paragraph 3, regarding the species mentioned hereafter scheduled in the amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention and which were adopted by the Conference of the Parties (1976).

- *Lutra lutra* (Appendix I)
- *Canis lupus* (Appendix II)
- *Felis lynx* (Appendix II, being part of the class Felidae spp.)
- *Balaenoptera physalus* (Appendix I)
- *Balaenoptera borealis* (Appendix I)

The present notification is made in conformity with Article XXV, Paragraph 2, of the Convention.

Berne, 18 July 1977

2 enclosures