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grato em conhecer
 13 February 1998
"par - no - magnifico"
abraço cordial
José Pedro
 18-02-98

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INSTITUTO SOCIOAMBIENTAL
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Dear Sir,

~~State of Conservation of Natural Properties inscribed on World Heritage List:~~
 Iguazu National Park (Brazil)

At its twenty first ordinary session held in Naples, Italy, during 1 to 6 December 1997, the World Heritage Committee reviewed the state of conservation of Iguazu National Park (Brazil) and made the following observations and recommendations:

The Committee was informed that the Bureau, at its twenty-first ordinary session in June 1997, had learnt that a local organisation had started a campaign to re-open a road, closed in 1986 to strengthen the protection of the Park; in early May 1997, 800 people had invaded the Park and set up camp to begin unauthorised work to clear that road.

At its twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau, held in Naples during 28-29 November 1997, a representative of IUCN informed the Bureau that the road had been closed, but plans to rehabilitate damaged areas were uncertain and political pressure to re-open the road still prevailed.

The Committee noted that the Brazilian Institute for the Protection of the Environment (IBAMA), via a facsimile message dated 28 November 1997, had provided information on the state of conservation of the site. One of the Delegates representing your country at the Committee session stated that several actions, including socio-economic studies in the buffer zone, environmental awareness programmes and a revision of the master-plan of the Park, had been undertaken.

Please find attached a copy of the letter sent to the Permanent Delegate for Brazil in UNESCO on the subject referred to above.

Brazil - Iguacu National Park

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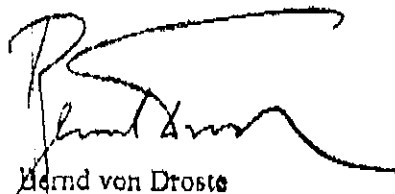
The Committee has requested me to invite your Government to continue its efforts to :

- (i) ensure the permanent closure of the road, and
- (ii) implement future steps to rehabilitate damaged areas.

I shall appreciate it very much if you could provide us a report, before 15 April 1998, on progress achieved with regard to these two items so that the information you may consider providing could be presented to the twenty second session of the Bureau, scheduled to meet at UNESCO in Paris, during 22-27 June 1998. I shall be grateful if you could contribute to the Brazilian Government's efforts to prepare and submit a report on the state of conservation of Iguacu National Park, Brazil to the World Heritage Centre before 15 April 1998.

I thank you for your co-operation in the conservation of the Iguacu National Park of Brazil.

Yours sincerely,



Bernd von Droste
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre