

japanese goods boycotted for whale carnage

A boycott of Japanese products has been called by American conservation groups to force the Japanese government to halt the continuing slaughter of whales by Japan's huge whaling fleets.

The Japanese have ignored a unanimous vote (53-0) of the United Nations Conference on the Environment calling for a ten-year moratorium on whaling. And the Japanese recently refused to abide by conservation rulings of the International Whaling Commission, of which Japan is a member.

"This total disregard for international opinion and the warnings of the IWC's own scientists leaves conservationists with no recourse except taking sanctions against the Japanese," explains Christine Stevens, head of the Animal Welfare Institute, which is coordinating the boycott campaign. "Until the Japanese recognize their responsibility to save the whales from extinction, Americans should stop buying Japanese cars, motorcycles, televisions and cameras."

Supporting the boycott campaign are the National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth, Fund for Animals, Environmental Action, Defenders of Wildlife and Environmental Policy Center.

Student groups throughout the United States have already enlisted in the boycott campaign. Further information about the Save the Whales Campaign can be obtained by writing to the Animal Welfare Institute, P.O. Box 3650, Washington, D.C. 20007.

The United States has declared all the great whales to be endangered species. All whaling has been banned and the importation of whale products has been prohibited.

But the Japanese and Soviet whaling fleets are still decimating the remaining whale population. Of an original

population of more than 4 million whales, only a few hundred thousand exist today. Five species, including the great blue whale, the largest animal in history, have been virtually wiped out. The large remaining herds of fin whales and sperm whales (the species in "Moby Dick") are rapidly dwindling under the onslaught of the whalers.

The Japanese whaling fleet is now in the Antarctic, killing hundreds of whales each day. It is a savage, methodical warfare against the great, gentle creatures. The whale herds are sought out by airplanes and helicopters, then are tracked relentlessly by sonar and radar. The lumbering, defenseless whales are pursued by high-speed chaser boats. They are blown up in agonizing death by grenade-tipped harpoons. Huge factory ships then rapidly process the whales into commercial products such as cosmetics, transmission oil and pet food.

Dr. Harry Lillie, who sailed as a ship's surgeon, describes the barbaric slaughter by the whalers: "The present-day hunting harpoon is a horrible 150 pound weapon carrying an explosive head which bursts generally in the whale's intestines, and the sight of one of these creatures gasping along on the surface, towing a 400 ton catching vessel by a heavy harpoon rope, is pitiful. So often an hour or more of torture is inflicted before the agony ends in death. I have experienced a case of five hours and nine harpoons needed to kill one mother blue whale.

"If we could imagine a horse having two or three explosive spears driven into it, and then made to drag a heavy-butcher's truck while blood poured over the roadway until the animal collapsed an hour or more later, we should have some idea

continued on p. 8

whales...

continued from p. 2

of what a whale goes through.'

The Japanese justify their enormous slaughter of whales (14,477 last year) by claiming they need the meat to feed their people. But whale meat represents less than 1% of their protein diet. "Japan is a wealthy nation that can readily afford alternative food sources," comments Christine Stevens.

The \$100 million Japanese whaling industry is controlled by the great trading and manufacturing conglomerates of Japan. "By hitting their sales in the United States," Mrs. Stevens explains, "the Japanese industrialists will recognize that continuing their whaling operations is detrimental to the Japanese economy."

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger last fall sharply criticized the Japanese

government's unwillingness to halt or even control whaling. In a message to the Japanese, Kissinger stated:

"Such wholesale disregard for the views of all other (IWC) member nations with few exceptions leads to several questions. Why should there be a Commission if its decisions can simply be ignored? And why should twelve of fourteen member nations push for improvements in the International Whaling Commission if the progress made can be destroyed by one or two nations? The United States Government is extremely disappointed with the backward step occasioned by the Japanese objections and is hopeful that the Japanese Government will reconsider."

"The Japanese have refused to listen to U.S. appeals, they have flouted international opinion, and rejected the warnings of scientists that whales face extinction unless the slaughter is ended."