

August 10, 2003

The Union for the Conservation of Raptors

Dear Mr. Parrot

I was a Special Investigator for the Government of Ontario during "Operation Falcon" with the responsibility of co-ordinating Canada's role in this investigation. "Operation Falcon" was a multinational law enforcement operation that charged over 300 falcon smugglers and violators in the United States, Canada, Iceland, Finland, England, Spain, France, Germany and Zimbabwe.

The majority of buyers and end users of these contraband falcons, smuggled during "Operation Falcon" were primarily Saudi Arabian princes. Information uncovered during the investigation indicated that in order to facilitate a segment of the black market trade in falcons, the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar bin Sultan personally assisted falcon smugglers who represented his uncle Prince Badr bin Abdulaziz, a brother of the Saudi King.

The investigation uncovered the following information:

The Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar bin Sultan:

1. received written instructions from the brother of the King to provide assistance to falcon smugglers
2. met smugglers in his Embassy office
3. arranged limousines for smugglers and contraband falcons covertly transported between New York and Washington D.C.
4. received a letter and telephoned "Saudi" Airlines authorizing free first class tickets for smugglers and contraband falcons;
5. assisted smugglers in evading surveillance by U.S. Customs and banking institutions, by providing substantial cash disbursements to smugglers operating on U.S. territory, on occasions when they required more than the \$10,000. limit allowed as non declared cash for visitors.

Several shipments of contraband falcons were monitored being smuggled aboard "Saudi" Airline. Department of the Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service Agents photographed these smuggling activities. These actions violated the Lacey Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and United Nations – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (C.I.T.E.S).

At the conclusion of this investigation I was advised by agents of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service that the United States Department of State had brokered a deal with Saudi Arabian officials. Restitution was made in the form of a monetary payment. A cheque, which I saw a photocopy of, was issued by Saudi Arabian officials payable to the Department of Interior, United States Fish & Wildlife Service in the amount of \$150,000. U.S. Funds.

To my knowledge to date, there is no public record of Saudi Arabian officials being involved in the smuggling of falcons or making restitution for these illegal acts.

Sincerely,



R. J. Jean-Marie
Ontario Conservation Officer Co-ordinator Rtd.

SWORN BEFORE ME AT PORT CARLING,
CANADA THIS 19th DAY OF
AUGUST, 2003

WILLIAM L. GRIMMETT
NOTARY PUBLIC
IN AND FOR THE
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
William L. Grimmert
WILLIAM L. GRIMMETT
APPOINTMENT: LIFETIME