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> Karl- In response to your request, FoE supports the position noted in the
> letter below. -Jon

>
> Washington DC
> June 14, 2002

>
> Alberto Moons
> Vice Presidente Desarrollo de Negocios Internacionales
> Pluspetrol
> Av. Rep de Panama 3055, Piso 7
> San Isidro, Lima 27
> Fax: 511-222-1318.

>
> Dear Mr. Moons,

>
> We are writing regarding a recent request from Betsy Rodriguez at
> Pluspetrol for a meeting between the Amazon Alliance and Pluspetrol and
> ERM

> staff in Washington, DC. We agreed on a tentative meeting date of July 19,
> but have decided to decline the request until we can obtain further
> information.

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> The Amazon Alliance for Indigenous and Traditional Peoples of the Amazon
> Basin is an initiative born out of the partnership between indigenous and
> traditional peoples of the Amazon and groups and individuals who share
> their concerns for the future of the Amazon and its peoples. There are
> over
> eighty
> non-governmental organizations from the North and South active in the
> Alliance. The Amazon Alliance works to defend the rights, territories, and
> environment of indigenous and traditional peoples of the Amazon Basin.

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> Prior to meeting, we would like to confirm that Pluspetrol has met with
> AIDSESEP, COMARU, Racimos de Ungurahui, CEDIA, and Shinai Serjali to share
> its evaluation of the independent report prepared by Patricia Caffrey and
> to fully respond to their concerns. Before engaging in dialogue, we also
> request that Pluspetrol suspend all activities in the Kugakapori-Nahua
> Reserve until the end of the due diligence and consultation processes
> pertinent to the IDB, EXIM, and CAF loans, and until stakeholders have
> resolved the major difficulties relating to operating inside the Reserve.

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> We appreciate your inquiry and would welcome any written materials that
> Pluspetrol has prepared in response to Caffrey's independent report.

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> Sincerely,

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>
> David Rothschild and Johnson Cerda (Quichua)
> Co-Directors
> Amazon Alliance

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> CC:
> Ralph Braccio, Environmental Resources Management, Fax 202-466-9191
> Betsy Rodriguez, PlusPetrol, brodriguez@pluspetrol.com.ar
> Sandra Martinez, PlusPetrol, smartinez@pluspetrol.com.ar

> ----- Original Message -----
> From: <Karl.Kendall@exim.gov>
> To: "Jon Sohn" <j.sohn@attbi.com>
> Cc: <james.mahoney@exim.gov>; <j.sohn@attbi.com>;
> <Popi.Artavanis@exim.gov>;
> <vasilios.Giannopoulos@exim.gov>
> Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2002 9:29 AM
> Subject: Re: Camisea Inquiry

>



"Atossa Soltani"
<asoltani@igc.org>

06/20/2002 05:45
PM

Please respond to
"Atossa Soltani"

To: <Karl.Kendall@exim.gov>

cc: <atossa@amazonwatch.org>, <James.Mahoney@exim.gov>,
<j.sohn@attbi.com>, <iris.gold@citicorp.com>

Subject: Camisea

Please be advised that there is a great deal of misinformation in the documents Pluspetrol has been presenting at their meetings this week in Washington. In particular in their documents they deny meeting with Nahua and Nanti isolated communities. Groups in Peru have audio recordings of such a meeting on April 12 and a transcript is available on the web site <http://www.serjali.org> We will be providing a response to this misinformation in the near future.

As you may be aware, the Washington Post reporter attempted to contact Pluspetrol representatives on this issue. Below is a press release Amazon Watch is circulating:

For Immediate Release: June 20, 2002

Contact: Atossa Soltani, Amazon Watch, 310 456 9158

EXIM Bank Urged to Deny Government Loan to Egregious Energy Project in the Amazon

Peru's Uncontacted Indigenous Peoples Threatened by Massive Camisea Gas Project

Maps, Photos, Video Footage, Related Reports Available Upon Request

Washington, DC - The Argentinean energy giant, Pluspetrol and its partners arrived in Washington this week to meet with ExIm Bank of the United States to drum up financing for its Camisea gas project and pipelines in Peru. Their visit was marked by a wave of denunciations from environmental groups who declared the project "the most egregious energy project in the Amazon today." Critics are urging ExIm Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to reject the company's request for financing on the grounds that the project will lead to the destruction of pristine tropical rainforests and endanger uncontacted and isolated indigenous populations.

In attempt to neutralize its critics, Pluspetrol sought meetings to present its "green face" in California and Washington with environmental and human rights groups. However, not one California NGO met with Pluspetrol and nearly all of the DC groups roundly rejected meetings given the consortium's current practices and dirty dealings in Peru.

Located deep in the Lower Urubamba region of the Peruvian Amazon, the project area is home to several groups of uncontacted and isolated indigenous peoples. The \$2.7 billion project would affect indigenous reserves and protected areas of global ecological significance described in 1998 by the IUCN as "the last place on earth" to drill for fossil fuels. Groups are particularly opposed to the project given that 75 percent of the gas field is located inside the Nahua-Kugapakori Reserve, ironically established to protect isolated and uncontacted indigenous populations.

The financially troubled Pluspetrol in partnership with Houston-based Hunt Oil and a ragtag consortium of small and inexperienced energy players is forging ahead with its operations without any safeguards or independent or

government oversight. Citigroup is the financial advisor. Having suffered heavy losses in the Argentine economic crisis, Pluspetrol will have great difficulties securing private financing and first needs government backed loans.

"This project violates every environmental and social standard and should be rejected. Our tax dollars should not be subsidizing large scale forest destruction and ethnocide," said Atossa Soltani, director of Amazon Watch.

Amazon Watch, National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth, Rainforest Action Network, Pacific Environment and the Amazon Alliance all demanded the suspension of the Camisea project from the Nahua-Kugapakori Reserve. NGOs point to Pluspetrol's violations of internationally recognized indigenous rights by forcibly contacting groups living in voluntary isolation. Knowing the risks of introducing fatal diseases, Pluspetrol sends search parties into the remote forest to track down uncontacted peoples. In the 1980's, 50 percent of one indigenous group- the Nahua - died from illnesses introduced by workers when Shell Oil was exploring for oil and gas in the area.

Pluspetrol's questionable dealings with isolated communities was documented in an audio recording of an unannounced encounter with the isolated Nahua community in April. The Peruvian advocacy NGO Shinai Serjali publicly released their audio recording of this meeting available on www.serjali.org.

Critics doubt Pluspetrol's ability to manage the huge environmental and social risks surrounding the Camisea project and point to the company's appalling track record in oil production blocks known as 1-AB and 8-X in the Northeastern Peruvian Amazon. A history of major oil spills, toxic contamination and community health problems surrounds Pluspetrol's Peruvian operations. Background information is available on www.amazonwatch.org.

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