

November 4, 2003

Prime Minister of Japan
Mr. Junichiro Koizumi,
1-6-1 Nagata-cho 1 Chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. 100-8968 JAPAN

Mr. Koizumi,

I am outraged by the recent slaughter of striped dolphins and Melon-head whales that has taken place in Taiji, Japan. The images of bloody red water clearly show the world that Japan has little respect for the state of the world's oceans.

Many scientific studies show that the oceans are in decline. We must take whatever actions are necessary to stop their over-exploitation and to protect the creatures that live in them. Hunting dolphins is forbidden by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, of which Japan is a member. These dolphins do not belong to Japan, and it is an unthinkable waste that they will likely wind up as a canned meat product, or deceptively sold as whale meat.

In addition, the methods used to kill these animals are cruel. Driving the dolphins into a cove, confusing them with sonar, and then spearing them, leaving them to slowly die is an inhumane method of fishing. This action is disgraceful and has caused much disappointment in the international community.

We demand that Japan permanently and immediately renounce this hunting practice. We also demand an apology for the hostile treatment toward the photographers who documented this slaughter. We will not travel to Japan, nor will we purchase any Japanese-made products until this fishing practice is completely abandoned.

Sincerely,