Early this year I announced the launching of HSI as the organization through which The HSUS would more formally advance its animal-protection work on a worldwide basis (see the Winter 1992 HSUS News). Since then you have had the opportunity to read about a number of the major activities and programs we are addressing through HSI on behalf of you, the members of The HSUS.

I have had the opportunity to give more time to this effort since becoming the president of HSUS in January, and I am more convinced than ever that the decision to expand and enlarge our international program and activities was both daring and appropriate. The challenges represented by this effort are enormous, and animal abuse and suffering beyond U.S. borders is a dimension few can imagine.

When one envisions an international program such as that which we have undertaken, it is inevitable that the suffering of wildlife on land and of the great mammals and other creatures in the oceans becomes an immediate focus. Indeed, The HSUS has, for the past several years, been addressing a myriad of issues involving elephants, whales, seals, and exotic birds, to name only a few. But the work of HSI will expand to include cats and dogs, animals slaughtered for food, and horses, donkeys, and other animals used for work and recreation.

We have described the horrible conditions under which literally millions of animals exist in Mexico, a major focal point of our efforts (see the Summer 1992 HSUS News). We have undertaken several initiatives to address the inhumane manner in which animals are being slaughtered for food in Mexican abattoirs. We are also assisting the Lake Champala Humane Society in underlying the services of a veterinarian to spay or neuter cats and dogs in the Ajijic and Guadalajara area. In Cuernavaca, capital of the state of Morelos, we are, in cooperation with the local government, seeking to launch a program to cope with the thousands of unwanted and homeless dogs who roam the streets of that city, animals who experience great pain and suffering as a consequence of human indifference and neglect.

Education, especially of children, will be another of our goals. José Orihuela, Ph.D., director of our HSUS Mexican office, has begun to lay the groundwork for introducing humane education into the country's schools.

In Costa Rica we are assisting in the formation of the Animal Protection Society of Costa Rica, supporting this new organization's efforts to provide sheltering, adoption, and medical services for the cats and dogs of San José and the surrounding area. Having just returned from that country and witnessed the crying need for such services, I am pleased that HSI is helping to launch this new organization. I am confident it will in time be able to assist other smaller groups in Costa Rica.

Elsewhere you will read of our work in Europe, coordinated by Betsy Dribben, director of HSUS's European office, in Bonn, Germany (see page 19). The efforts of HSI in helping to prevent the importation of tuna caught on dolphin into several European countries, especially Spain and Italy, have already been acknowledged as extremely valuable. We are continuing to work vigorously with the European Parliament to help effect a ban on the import of such tuna throughout the entire European Community.

HSUS continues to assist several animal-protection efforts throughout the world in cooperation with the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), of which both The HSUS and HSI are members. We are, in partnership with WSPA, underwriting a countryside humane-education program in Costa Rica begun by WSPA several years ago with the assistance of our National Association for Humane Education and its executive director, Patty Finch (see the Summer 1991 HSUS News). We are also working in partnership with WSPA to build and staff a wildlife-rehabilitation center in Bogotá, Colombia (see the Winter 1992 HSUS News).

HSUS/HSI, with several other organizations, continues on next page
nizations, is helping to start whaling right away.

At last year's IWC meeting, some members advocated use of a computer model to establish commercial whaling quotas, claiming that such a model would formulate catch quotas that would not jeopardize the whaling species. Other members of the IWC management body were not convinced that the argument was valid, and many whaling opponents have used for years commercial whaling should control to quotas that do not threaten the survival of species, and such quotas cannot be set without reliable information on the size of whale populations.

In the computer model the whaling quota would be made to support the Morris report and seek a complete European embargo against imported dolphin-deadly tuna (see the Summer 1992 HSUS News). Although the European Parliament had approved the Morris report in November, at the time the IWC had refused to support it because the dolphins were not being hunted in European waters. (The Morris report was published by the European Community to ban the import into Europe of dolphin-deadly tuna and urges that European vessels and nations be prohibited from intentionally harpooning dolphins.)

Mr. Marin's about-face was not, however, enough to pull the rest of the European Community with him. By the end of July, the commission had failed to follow the parliament's lead and support a complete ban on dolphin-deadly tuna—the key action needed to remove the economic incentive for purse-seine fishing on dolphins. Neither had the commission acted to remove the possibility of importing EU-bound dolphin-safe policies, the canners signed a contract over the summer with the French and Spanish fishermen have been urging the European Community to buy dolphin-safe tuna because, reportedly, Mexican warehouses may be crammed with 140,000 metric tons of yellowfin tuna—enough to fill nearly a billion tuna cans—from fish caught by purse-seine operations on dolphins. French and Spanish fishermen are increasingly worried that this tuna will be exported to their countries and other countries in Europe, where it would flood the market. But, so far, this economic threat to European fishermen has not moved the European Commission to act.

The European Commission's stubborn stance may have its basis in the highly charged current climate surrounding the issue of trade barriers. In August 1991, at a panel in the Environmental Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) ruled against the United States on a complaint filed by the European Community seeking a complete ban on French and Spanish ships from setting nets on marine mammals such as dolphins and beluga whales.

Following the U.S. elections in November, HSUS/HSI members should write to whatever administration is in place and demand support for the French Antarctic sanctuaries.

Starting now, letters should flood the Embassy of Norway (2720 13th St., NW, Washington, DC 20008), expressing outrage over King's decision not to buy fish from both Iceland and Norway. (Letters of thanks should go to Barry J. Gibbons, Chief Executive Officer, Burger King Corporation, PO Box 520783, Miami, FL 33152.)