much as many such animals come from the developing nations where conservation ranks low on the list of national priorities. National development means developing natural resources, especially arable land to feed rapidly increasing populations. Wild animals are both a resource to be exploited and a hinderance to agricultural development. They may eat, or otherwise damage crops, and game wardens are kept busy destroying animals they receive complaints about. Even where model game laws exist, enforcement is neglected. Need one cite practices in our own country with regard to golden eagles, coyotes, wolves, mountain lions, crows, and such "vermin"?

Since conservationists are frustrated at the source, some advocate blocking importation of endangered animals into those developed countries which serve as the market. This negative approach —stopping destruction by stopping demand—fails on two counts. One, destruction of natural habitats and local demands remain unaffected. Two, desirable importation is hindered.

I suggest that the proper positive approach is to (i) encourage establishment of game sanctuaries and preserves; (ii) encourage establishment of enforceable game laws; (iii) encourage establishment of transplanted captive or free-ranging breeding colonies into areas which can be protected; and (iv) encourage substitutions or local breeding for endangered animals used in experiments, biological supply procedures, or displays which tend to "use up" animals.

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Phosphine

This is to call attention to the fact that new stocks of reagent-grade phenol crystals contain a preservative which liberates phosphine (PH_3) upon distillation. Bottles are not conspicuously labeled and should be carefully examined by those who customarily distill phenol. Most companies market USP phenol crystals that do not contain preservative. I hope the accident which nearly occurred in this laboratory may be avoided in others.

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