

NJG/JAC/29172

11 March 2002

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.227

Correspondence between Japan and the Chair of IWC

Bo Fernholm, Chair of the IWC, has asked that the following be circulated on his behalf:

'Please find attached copies of two letters (one dated 6 November 2001, the other dated 4 March 2002) that I have received from Mr Morimoto, IWC Commissioner for Japan. Mr Morimoto has requested that these be circulated to all member countries. In his second letter, Mr Morimoto refers to my letter of 22 February, and this is also attached. A brief background to this exchange of correspondence follows.

After receiving Mr Morimoto's first letter of 6 November 2001, I was in contact with him on a number of occasions to urge him to reconsider Japan's position and to pay its financial contribution for 2001-2002 by the due date. I indicated that I have been working with Iceland and others to seek a solution to the problem of its membership but that this could only fall into place at the next Annual Meeting in Shimonoseki. Following a meeting I had with Mr Ito and Mr Morishita in Stockholm on 21 February, the Secretariat received Japan's financial contribution on 28 February. With respect to the understandings given in Mr Morimoto's letter of 4 March on which payment of its contribution is based, I feel I should point out that I will do my best to achieve a solution to Iceland's membership that is satisfactory to all, but cannot at this stage, predict the outcome.

I look forward to seeing you all soon in Shimonoseki.

*Yours sincerely,
Bo Fernholm
Chair, International Whaling Commission'*

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

c.c. Non-member Government Observers (for information)

