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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
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Summary Report from the Symposium on the State of Conservation of Whales in the 21st Century

Sir Geoffrey Palmer, the New Zealand Commissioner to IWC, and Chair of the above symposium has submitted his summary report of that meeting to the Secretariat with the request that it be circulated to all Commissioners. The symposium was organised by the Varda Group on behalf of the Pew Charitable Trusts and held in New York from 12-13 April 2007. It was not held under the auspices of IWC.

In his letter to the Secretariat, the Commissioner notes that *the Chair of the 'Conference for the Normalization of the International Whaling Commission', hosted by the Government of Japan and held in Tokyo from 13-15 February 2007, will be invited to report to the Commission on the outcome of that meeting under agenda item 7 'The IWC in the Future' of the Commission's agenda'*. He further notes that as the outcome of the New York symposium is also relevant to the future of IWC, he would welcome an opportunity to present the symposium report under item 7 at the forthcoming 59th Annual Meeting.

The Chair's Summary Report of the symposium (Document IWC/59/11) and a copy of Sir Geoffrey's letter are attached. The summary report is also available from the website at the following link: <http://www.iwcoffice.org/documents/commission/IWC59docs/iwc59docs.htm>.

We kindly ask you to **BRING COPIES OF PRE-CIRCULATED DOCUMENTS WITH YOU TO THE MEETING** as we do not intend to provide extra copies of these documents in Anchorage on a routine basis.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission