

critical evidence on the whaling issue. Antiwhaling interests are not.

But what if, for the sake of Noel Coward, both sides agreed to compromise based

battles ahead.

TIME FOR INTROSPECTION AT WWF-JAPAN — Seems like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is taking a beat-

The preponderance of available scientific evidence supports the position that carefully limited whale hunting would not endanger the survival of minke whales. Whales, however, are far more difficult to count than sheep and some scientific uncertainty is inevitable.

on the five principles laid out above? The result would be a unique global precedent. Hereafter, citizens worldwide could demand that decision-makers apply the five-principle approach to other questions of environment policy.

In Japan and abroad, conservationists would clearly welcome such an end to "business as usual." Proponents of business as usual would be sent scrambling for cover.

Were such a "principled" approach to decision-making adopted, here are some changes which Japanese citizens might demand:

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** — The Diet would be forced finally to adopt a national EIA law. An EIA requirement contained in the new comprehensive environment law, now being considered by the Diet, was removed from the draft legislation by industry and ministry interests. Transparency and public participation in any EIA process would also be required.

- **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)** — What you don't know can hurt you. Japan would have to allow citizens to peer behind the veil of secrecy that now shrouds government activities. Given access to information and process, people could demand "principled" decision-making.

- **Community "Right-to-Know" laws** — Not only would government activities have to be transparent, but the business sector would also need to "come clean" with communities. Industries would be re-

ing from every corner. In April two books criticizing the activities of conservation groups hit the bookstores and both criticize WWF's programs and approaches. Newsweek magazine (April 12) also carried a five-page indictment of bungled efforts to save the panda based on one of the books, "The Last Panda," by biologist George Schaller (University of Chicago Press).

The second book, "At the Hand of Man," by Raymond Bonner (Alfred A. Knopf), criticizes all the major environmental groups. Bonner claims that these groups' activities are often based on fundraising concerns rather than on practical action.

Growing criticism at the international level will mean heightened scrutiny for WWF-Japan as well. Effective programs to protect endangered species will be called for and WWF-Japan will be expected to ensure the viability and autonomy of TRAFFIC Japan.

As part of the International TRAFFIC network funded by WWF, TRAFFIC Japan has been this nation's most effective illegal trade watchdog to date. Recently, however, personnel changes have raised questions as to its continued effectiveness.

TRAFFIC Japan has played an essential role in reducing trade in endangered species. Ongoing publicity of TRAFFIC's continuing pressure on government and business will be a clear signal that WWF-Japan is sincerely pursuing an end to Japan's illegal trade.