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Dear Mr Shukla,

The Secretariat's Senior Enforcement Officer, Mr Sellar, has advised me that the Wildlife Law Enforcement Training for Tiger Range States, held at your Academy between 13 and 24 May 2002 was extremely successful. I am sorry that other engagements prevented me from visiting the course.

The course was the first time that CITES has provided such intensive and in-depth training to law enforcement personnel and it was pleasing that twenty-eight students from twelve different countries were able to participate. I understand that it was the first occasion that the Academy had trained so many foreign students during one event. The evaluation forms completed by the students show that they regarded the training provided by faculty staff and external lecturers to have been of very high quality. Additionally, the forms show that the students were very impressed by the facilities of the Academy.

The Secretariat believes that this joint cooperation with the National Police Academy of India has enabled officers from countries where tigers can still be found in the wild to be better equipped to protect these magnificent animals, and other CITES-listed species, and to combat the illegal trade in wildlife that poses such a significant threat to animals and plants of conservation concern. The fact that the course contained a train-the-trainer element will also ensure that the knowledge students gained will be passed to their colleagues at home. We have already heard from China that it is in the process of translating the material provided to students, so that it can be disseminated to Police and Customs officers across that large nation and used during national training events.

As you may know, a large part of the funding that enabled the course to take place was raised through the sale of a painting of a tiger by the well-known Canadian wildlife artist, Robert Bateman. It was sales of the painting, and limited edition prints, that produced USD 42,000 (almost half of the funds needed). As a token of the Secretariat's sincere appreciation for the work by the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy to make the training such a success, I have great pleasure in sending you a copy of Robert Bateman's painting. I trust the Academy will find a suitable place to display it as a memento of our cooperation and achievement.

It is perhaps fitting that the tiger portrayed is not one of India's Royal Bengal Tigers but is, in keeping with the international flavour of the course, a Siberian Tiger.

Once again, many thanks for your support and assistance and the Secretariat looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Academy in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Willem Wijnstekers  
Secretary-General