

# Protection of Contraband Pygmy and Common Chimpanzees in the Republic of Zaire

The Lomako Forest Pygmy Chimpanzee Project has been active for several years in the field study of wild pygmy chimpanzees in undisturbed rain forest of central Zaire. Recently members of the project have become involved in calling attention to the illegal trafficking in both pygmy and common chimpanzees. This trafficking begins in central Zaire and is routed through Kinshasa and Kisangani to other countries. For some time now we have been aware of efforts by individuals in Zaire to stop the flow of contraband animals. In 1983, one of us met with customs officials to discuss confiscation of contraband pygmy chimpanzees. Customs officials expressed a desire to halt the flow of animals but were frustrated that there was no place to house confiscated apes nor a program to care for them in Zaire.



Fig. 3. René Henrion, Director of P.P.M., with Frances White and two juvenile pygmy chimps, "Romeo" and "Juliette" (photo by C. Ihnatowicz).

