May 25, 2007

Trudie trip. Flying back. Fly down with her and Theresa. Visit Cofan and Siona communities (get transcript). San Carlos (met with Rosa); La Primavera (Carmen Perez, who was in SF shareholder meeting two years ago and who is a strong leader of the community). Trudie is a kind, passionate woman... proud to be the wife of a famous singer and not shy about using that status to help. Came with Helen, the kind Rainforest Fdt person. Trudie's presence was generally uplifting, but as with most celebrities, somewhat complicated. Mention issue of Guay museum gift shop, flirting with Acosta at dinner with his wife across the table. Trudie's method of dealing with me is generally very seductive. She has a need to know that each man around her is attracted to her, and she is good at turning it on so each man is. She makes constant jokes with sexual overtones (when toasting look in the eyes or you might not have sex for seven years). Such a cultural disconnect – buying the trinkets in Dureno, making people stay outside of the meeting, too many people, trying to buy stuff in the Guay museum etc. None of these people had heard of Sting and could have given a damn. (Get transcripts of historic renditions.)

Two very disturbing meetings with Judge in Lago on May 21. First with Trudie and Luis Yanez full of his charm and bullshit, starts blaming Texaco for filing too many papers. And then that night, I saw another side of Pablo. He called to ask if I would call the judge so we could go see him at his house. PF had been in Dureno all day at the meeting, and had five motions to respond to, and had to get up at 6 a.m. the next day to go to the Siona meeting. He was exhausted, frustrated, demoralized. I called the judge and he asked that we bring over some whiskey or some wine. We didn't. When we got there, he was clearly drunk and had a young woman. He sat down and immediately looked at me and said Texaco knows what I am doing and not doing every second of the day, that Texaco intelligence agents have been following him, and that they knew we had met that day in the garage downstairs with Pablo and Julio. Richard the perito was in Lago that very day to take possession, and the judge delayed it when Texaco put in more papers, all repeating previous objections, that very day. He was setting it up to explain why it is justified that this be delayed further. PF was visibly distressed in the plastic charirs, leaning forward, almost pleading with him while fighting back his temper, explaining how much money these delays are costing us. The judge accused him of lying about the costs. I think the entire being of this judge is devoted to surviving this year and getting out of this case without making any major decisions. I think he fears Texaco more than he fears us, and the fact we have set up Richard in the perfect way probably scares the hell out of him because he knows what Texaco is planning. I walked out of that meeting and my overriding feeling was that we cannot win the case, that the Operation Maria settlement talks are the only realistic way out for us.

UNICEF, toasts at dinner, Perkins speech, Acosta idea, increasingly difficult to manage from afar