

No. 763,114

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN District of NEW YORK

CRIMINAL Division

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

JACQUES KLAPISCH, et al.

Defendants.

INDICTMENT

(T.18, USC, §§371, 1001, 2314, .2
and T.17, USC, §§1538, 1540)

a true bill,

Foreman.

Filed in open court this _____ *day*
of _____, *A. D. 19* _____

Clerk.

Bail, \$ _____

DOUGLAS J. KRAMER AUSA⁹⁰²⁻⁴⁸²
(212) 330-7028

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

----- X
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-against-

JACQUES KLAPISCH
MEG IMPORT CORPORATION,
JOHN KELLY,
WILLIAM GREENBLAT,
GUNZE NEW YORK, INC.,
KIYOSHI EGAWA and
EGAWA INTERNATIONAL COMPANY. LTD,

Defendants.

I N D I C T M E N T

Cr.No. _____
(T.18, U.S.C. §§371,1001
2314, 2 and T.16, U.S.C.
§§1538, 1540)

----- X
THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

INTRODUCTION

1. At all times material to this indictment the defendant MEG IMPORT CORPORATION was a New Jersey Corporation involved in the buying, selling, brokering, importing and exporting of the skins of wild animals.

2. At all times material to this indictment the defendant JACQUES KLAPISCH was the principal employee of MEG IMPORT CORPORATION and the person through whom all its commercial transactions were negotiated.

3. At all times material to this indictment the defendants GUNZE NEW YORK, INC. (a subsidiary of Gunze Sangyo Co. Ltd. of Japan) and EGAWA INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, LTD. (a subsidiary of Union Sales Company of Japan) were New York Corporations involved in the export-import trade.

④ 4. At all times material to this indictment the American alligator was an endangered species of wildlife listed pursuant to Title 16, United States Code, §1533.

1. Each and every allegation of the Introduction of this indictment is hereby repeated, realleged and incorporated by reference in Count One of this indictment as though fully set forth herein.

2. Commencing on or about the first day of June, 1974 and continuing up to and including November 8, 1976, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH, MEG IMPORT CORPORATION, JOHN KELLY, and WILLIAM GREENBLAT, together with David Klapisch, the brother of defendant JACQUES KLAPISCH, Gunze New York, Inc., Gunze Sangyo Co. Ltd., Kiyoshi Egawa, Egawa International Co. Ltd., and Union Sales Company, all named in this Count as unindicted co-conspirators, and with other persons known and unknown to the grand jury, did combine, conspire, and agree together to commit offenses against the United States, to wit:

① to wilfully take within the United States, ship in interstate and foreign commerce in the course of a commercial activity, export from the United States, and possess, transport and sell, the skins of American alligators taken in violation of Title 16, United States Code, Section 1538(a)(1)(B), in violation of Title 16, United States Code, Sections 1538(a) and 1540(b);

② to transport in interstate and foreign commerce goods of a value in excess of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, knowing the same to have been stolen and converted in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2314; and to knowingly and wilfully make false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Departments of Commerce and Treasury by knowingly and

Declarations containing false and fⁱctitious statements, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

3. It was part of this conspiracy that the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH, MEG IMPORT CORPORATION, JOHN KELLY, and WILLIAM GREENBLAT would arrange for the purchase of the skins of American alligators from trappers and other persons in the Southeastern United States.

4. It was a further part of said conspiracy that the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH, MEG IMPORT CORPORATION, JOHN KELLY and WILLIAM GREENBLAT, would arrange for the transportation of the American alligator skins to the Eastern District of New York where they would be packaged and prepared for shipment overseas.

5. It was further part of said conspiracy that the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH and MEG IMPORT CORPORATION would use a variety of false and fictitious names and addresses and would prepare false and fictitious shipping documents to export the American alligator skins overseas.

In furtherance of said unlawful conspiracy and for the purpose of affecting the objectives thereof, the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH, MEG IMPORT CORPORATION, JOHN KELLY and WILLIAM GREENBLAT committed the following:

OVERT ACTS

1. On or about August 10, 1974 in the Eastern District of New York, the defendant JACQUES KLAPISCH gave approximately two thousand (\$2,000) dollars to the defendant JOHN KELLY as an advance for his purchase of American alligator skins in Louisiana.

2. On or about November , 1975 Yoshitoshi Inoue of the Reptile Trading Company, Ltd., Tokyo, Japan sent a letter to Gunze New York, Inc. in New York City stating that Reptile Trading Co., Ltd. and Gunze Sangyo Co. Ltd. of Japan had entered into an exclusive trading agreement concerning North American alligator belly skins obtained from the defendant MEG IMPORT CORPORATION.

3. In or around May, 1976 Kiyoshi Egawa telephoned the defendant JACQUES KLAPISCH to arrange for payment to KLAPISCH by Egawa International Company, Ltd. for a shipment of American alligator skins to the Union Sales Co. in Tokyo, Japan.

4. On or about October 27, 1976, within the Eastern District of New York, the defendant JACQUES KLAPISCH met with the defendant JOHN KELLY and David Klapisch, to discuss the shipment of American alligator skins to Japan.

5. Counts Two through Twenty Six inclusive are alleged herein as additional overt acts. (Title 18, United States Code, Section 371).

COUNTS TWO THROUGH THIRTEEN

1. Each and every allegation of the Introduction of this indictment is hereby repeated, realleged and incorporated, as though fully set forth herein.

2. On or about the dates set forth below in Counts Two through Thirteen inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York, the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH and MEG IMPORT CORPORATION did aid and abet the transportation in interstate and foreign commerce of goods of a value in excess of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, knowing the same to have been stolen and converted in that on said dates the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH and MEG IMPORT CORPORATION did aid and abet

the transportation from Brooklyn, New York to New Jersey, Japan, and France of the skins of American alligators having a value in excess of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, knowing said skins to have been stolen and converted from the state of Louisiana.

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
TWO	August 23, 1974
THREE	May 19, 1975
FOUR	June 4, 1975
FIVE	June 21, 1975
SIX	July 22, 1975
SEVEN	February 11, 1976
EIGHT	March 29, 1976
NINE	May 25, 1976
TEN	July 7, 1976
ELEVEN	July 22, 1976
TWELVE	August 15, 1976
THIRTEEN	November 1, 1976

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2314 and 2).

COUNT FOURTEEN

1. Each and every allegation of the Introduction of this indictment is hereby repeated, realleged and incorporated, as though fully set forth herein.

2. On or about the 3rd day of March, 1975, within the Eastern District of New York the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH and MEG IMPORT CORPORATION knowingly and wilfully did aid and abet the making of a false, fictitious and fraudulent statement and representation in a matter within the jurisdiction

of the Departments of Commerce and the Treasury in that on or about said date the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH and MEG IMPORT CORPORATION knowingly and wilfully caused a Shippers Export Declaration (Form No. 7525-V-ALT) to be filed with the United States Customs Service in the Eastern District of New York containing false and fictitious information, to wit: that the consignor for whom said declaration was filed was the Velasco Trading Company, that the contents of the shipment were leather, a Schedule B Commodity No. 611.9640, and that the value of the shipment was \$2,264.00 whereas, as the defendants well knew, the consignor for whom said declaration was filed was the defendant MEG IMPORT COMPANY, the contents of the shipment were the raw skins of American alligators, and the value of said shipment was in excess of \$10,000. (Title 18 United States Code, Sections 1001,2)

COUNTS FIFTEEN THROUGH TWENTY SIX

1. Each and every allegation of the Introduction of this indictment is hereby repeated, realleged and incorporated, as though fully set forth herein.

2. On or about the dates set forth below in Counts Fifteen through Twenty Six inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York, the defendants JACQUES KLAPISCH and MEG IMPORT CORPORATION, together with the defendants set forth below, did wilfully possess, sell, and transport the skins of American alligators taken in violation of Title 16, United States Code, Section 1538(a)(1)(B).

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DEFENDANTS</u>
FIFTEEN	August 23, 1974	GUNZE NEW YORK, INC
SIXTEEN	March 1, 1975	GUNZE NEW YORK, INC.
SEVENTEEN	May 19, 1975	GUNZE NEW YORK, INC.
EIGHTEEN	June 4, 1975	GUNZE NEW YORK, INC.

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DEFENDANTS</u>
NINETEEN	June 21, 1975	GUNZE NEW YORK, INC..
TWENTY	July 22, 1975	GUNZE NEW YORK, INC.
TWENTY ONE	February 11, 1976	GUNZE NEW YORK, INC.
TWENTY TWO	May 25, 1976	EGAWA INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, LTD. AND KIYOSHI EGAWA
TWENTY THREE	July 7, 1976	EGAWA INTERNATIONAL COMPANY
TWENTY FOUR	July 22, 1976	EGAWA INTERNATIONAL COMPANY
TWENTY FIVE	August 15, 1976	EGAWA INTERNATIONAL COMPANY
TWENTY SIX	November 1, 1976	EGAWA INTERNATIONAL COMPANY

(Title 16, United States Code, Sections 1538(a), 1540(b) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2).

A TRUE BILL.

FOREMAN.

DAVID G. TRAGER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
