

National Zoo
Washington — USA

Important Gifts

On May 22 the National Zoo was the recipient of a Komodo dragon through the generosity of President and Madame Soeharto of Indonesia. The dragon measured $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and weighed 238 pounds on arrival. It is hoped that he will become a mate for the Zoo's female dragon, Rini, who has been without a companion since June 1964. She has, on two occasions, laid eggs — an indication that she is sexually mature. On June 4 the Zoo again was extremely fortunate to receive another outstanding gift — a pair of tuataras. The tuataras were presented to the Zoo by His Excellency Frank Corner, Ambassador of New Zealand. A specially designed, air-conditioned cage was provided for the new inhabitants of the Reptile House. The humidity and temperature are controlled at levels suitable for these rare reptiles. Burrows have been constructed inside the cage, one of which can be peeped into by visitors.

(Sybil E. Hamlet)

2. Second White Rhino born

At the end of April 1970, another White Rhino was born at the Pretoria Zoo, South Africa. Shortly after birth the male baby was a little weak on his legs, but shortly thereafter he tripped over stones and tufts of grass while following his mother round the zoo's Rhino camp.

This is the second White, or Square-lipped Rhino to be born in captivity; the first was born at Pretoria Zoo last year.

Stuttgart Zoo:

2. Pregnant Indian Rhino

Although the Wilhelma Zoo in Stuttgart, Germany, has a fine couple of the rare Indian Rhino, the male is still too young to breed. Last year the female was sent to the Basle Zoo, Switzerland where she was born 5 years ago, to meet a willing Rhino bull.

The first copulation occurred only in spring 1970; the Stuttgart female stayed at Basle for a further six weeks and at the beginning of June 1970 she returned to Stuttgart Zoo: it is quite obvious that she is pregnant now. The baby is expected around August 1971.

Francis Katete dies

Frankfurt, Germany, 15th June 1970.

I am sorry to inform you that my friend Francis Katete, Director of Uganda National Parks, died in a car accident last week. He was an amiable, highly educated man who was deeply dedicated to the matter of Conservation and fought gallantly for his National Parks. This unexpected news deeply shocks me because I know that not only the people of Uganda but we all lose an unusual man fighting for a better future. It is deeply depressing that enthusiastic, highly trained young men of great talents who should go on with our work for another life, die suddenly and senselessly.

(Prof. Dr. Bernhard Grzimek)



World's
biggest
Elephant
dead

The Zoologisk Have at Copenhagen, Denmark, has been obliged to destroy the zoo world's biggest Elephant. This was „Tembo“, the male African Elephant, who at the age of 37 years started to act so violently that he almost smashed his house, and in spite of repeated expensive repairs it was not possible to keep the house in sufficient repair to ensure that visitors were satisfactorily protected.

Tembo arrived at the Copenhagen Zoo in 1936; as a youngster of about three years of age; he then weighed about one ton and measured 1,20 metres at the shoulder. Tembo's adult weight was 6,250 kilogrammes; he measured 3,70 metres at the shoulder; his ears measured 1,80 metres in diameter.

This mighty mammal was given an anaesthetic by tranquilizer (M-99) and he was killed by an injection of 2 kilogrammes of veronal through one ear.

The Zoological Museum of Copenhagen is to take over the skeleton. The skin will be cut into small pieces and distributed to schools to be used as teaching material.

(George Møller)

(Photo: Erik Parbst; courtesy Copenhagen Zoo)