

[- Cause and Effect. The controversial credo of a militant animal rights' activist. DR. JERRY VLASAK : Would I advocate taking five guilty vivisectors' lives to save hundreds of millions of innocent animal lives]

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PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST) :

- Cause and Effect. The controversial credo of a militant animal rights' activist.

DR. JERRY VLASAK :

Would I advocate taking five guilty vivisectors' lives to save hundreds of millions of innocent animal lives? Yes, I would. -

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST) :

Canada's seal hunt is under fire once again from animal rights groups, including the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a group with a reputation for extreme tactics. Now some disturbing words are coming from one of its senior members. While he's been actively defending the lives of animals, he's been talking about taking the lives of people. Peter Gullage reports.

PETER GULLAGE (REPORTER) :

Early April on the ice off the Magdalen Islands at the front line of the fight against the seal hunt. To American Dr. Jerry Vlasak, a leading member of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, it's a brutal slaughter of innocents. He also crusades against animal testing for medical research. In the past, he advocated the murder of researchers involved in animal testing.

DR. JERRY VLASAK :

Would I advocate taking five guilty vivisectors' lives to save hundreds of millions of innocent animal lives? Yes, I would.

PETER GULLAGE (REPORTER) :

But Paul Watson, founder of the Sea Shepherd Society, claims his organization is non-violent and Vlasak's words were taken out of context...

PAUL WATSON (FOUNDER, SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY) :

"What Dr. Vlasak was saying was that he was concerned that there would be violence directed against researchers and that's turned around to say he's advocating it."

PETER GULLAGE (REPORTER) :

But even now Vlasak doesn't deny his earlier statements. He says the researchers he advocates killing are no different than the sealers he encounters on the ice floes.

DR. JERRY VLASAK :

People who torture animals to death should be stopped in any way possible, and if they're not going to stop because they see reason, if they're not going to stop because they understand compassion, then the threat of violence would be another way to stop them, and I would be behind that threat of violence.

PETER GULLAGE (REPORTER) :

Talk like that got Vlasak banned from Britain. The Newfoundland and Labrador government wants to know why Ottawa allowed him into Canada. The federal immigration minister says he'll look in to that. Meanwhile, environmentalist Elizabeth May calls Vlasak's comments shocking. She wants him kicked out of the society. If not, May says this talk of assassination will be her reason for quitting. Peter Gullage, CBC News, St. John's.