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RELEASE IN FULL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 NAIROBI 08322

DEPARTMENT FOR OES/E, IO/T, PA/PRESS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Theodore Sellin, Senior Reviewer

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: UNEP, SENV
SUBJECT: HEAD OF DELEGATION STATEMENTS AT UNEP FIRST
SPECIAL SESSION, NAIROBI, MARCH 14-18

1. SUMMARY. FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (UNEP) CONSIDERED FOLLOWING THREE FORWARD PLANNING DOCUMENTS DESIGNED TO COORDINATE ENTIRE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF AGENCIES, GOVERNMENTS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GENERAL PUBLICS AROUND THE WORLD: A) SYSTEM-WIDE MEDIUM-TERM ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD 1990-1995; B) UNEP MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1990-1995; AND C) EXTENSION OF THE 1984-1989 UNITED NATIONS (UN) MEDIUM-TERM PLAN THROUGH 1990 AND 1991. THE THREE GENERAL STATEMENTS BY U.S. HEAD OF DELEGATION, WILLIAM A. NITZE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES, BUREAU OF OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, ARE QUOTED IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, AND 4 BELOW. DEPT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ISSUING ONE OR MORE AS A PRESS RELEASE. END SUMMARY.

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2. QUOTE: STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM A. NITZE, AT THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, FIRST SPECIAL

MR. PRESIDENT,

1. THE U.S. DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OTHER DELEGATIONS IN EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR ITS TREMENDOUS EFFORTS IN PREPARING FOR THIS SPECIAL SESSION.
2. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO JOIN OTHER DELEGATIONS IN EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STRONG LEADERSHIP IN MAKING UNEP A CATALYST AND THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UN SYSTEM AS A WHOLE.
3. THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM ITS INTENTION TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN FRAMING AND CARRYING OUT THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF SWMTEP AND THE CONSISTENCY OF THOSE OBJECTIVES WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. THE U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTING TO UNEP'S WORK TOWARD ASSESSING AND, AS APPROPRIATE, SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS: STRATOSPHERIC OZONE DEPLETION, DESTRUCTION OF TROPICAL FORESTS AND THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY THEY HARBOR, GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, AND TRANSBOUNDARY SHIPMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES. THE U.S. ALSO IS PLEASED THAT UNEP HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN IMPROVING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S KNOWLEDGE OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND THE IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

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4. THE U.S. URGES THE SECRETARIAT AND THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED FOR BOTH SWMTEP AND THE UNEP MEDIUM TERM PLAN TO BE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE DECISIONS OF THE 14TH GC AND RELEVANT UNGA RESOLUTIONS AND GENERALLY TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE APPROPRIATE ROLES OF UNEP AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE UN SYSTEM, ON THE ONE HAND, AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, ON THE OTHER, IN CARRYING OUT SWMTEP AND THE UNEP PLAN. SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS, UNEP'S OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO FACILITATE, WHERE AUTHORIZED, THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TO ASSIST NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, WHERE REQUESTED, IN ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL MECHANISMS FOR

5. THE U.S. DELEGATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE INITIATIVES TO BRING THE PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS INTO UNEP'S WORK. SPECIFICALLY WE COMMEND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR HIS FOLLOW-ON TO THE 1984 WORLD INDUSTRY CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AT A MEETING HE ORGANIZED IN PARIS IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. THE MEETING IDENTIFIED ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION AMONG UNEP, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THREE OR FOUR COUNTRY PILOT PROJECTS TO SEE WHAT A TEAM OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GROUPS CAN DO TO MAKE A REAL ENVIRONMENTAL DIFFERENCE. THE U.S. URGES UNEP TO EXPAND ITS COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN THE FUTURE AND TO KEEP THE ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS FULLY INVOLVED IN ITS WORK.

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: UNEP, SENV

SUBJECT: HEAD OF DELEGATION STATEMENTS AT UNEP FIRST
THANK YOU. UNQUOTE.

3. QUOTE: STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES
DELEGATION, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM
A. NITZE, AT THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, FIRST SPECIAL
SESSION, MARCH 15, 1988

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT,

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS RELATE TO ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS
UNDER DISCUSSION:

1. WITH RESPECT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE AND THE
WORLD COMMISISON REPORT, THE U.S. GENERALLY SUPPORTS THE
ANALYSIS AND APPROACH PROPOSED IN THESE DOCUMENTS, BUT
BELIEVES THEIR APPLICATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON AN
ISSUE BY ISSUE BASIS SINCE THEY HAVE ONLY BEEN APPROVED
BY THE UNGA IN GENERAL TERMS AND NOT ALL COUNTRIES AGREE
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WITH ALL OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. THE GOALS AND TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED BY GOVERNMENTS
BY 1995 PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS WELL AS
SWMTEP ITSELF STRESS THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTIONS COVERING A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES. THE U.S. HAS WORKED ACTIVELY TO DEVELOP SUCH
CONVENTIONS IN SPECIFIC AREAS SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND TRANSBOUNDRY SHIPMENTS OF HAZARDOUS
WASTE. THE U.S. HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN PROPOSING AN
UMBRELLA CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY DESIGNED TO
ACHIEVE GREATER COORDINATION AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS IN
IMPLEMENTING EXISTING CONVENTIONS IN THIS AREA. THE U.S.
IS ALSO PREPARED TO CONSIDER AN EXPANDED BIODIVERSITY
CONVENTION WHICH WOULD ASSURE UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO
GENETIC RESOURCES, VOLUNTARY FUNDING OF RESEARCH AND
CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS TO
AFFECTED LOCAL COMMUNITIES.
IN OTHER CASES SUCH AS TRADE IN TOXIC CHEMICALS OR

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INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, HOWEVER, OUR PRIMARY TASK SHOULD BE
TO IMPLEMENT AND REFINE EXISTING VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES AND
TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN BUILDING THE
INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO EFFECTIVELY APPLY THOSE
GUIDELINES TO THEIR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

WITH RESPECT TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, THE U.S. WILL
CONTINUE TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE
MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES. BEFORE
CONSIDERING DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
THE OVERALL CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE, HOWEVER, WE MUST LEARN
MUCH MORE ABOUT THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL IMPACTS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FULL RANGE OF POSSIBLE RESPONSE
STRATEGIES TO DEAL WITH THOSE IMPACTS. THE U.S. STRONGLY
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SUPPORTS CREATION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL REPORTING
JOINTLY TO UNEP AND WMO WHICH WOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY (1)
STIMULATE AND ASSESS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INTO THE EXTENT,
DISTRIBUTION AND EFFECTS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND (2)
BEGIN TO DEVELOP A RANGE OF POSSIBLE RESPONSE STRATEGIES
TO DEAL WITH THOSE EFFECTS. WE URGE THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR TO GIVE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TO UNEP'S JOINT WORK
WITH WMO IN THIS AREA. WHATEVER RESPONSE STRATEGIES ARE
FINALLY ADOPTED WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OTHER
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS. THE U.S. WILL PROPOSE A
NUMBER OF DRAFTING CHANGES TO REFLECT THESE POINTS
INCLUDING INSERTION OF THE PHRASE "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS" IN PARAGRAPHS 50 AND 51
OF SWMTEP AND PARAGRAPHS 9 AND 12 OF THE UNEP PLAN.

3. THE PROGRAM LAID OUT IN CHAPTER V OF SWMTEP AND
CHAPTER II OF THE UNEP PLAN IS EXTREMELY AMBITIOUS. UNEP
MUST ESTABLISH A SET OF PRACTICAL PRIORITIES WHICH MAKE
USE OF WORK ALREADY BEING DONE IN OTHER U.N. AGENCIES AS
WELL AS BY INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRIVATE
SECTOR. THE U.S. STRONGLY SUPPORTS COMMENTS MADE BY THE
FINNISH AND SWEDISH DELEGATIONS EMPHASIZING ANTICIPATION
AND PREVENTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, THE REMARKS OF
THE ISRAELI DELEGATION ABOUT THE PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF
INCORPORATING ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INTO ALL U.N.
SPONSORED OR SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND THE
COMMENTS OF THE GDR DELEGATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RAPID
DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF WASTE MINIMIZATION
TECHNOLOGIES. NATURAL RESOURCE ACCOUNTING IS ANOTHER
AREA WHERE UNEP IS WELL PLACED TO ACT AS A CATALYST.

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DEPARTMENT FOR OES/E, IO/T, PA/PRESS

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: UNEP, SENV

SUBJECT: HEAD OF DELEGATION STATEMENTS AT UNEP FIRST

OF ALL MEMBER STATES. IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS MICROBIAL
RESOURCES AND RELATED BIOTECHNOLOGIES WHERE UNEP LACKS
THE TECHNICAL RESOURCES TO EXPAND ITS ROLE IN THE MANNER
SUGGESTED IN SWMTEP, IT SHOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO GATHERING
AND MAKING AVAILABLE DATA THROUGH ITS EXISTING NETWORK.

4. AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIMSELF ACKNOWLEDGED, THE

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ONLY THING THAT COUNTS IN THE END IS RESULTS ON THE
GROUND. IN A NUMBER OF AREAS SUCH AS WATER MANAGEMENT,
COMBATTING DESERTIFICATION AND PRESERVING TROPICAL RAIN
FORESTS, UNEP SHOULD CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON WORKING
WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN DEVELOPING
AND EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL ACTION PLANS. WHAT
WE NEED IN THESE AREAS IS NOT GLOBAL SOLUTIONS OR
TRANSFERS OF RESOURCES FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, BUT MORE
EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AT THE
RESOURCES THEY ALREADY HAVE.

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THANK YOU. UNQUOTE.

4. QUOTE: STATEMENT BY HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES
DELEGATION, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM
A. NITZE, AT THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, FIRST SPECIAL
SESSION, MARCH 16, 1988

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT:

1. THE U.S. DELEGATION IS PLEASED TO ADVISE THE SPECIAL
SESSION THAT TWO DAYS AGO THE U.S. SENATE RATIFIED THE
MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE
LAYER BY A NOTE OF 83-0, THUS MAKING THE U.S. THE SECOND
SIGNATORY TO COMPLETE ITS RATIFICATION PROCEDURES.

2. U.S. GENERALLY SUPPORTS CHAPTERS V THROUGH VIII OF
SWMTEP AND CORRESPONDING PARTS OF THE UNEP PLAN AND THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S GOALS AND TARGETS, BUT WOULD LIKE TO
MAKE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

3. NONE OF THESE DOCUMENTS GIVES SUFFICIENT RECOGNITION
TO SPECIFIC ACTIONS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN AT A NATIONAL
LEVEL. UNEP IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ENACT OR ENFORCE
ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, REGULATIONS OR POLICIES. THIS MUST
BE DONE BY THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES CONCERNED. UNEP'S
PROPER ROLE IS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH LAWS, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES
BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND TO ASSIST THOSE COUNTRIES IN
ESTABLISHING THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MECHANISMS
NECESSARY FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

4. GENERALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

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PROPOSED GOALS AND TARGETS, THESE GOALS AND TARGETS ARE AMBITIOUS AND GO BEYOND THE DECISIONS OF THE 14TH GC. THE U.S. BELIEVES THEY SHOULD BE USED AS GUIDELINES FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS IN DEVELOPING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, BUT NOT AS AN ACTION PLAN ENDORSED BY THE GC.

5. SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE SWMTEP CHAPTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE COMMENTS OF THE DELEGATION OF EGYPT AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:.

-- THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE ROLE OF THE U.N. SYSTEM IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THE CONCEPTS AND TOOLS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, AS WELL AS IN DEVELOPING PLANNING SYSTEMS COMPATIBLE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT. (PARAGRAPH 346)

-- THE ROLE OF THE U.N. SYSTEM IN ESTABLISHING GLOBAL PATTERNS OF TRADE AND ACCORDINGLY, OF RESOURCE USE, THAT ARE BOTH EQUITABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND IS QUESTIONABLE, HOWEVER. ALTHOUGH RESEARCH TO EXPLORE THE IMPACT OF TRADE POLICY ON THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE IMPLEMENTATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, IS A WORTHY OBJECTIVE FOR THE U.N. SYSTEM, TRADE POLICY IS BETTER LEFT TO THE REALM OF GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING. (PARAGRAPH 347)

-- AS WELL AS UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT FROM TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACTORS, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR COUNTRIES TO EVALUATE ECONOMIC INCENTIVES AND DISINCENTIVES WHICH EXIST DOMESTICALLY FOR INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. OVERALL FISCAL POLICY, SHORT RUN NEEDS AND LONGER TERM

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SUBJECT: HEAD OF DELEGATION STATEMENTS AT UNEP FIRST

GROWTH AND TAX POLICIES ARE TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN ALL
FACTORS WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN PLANNING SYSTEMS.
(PARAGRAPHS 347, 349)

-- THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT GREATER EMPHASIS IN TRAINING
INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE USE OF COMPREHENSIVE
COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES, ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AS VALUABLE TOOLS IN
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. THESE METHODS ARE IMPORTANT IN
HELPING TO TARGET RESOURCES. (PARAGRAPH 350)

THANK YOU. UNQUOTE.
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