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KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE BONN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS
MARCH 3-7, 1997

- At the recently concluded sixth session of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM), the U.S. achieved its top priority of keeping all of our ideas on the table – in fact, all of our protocol provisions are contained in the negotiating text.
 - In addition, we have the opportunity before April 1, 1997, to submit further legal language for inclusion in the negotiating text. The language could replace “place-holder” provisions in our current draft. We’re considering whether to submit language now.
- Regarding emissions levels and timing of reductions, the wide range on the table – including the Australian proposal with the range proposed by the European Union (from a 40% growth above to a 30% below 1990 levels) – will more than cover the breadth of any target to be negotiated in the coming months.
 - We will base our final decision on thorough economic and environmental analysis that is currently underway. We are committed to supporting reasonable and achievable levels and time frames.
- For the first time in Bonn, the U.S. had the opportunity to explain fully our protocol proposal in an international forum. While there were numerous clarifying questions, our proposal received favorable reviews from many negotiators for being the most well-developed; it is the most comprehensive text on the table, combining reasonable commitments, flexibility and strong compliance provisions.
- The U.S. pursued enhanced performance from developing nations in four ways: involvement in joint implementation projects with credit; specific commitments on “no regrets” policies (ones which benefit the climate but are taken for other economic or environmental reasons); a “graduation” provision for more advanced developing countries to “opt in” voluntarily to a binding commitment at a different level/time frame; and a negotiating mandate for all nations to have legally binding commitments by 2005.
 - We are serious about taking the lead in addressing emissions – but we are equally serious that all nations must be part of the solution.
- The U.S. continued to push hard for maximum flexibility in national implementation – including fighting for our provisions for emissions trading, joint implementation with credit, and budgeting (with banking and limited borrowing). We opposed unfeasible early deadlines such as 2005, and we opposed legally binding internationally harmonized policies and measures.
- A series of intersessional meetings, as well as two more AGBM negotiating sessions (August and October), are scheduled prior to the Third Conference of the Parties in Kyoto (December) at which the Parties are expected to adopt the legal instrument. The U.S. is actively seeking agreement on our proposals in these and other bilateral meetings.