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Subseries: Global Climate Change Files - Conferences/Meetings

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Folder ID Number: 62059-005

Folder Title:
Global Change: Working Group Meeting - 11/17/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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Nancy
FVI
Ken

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
November 20, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

FROM: KEN YALE
SUBJECT: GCWG Task Force on Economic Costs

The first meeting of the task force was held this past Friday November 17. It was chaired by Richard Schmalensee, member of the Council of Economic Advisors.

CEA will produce an outline of the subjects that will be considered in a survey of current knowledge on the economic costs of global change, and to determine specific areas that will be tasked out for further elaboration and study. The outline will be circulated for comment. A rough draft of the final report is expected to be completed by mid-January.

Prospective economic costs are closely associated with the science and assumptions on global change. Bob Corell, vice chairman of the Committee on Earth Sciences, made a presentation on the science of global change. A paper outlining his presentation will be distributed to meeting participants.

Meeting participants were asked to send in any information on activities underway to study economic costs associated with global change. The next meeting will be scheduled for shortly after Thanksgiving.

Isn't this
the info
you rec'd
yesterday
?

11/21/89

For your
DPC
WGGC
files 11/22

Dr. Bromley:

Admiral Watkins missed most of the discussion on the Presidential Conference on the Environment at the last DPC WGGC meeting.

SUGGESTION:

Have Juanita from DPC go over and brief his assistant, Polly Gault, on the various options for the conference as well as the ramifications and background, so she can then brief him before the meeting.

pros:

- . He will go into the meeting with as much background as everyone else on the meeting
- . He is one of your strongest allies and can help back you if he is well-informed

cons:

- . none that I can think of (if Juanita takes it directly to Polly, there will be no leak)

Can I ask them to do that???

yes
 no

Must happen this afternoon by 2 p.m.

[Handwritten signature]
11/21

N. Maynard

NM
for your records
as discussed
dh
11/21

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Global Change Working Group Meeting

November 17, 1989

AGENDA

1. Noordwijk Debriefing
2. Policy Council or Working Group Briefings
3. Administration Policy Development
4. Task Force Status Reports
5. Future Issues/Activities:
 - Reforestation
 - G-7 Science Minister's Meeting
 - President's International Conference
 - Briefing on the overall status of global change
 - Suggested Administration Talking Points
 - Other business

Global Change Meeting
Roosevelt Room, Friday November 17, 1989, 1:00 PM

Chairman

OSTP D. Allan Bromley 395-7116

Invitees

DOE	Admiral James Watkins	586-6210
CEQ	Michael Deland	395-5080
NASA	Admiral Richard Truly	453-1010
WHO	Andrew Card	456-2533
OCA	David Q. Bates	456-2174
OPD	Roger Porter	456-2705
WHC	C. Boyden Gray	456-2632
OCA	Stephen Danzansky	456-6630
WHO	Steve Hart	456-2100
OMB	Robert Grady	395-4484
CEA	Dick Schmalensee	395-5036
DOS	Robert Zoellick	647-2257
DOS	Fred Bernthal	647-1554
DOI	Lou Gallegos	343-6182
EPA	J. Terrence Davies	382-4870
DOC	John Knauss	377-3436
TRS	Sidney Jones	566-2551
USDA	Pat Kearney	447-3631
DOJ	William Myers	633-2268
DPC	Kenneth P. Yale	456-6722
OSTP	Nancy Maynard	395-3637
OCA	Juanita Duggan	456-7084

November 17 Global Change Working Group Meeting
Briefing Paper for D. Allan Bromley

I. Issues

1. Noordwijk debriefing (Dr. Bromley)
 - a. Summary of the meeting and observations
 - b. Next steps, including creation of a timeline of domestic and international events and workplan to address policy issues.
 - o President's Timeline
 - o International Timeline
 - o IPCC Timeline
 - o DPC GCWG Timeline
2. DPC GCWG: Briefings/Concerns by representatives of:
 - a. Best scientists in environmental area
 - b. Environmental Activists
(perhaps at same meeting -- dialogue/debate public meeting?)
3. Administration Policy: Development of clear U.S. policy on and specific steps to accomplish:
 - a. Stabilization of greenhouse gases
 - b. 20% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2000, 2005, etc.
 - o quantitative analysis of costs
 - o specific steps needed to achieve
 - o impacts of these actions

-- assign homework (DOE & NAS?)
4. Task Force Status Reports
 1. Private Sector (due end of November)
 2. Legal Precedents (due end of December)
 3. Economic Costs (due end of January)
5. Future Issues/Activities
 - A. Reforestation briefing (Grady, Kearney, Pinkerton)
 - The issue has a strong climate change element.
 - This is a general briefing on the issue.
 - The policy options advanced by different agencies will be discussed in the DPC.
 - A full DPC meeting is anticipated December 4 or 5 on reforestation.

Allen - next
will speak on President's
TREC initiative

B. G-7 Science Minister's Meeting

- Explore possibility of expanding to include other nations

C. President's International Conference

- Much work has gone into existing paperwork, new options should be added (send to Office of Cabinet Affairs).
- Should be ready for a working group meeting the week after Thanksgiving.
- Full DPC meeting anticipated in early December to come to closure on the issue.
- Current options in the paper are:
 - a. In conjunction with February IPCC Plenary
 - b. Focus on economics.
 - c. Focus on reforestation.
 - d. Focus on conservation of nature and biodiversity.
 - e. Methodologies to approaching international environmental issues.
 - f. Science ministers meeting

D. Briefing on the overall status of global change (to be requested)

- Science (NAS)
- Federal programmatic activities (CES)

E. Suggested Administration Talking Points (Mr. Hart)

- Compiled with the assistance of the White House Press Office, which has played a key role in keeping the Administration speaking with one voice on the issues.
- It is anticipated that the Press office will continue to compile and update these talking points as needed.

F. Other business.

TALKING POINTS FOR D. ALLAN BROMLEY

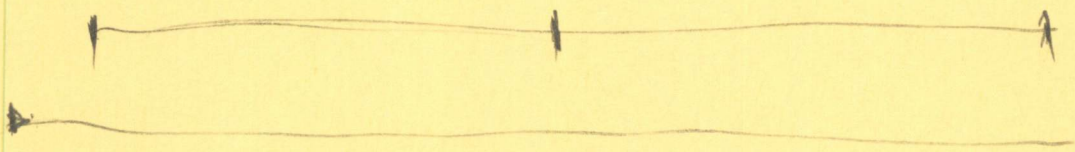
- o All of you are experts in different areas of these issues.
- o However, this is the President's decision making process.
- o We will be using the Domestic Policy Council to take issues to the President for his decision.
- o The President is the Chairman of the Council.
- o You are developing policy for the President.
- o Discussions and papers are protected by Executive Privilege.
- o You should not discuss working group matters with anyone not involved in providing information for use in refining the policy issues and options.
- o Premature release of information could significantly alter the use of the material produced.
- o It is inappropriate to speculate on the outcome of any issue under consideration.
- o It's the President's call:
 - When to announce policy decisions, and
 - Where to announce them.

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~~Panel of Scientists~~
Panel of Environmentalists
Panel of Policymakers

Do both

Clean Air

CO₂ reduction

General Conclusions from the Noordwijk Meeting

1. For many reasons, many not yet fully understood in the participating countries -- particularly in the Third World but also in Europe -- environment has moved rapidly to the top of the political agenda.
2. Active measures to separate industrialized from non-industrialized countries -- forced primarily by EC countries -- act to isolate the U.S., Japan and the USSR from natural allies in the Third and 2.5 Worlds (i.e., China, Brazil and India).
3. Relatively few of the 60-70 participant countries have any quantitative idea of how they would reach the discussed 20 percent CO₂ reduction in 2000 or of what it would cost them to do so but are carried along by considerable emotion and a degree of mob psychology.
4. Scientific facts are largely irrelevant to current discussions. Recognizing that current models and their uncertainties do not provide compelling grounds for

immediate large scale amelioratory action, environmental activists have stopped referring to their predictions precipitously and now focus instead on historical, multi-thousand-year ice core records that show a striking correlation between atmospheric CO² content and temperature. The still open question as to which is cause and which effect is usually not discussed.

5. There is a strong -- and in some areas not entirely straightforward -- move by the U.K. to wrest world leadership from the U.S. in matters of the environment. The U.K. should hereafter be viewed as a less than reliable partner in this area. Japan, on the other hand, has been very reliable and, although for different reasons, so also have been the Soviets.
6. The U.S. delegation to Noordwijk was a well integrated, coherent and effective one. Without extensive and intensive work on many persons' parts, the declaration would have been damaging to the U.S. and to U.S. leadership.
7. It remains true that in terms of actual progress toward understanding the scientific foundations of global change and responding to it in concrete fashion, the U.S. leads the world by at least an order of magnitude.

8. It is critically important that well before (one month minimum) the February 1990 plenary IPCC meeting in Washington, we must develop a clear, well articulated U.S. policy regarding global change -- with specific reference to stabilization of greenhouse gas emission, based on the best economic analyses possible in the intervening time interval. We also need to look, as quantitatively as possible, at what 20% reduction in CO2 emission early in the 21st century would require of the U.S. and what its impacts would be.

9. We must continue to emphasize our leadership in the related science and response areas and, particularly in the science areas, invite others to join with us. The proposed Earth Observing Satellite systems (EOS) provide a particularly good base for such invitations. And we must continue to focus on the fact that many countries still have no real idea of what they are prepared to commit themselves to in this area.

10. We must expect that many countries that are now enthusiastic about achieving ambitious greenhouse gas emission goals will find that they are unable to meet their stated commitments. Many delegations look on the Noordwijk declaration and

its goals as rather optimistic political statements intended, as much as anything, to leverage public support for environmental activities and expenditures in their own countries, rather than any firm commitment to actual results. One delegation leader from a major EC country told us, "They can't take you to the World Court in The Hague if you don't actually comply with it."

11. It is essential that we in the U.S. keep a substantially broader focus on global change than just the greenhouse effect that dominated the discussions at Noordwijk. Matters such as clean air, pure water, biodiversity and ocean pollution received, at most, token mention.

12. This supports our idea of convening the G-7 science as opposed to environmental ministers early in 1990 to at least attempt to structure a coherent international scientific program aimed at integrating all participant countries in an attack on current gaps and uncertainties in our understanding of the underlying science. Preliminary and informal response to this idea, from countries such as the UK, Canada, Italy, France and Japan, has been enthusiastic.

13. With input from such a meeting, from what we are doing in the DPCWG, and from the IPCC, we should be prepared to host a Framework Convention in late 1990, and the President should announce this intention at the earliest reasonable time -- in the State of the Union speech at the latest -- to retain world leadership in the environmental field. There is a widespread belief that the President is committed to hosting such a meeting in 1990 given both pre- and post election statements.

14. Under the DPCWG, we should bring in both a representative cross-section of the most distinguished scientists in the environmental area, as well as an equivalent cross-section of the most visible environmental activists, to at least search for some common ground and moderate some of the more extreme positions.

15. We should not forget that many of the Third World countries are already in serious environmental trouble and are looking to us for guidance and help.

16. And we must also recognize that some of the Third World countries will continue to ask for increasing amounts of funding to help them -- with as few strings as possible. It would -- in my opinion -- be most unwise of us to agree to the establishment of any general fund -- as has been proposed -- in which we were not able to know in advance, and specify, what kinds of projects and which projects in particular our funding would support. We need to be realistic about the fact that the demands will very probably always exceed our capacity to respond. However, we should begin now to consider some offer of help -- both financial and technological -- that would be feasible for us within our constraints. Judicious U.S. investments early on can yield some handsome dividends, both political and environmental.
17. Having evolved a coherent national -- and our part of the international -- strategy, it is essential that we take a proactive role with the U.S. media who are, in general, antagonistic in this area. Otherwise, the IPCC meeting aftermath in February, 1990 could be extremely negative and could hurt the President. We should consider what

announcement of significant environmental activities, both national and international, the President could make prior to the February meeting. In my view, if we are to retain a credible leadership position we have to be seen as being prepared to undertake some specific new initiatives in this area -- insisting in all cases, however, that there be strong scientific bases of understanding for our actions and, at the present time, arguments beyond simply greenhouse emission ones for the proposed actions.

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Private Sector, Communists

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F. Other business.

DRAFT

The U. S. has taken a leading role from the beginning in the creation and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This international panel is a means to reach a common international understanding about everything that is needed to address the climate change issue. It is intended to coordinate a continuing long-term effort to assess and to understand:

- The science of climate change,
- The science and evaluation of the impacts of climate change on human activities and well-being,
- The definition and evaluation of potential human responses to the climate change situation from the viewpoint of effectiveness, cost, and other economic and social implications.

Unless a common international understanding and agreement about these matters are reached through the IPCC or some similar mechanism, effective global actions will not occur in a timely fashion.

The President has said that he expects the IPCC process to develop that needed understanding and to lead to formal negotiations on a framework convention on global climate. The U. S. approach is that such a convention should be designed to gain the adherence of all countries and therefore should provide institutional mechanisms for research and monitoring, for discussion and developing of common understandings, and for such matters as encouraging technological transfer. More controversial and difficult issues should be left to Protocols which will develop out of the convention. The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer are analogous instruments.

The U. S. is taking vigorous actions to reduce the uncertainties associated with climate change.

1. It is supporting all of the assessments and evaluations of the IPCC, chairing the Response Strategies Working Group, and participating in a major way in the Science and the Impacts Working Groups.
2. It is funding and carrying out a major research program, the Global Change Research Program, which addresses all global change, including climate change. Funding in FY1990 is more than \$500 million. The U. S. is coordinating this effort with international scientific activities and is seeking broad international participation.

DRAFT

3. Federal agencies are doing a number of studies of climate change related matters.
 - The Environmental Protection Agency has done an initial assessment of potential effects of climate change on the U. S. and an inventory of potential policy options.
 - The Department of Energy is assessing and evaluating the potential costs and other implications of possible reductions in CO2 emissions, making an inventory of sources of CO2, assessing the current situation on greenhouse gas data, and assessing research and development on alternative energy sources.
 - The Department of Energy is developing a National Energy Strategy which will take climate change issues into full account.
 - Other efforts are also under way in other agencies, relating to forestry, agriculture, water resources, and other climate change questions.

The U. S. is vigorously pursuing a variety of immediate actions which can be justified, despite climate change uncertainties, on the basis of their benefits for other reasons.

1. The U. S. in the late 1970s banned the use in spray cans of CFCs. CFCs account for about 20% of the potential climate change effect. The U. S. signed the Montreal Protocol which commits the majority of CFC users worldwide to a 50% reduction in CFC production and use by 1998. The President has also called for a worldwide phaseout of CFCs by the year 2000, if safe substitutes are available.
2. The President's proposed Clean Air Act cap on SO2 emissions and the associated incentives for energy conservation could reduce U. S. CO2 emissions by an estimated 5 %.
3. The Administration's increase in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for automobiles will reduce fossil fuel use and emissions of greenhouse gases.
4. The National Energy Strategy will assist in achieving greater energy conservation and development of alternative technologies to produce lesser greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Past efforts for energy efficiency have held CO2 emissions in the U. S. essentially flat with no significant growth compared to a decade ago.

Professor D. A. Bromley
Presidential Science Adviser
The White House
Washington D. C.
U S A

Dear Professor Bromley:

During our conversation in your office in Washington, July 1989, you told me that I could contact you directly in important and urgent matters.

Therefore I would like to inform you that we have some informations from Moscow that the USSR Academy of Science is continuously interested to join the Ocean Drilling Program. Our Sovjet colleagues seem to be very disappointed that the negative decision of President Reagan could not be revised up to now.

As a former member of Deep Sea Drilling Project Committees, as co-chief scientist aboard "Gloma Challenger" and having signed the Membership Agreement ODP - European Science Foundation I would be very grateful, if you could propose a possible reintegration of Sowjet scientists in Deep Sea Drilling activities as a topic of the next summit meeting conversations in the Mediterranean.

I am convinced that many colleagues in Europe, but certainly in America, too, would support this letter.

Dr. Bloch - National Science Foundation - is aware of my continuing efforts to reconstruct the bridge to allow Sovjet scientists again to cooperate - with mutual benefit. Therefore I shall inform him about this letter.

Sincerely yours,

