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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 19, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL CHANGE STRATEGY TASK FORCE

FROM: D. ALLAN BROMLEY *DB*
SUBJECT: Global Change Strategy Task Force Meeting

The Global Change Strategy Task Force will meet Tuesday, October 23, 1990, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 22 of the Old Executive Office Building.

Thank you for your thorough review of the draft ministerial declaration for the Second World Climate Conference prepared by the Department of State that was distributed at the last Strategy Task Force meeting. It is important to try to arrive at a consensus document which, if cleared, could be laid on the table by the U.S. as an alternative to the highly-controversial document originating from the Geneva prepcom.

After considering all of your comments within the context of the major U.S. policy issues we in the strategy group have outlined, we asked State to prepare a second iteration of the draft declaration which addressed the major policy issues, but which retains the typical international ministerial tone. Attached is a copy of that new version of the declaration, revised to reflect your substantive policy comments.

We are not requesting further review for style or editing; instead, we would ask that you read this version in preparation for a discussion of the policy issues inherent in this document and the strategy for its use at the Tuesday Strategy Group meeting. Please keep in mind that it has been prepared using the normal international ministerial language and tone in order to increase its chances of acceptance and to minimize the number of anticipated, non-substantive changes in case we decide to use it in Geneva. Your review should be only to insure that those few, but important, major U.S. policy issues are appropriately articulated within the document. Please treat the draft as close hold for official use only.

At Tuesday's meeting, we will also reaffirm for our delegation to Geneva guidance on the U.S. positions on the five major policy issues previously identified by the task force. The opening remarks of Dr. John Knauss to the ministerial portion of the conference will also be discussed. A draft of those remarks should be distributed to you on Monday. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Nancy Maynard at 456-6202.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

GLOBAL CHANGE STRATEGY TASK FORCE

AGENDA

October 23, 1990

1. Second World Climate Conference
 - Ministerial Declaration
 - Policy Issues
 - Opening Remarks by Dr. John Knauss
2. Framework Convention on Climate Change
3. Other business

Major Policy Issues
Second World Climate Conference
Ministerial Declaration

1. Targets and timetables for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
2. Stipulating the nature and content of a convention on climate change
3. Financial Assistance
4. Statement concerning the scientific understandings associated with climate change
5. Precautionary Principle

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

We, Ministers from ____ countries, assembled in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 7 November 1990 at the Second World Climate Conference.

Conscious of our responsibility to present and future generations to preserve and protect our fragile planet;

Deeply concerned by recent evidence that our actions may be altering the atmosphere which nurtures life and sets Earth apart from all other planets;

Recognizing the national and international efforts of the past decade by the World Climate Program, WMO, ICSU, and UNEP to identify and resolve scientific and socioeconomic issues related to climate change;

Welcoming the timely completion of the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which provides the first comprehensive assessment of the science, impacts and possible responses to climate change;

Uncertain still of what may follow, and at what cost, but concerned that delay could constrain our ability to act;

We embark now with common resolve on an effort which will require perseverance, resolution and steadfast purpose, an effort which will test every virtue of our peoples, but without which we can have no hope of success.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

1. Science tells us that greenhouse gases are accumulating in the atmosphere because of human activities. Most of these gases are produced naturally and are essential to the habitability of our planet; still, the human contribution, particularly since the dawn of the industrial age, has disturbed their balance in the atmosphere.

2. Science also warns us that the unrelenting accumulation of greenhouse gases produced by human activities will lead inevitably to a global warming, perhaps at rates faster than any mankind has experienced. Science predicts that the warming will not be even, that it is likely to vary by latitude and season, and that once begun, it will take decades or even centuries to control.

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3. The state of our knowledge is imperfect -- many important uncertainties remain. Still we are aware that significant climate changes may have harmful consequences for our planet and our peoples. Seas may rise, storms may increase and intensify and many species of life may not be able to adapt.

4. Facing these risks, but acknowledging great uncertainties, we must determine how extensively we must act, what the costs of action and inaction may be, and what measure of success will likely grace our efforts.

5. At this Second World Climate Conference we reaffirm our support for the World Climate Programme and for other cooperative scientific initiatives to resolve the questions before us.

PAST AND PROLOGUE

6. This endeavor is not without precedent. Our nations have already developed a common strategy to address a related global crisis -- stratospheric ozone depletion. From a modest beginning in 1985, we have quickly narrowed scientific uncertainties and summoned the resolve to take more stringent but necessary action. That action is also the most significant first step to reduce the accumulation in the atmosphere of greenhouse gases from human activities.

7. We have undertaken an unprecedented international effort to analyze the science, impacts, and response options for further dealing with climate change. This effort, initiated under the joint auspices of the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, has produced the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The Report has heightened our awareness and enlisted an increasing number of nations in the search for solutions.

8. We have thus set the stage for negotiations on a framework convention on climate change. We note with satisfaction that these negotiations will begin in February 1991 and that all parties have resolved to complete the convention, together with any related legal instruments as may then be agreed, by the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992.

9. We further note that the United Nations General Assembly will shortly consider ways, means and modalities for further pursuing these negotiations on the basis of recommendations produced a month ago by government representatives.

10/16/90 DRAFT

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CALL FOR A GLOBAL STRATEGY

10. While uncertainty complicates our task, it will neither delay nor deter us. We must develop a global strategy to protect our atmosphere. The strategy must be:

-- universal, involving all nations of the world, for only together can we hope to prevail.

-- comprehensive, addressing all sources and sinks of the gases we produce, which must be considered together if our efforts are to succeed.

-- equitable, taking into account our differing opportunities to act and our differing contributions to present and predicted future accumulations of greenhouse gases.

-- pragmatic, recognizing the common desire to grow and provide for our peoples, without which prospect hope for human prosperity and dignity will wither; and

-- farsighted, recognizing that innovation will open possibilities as yet unknown, if we but direct our collective ingenuity to shape that future.

THE EFFORT REQUIRED

16. The challenge before us is great. We are aware that the collective effort required will be among the most complex and difficult ever undertaken. Our success or failure will influence life on our planet. We must find ways to accommodate a wide range of legitimate concerns while ensuring that we develop a specific program of action.

17. Foremost among these concerns is that shared by all countries -- that the actions we agree to take not foreclose economic growth. This concern is particularly acute among developing countries who have not yet attained the level of prosperity that prevails among countries of the industrialized world. Still, the need for growth is not unique to them, for disparities exist as well within the industrialized world.

18. We must also find ways to accommodate:

--the concerns of countries now determined to limit and reduce growing emissions of greenhouse gases as well as the concerns of countries whose growth depends on fossil fuel;

--the concerns of countries, whose forests are integrally tied to their economic development yet whose forests provide a critical element of the world's defense against global warming;

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--the concerns of countries which bear a proportionately large degree of risk from the impacts of climate change, particularly countries in arid and semi-arid regions and small, low-lying coastal and island countries; and

--the concerns of all who understand that the burgeoning growth in our planet's population must be taken into account in our efforts to deal with global climate change.

19. We acknowledge that we must also deal anew with issues we have encountered in other fora, issues whose resolution often still eludes us. In particular, negotiators must develop:

--ways to assure that adequate financial resources are made available to countries that would otherwise be unable to join fully in this common effort;

--ways to assure that know-how and technological innovation continue to advance and are made widely available to solve this common problem;

--ways to assure that knowledge and information are fully and openly shared; and

--ways to assure that the educational and scientific infrastructure in all countries, particularly in the developing countries, is extended and enhanced to enable each of us fully to appreciate the scientific basis for climate change, the potential impacts of such change and evaluations of practical response strategies.

OUR COMMON FUTURE

20. Generations past once relied on faith in moving toward the future. Later generations placed their faith in reason. As we move now toward the second millennium we must seek to marry faith and reason. We must urgently resolve the uncertainties that confront us. We must also accept that full knowledge may elude us for some time. We must begin now to take sustained, pragmatic action to secure our common future. We dedicate ourselves henceforth to develop a phased, flexible response that will enable us to take action now even as we seek to resolve remaining uncertainties and develop a comprehensive action plan for the future.

Outline of Preparations for Negotiations
on a Framework Convention on Climate Change

This outline is organized along the lines of the IPCC/RSWG Legal Measures Paper on "Possible Elements for Inclusion in a Framework Convention on Climate Change."

Preamble

-- Preambles, which explain the purpose of the agreement, generally contain hortatory language and declarative findings (such as "recognizing the need for further research and systematic monitoring to develop the scientific knowledge about the global climate").

-- Preambular language is customarily negotiated after the body of an agreement to ensure that it accurately reflects the agreement's content and to include items on which the parties were not able to reach substantive agreement in the text itself; given the range of extant proposals, it will be to our advantage to continue this practice. We will be able to draw from our positions on specific issues to develop appropriate preambular language when needed.

Definitions

-- Which terms need definition, and how any such terms should be defined, customarily follows elaboration of the body of the agreement, as they depend upon the purpose of the agreement and the language used by the negotiating parties.

-- Nonetheless, to enhance our ability to advocate the comprehensive approach, it might be useful to have definitions developed (in conceptual if not legal language) for certain terms connected with this approach, e.g., greenhouse gases, net emissions, global warming potential index, sources, sinks.

Proposed Action: The Task Force on Climate Approaches should include the development of appropriate definitions in its work plan.

General Obligations

-- Following the format of other framework conventions (for example, the Vienna Convention), general obligations are set out in a separate article and may or may not be followed up by more specific commitments later in the convention.

-- The following general obligations were largely accepted by IPCC/RSWG participants, including the United States:

-- taking "appropriate" (but unspecified) response measures to limit, reduce, adapt to, and, as far as possible, prevent climate change;

- taking "no regrets" measures;
- cooperating in research, monitoring, and information exchange;
- encouraging the development and transfer of relevant technologies, as well as providing technical and financial assistance;
- encouraging public education and awareness;
- flexibility to fulfill the requirements of the agreement using bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements of arrangements;
- cooperating with competent international organizations;
- strengthening or modifying, if necessary, existing legal and institutional instruments and arrangements.

Although there may be differences concerning how to frame the general obligations, the main issues will relate to whether certain general obligations should be specifically elaborated elsewhere in the convention itself. The most controversial are likely to be: specificity of response measures; financial assistance; and technology transfer. Each of these is addressed below.

Specific Issues

1. Specificity of Response Measures

Issues:

- Whether, apart from general obligations to take "appropriate" measures and "no regrets" measures, the convention should contain specific targets with respect to either levels of emissions or atmospheric concentrations?

U.S. Position to Date: The USG view has consistently been that it would be premature to include targets in the framework convention. We have also argued that the focus should not be solely on reducing emissions but that we should take a comprehensive approach that allows sources and sinks to be considered together.

Proposed Actions: 1) To enhance our negotiating position in support of the comprehensive approach, including ensuring that the convention's terminology is compatible with this approach (e.g., net emissions), we will need to be able to set out, in some detail, how the approach will work. We will also need to demonstrate, in some detail, the cost-

effectiveness of the approach. The Task Force on Climate Approaches should develop this analysis, prior to the initiation of negotiations, based on the best available information. 2) We also need to develop detailed analyses of the feasibility of meeting certain proposed targets in order to demonstrate the impracticability of these proposals. DOE, EPA, and CEA should coordinate this effort.

-- Should any such targets include stabilization by industrialized countries, as a first step, and later reduction of CO2 emissions and emissions of other greenhouse gases?

U.S. Position to Date: Again, the USG view has been that the convention should not contain targets for either stabilization or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Proposed Action: At a minimum for internal purposes, we need to be able to estimate the technological feasibility and cost-effectiveness of emission targets for the U.S. and other key countries. EPA, CEA, and DOE should consolidate best available information to provide this analysis.

-- Should the convention spell out specific "no regrets" measures that the parties should take?

U.S. Position to Date: The USG has advocated taking "no regrets" measures in the face of scientific uncertainty. However, we have not taken a position on whether specific "no regrets" measures should be required by the framework convention.

Proposed Action: State should coordinate with relevant agencies to determine what could be listed under a "no regrets" heading.

-- Should the framework convention commit the parties to formulate appropriate specific measures (such as in a protocol)?

U.S. Position to Date: The Vienna Convention provides for, but does not require, the formulation of further specific measures. The USG view has been that the convention should not require the development of a subsequent instrument (i.e., a protocol) but should provide that any instrument that is developed must address greenhouse gases, their sources and sinks, comprehensively.

Proposed Action: State should work with the Task Force on Climate Approaches and other agencies, as appropriate, to develop options regarding to what extent (i.e., in how much detail) the framework convention should "tilt" the protocol in the direction of a comprehensive approach.

-- Should the convention provide that implementation of specific obligations may take place in different timeframes for different categories of countries? To what extent should the convention provide for differentiated treatment with respect to both general and specific obligations?

U.S. Position to Date: The USG view has been that all countries have a responsibility to protect the global environment. At the same time, we have recognized that certain differentiated treatment may be appropriate to reflect the more limited technical and financial situation of developing countries. The Vienna Convention requires the parties to undertake the general obligations "in accordance with the means at their disposal and their capabilities". The Montreal Protocol contains a ten-year grace period for certain developing countries (although such differentiated treatment was not required by the Vienna Convention). Both the Noordwijk and Bergen Declarations contain language recognizing the possible need of some countries to increase greenhouse gas emissions for development purposes.

Proposed Action: State should prepare an options paper on how to handle the possibility of differentiated treatment in the framework convention.

2. Financial Assistance

Issues:

-- Whether, apart from a possible general obligation to promote financial assistance to developing countries to address climate change, there should be a specific commitment to provide new and additional financial resources?

U.S. Position to Date: We have opposed committing to new and additional funding which increases the overall budget. Although we did agree to "additional" funding in the Montreal Protocol amendments, those amendments explicitly provide that such funding and funding mechanism is without prejudice to other environmental issues. We have given the environment, and in particular climate change (Congressionally-mandated),

a higher priority in our assistance programming, both bilaterally and multilaterally. The scope of resource needs and the costs and benefits of meeting possible obligations must be assessed and the adequacy of existing resources determined before increases could be considered.

Proposed Action: State should coordinate an effort with appropriate agencies to catalogue existing U.S. financial assistance related to climate change.

-- Whether, apart from a possible general obligation to promote financial assistance to developing countries to address climate change, there should be a specific funding mechanism to assist such countries in implementing the convention and presumably its protocol(s).

U.S. Position to Date: We have opposed the establishment of new mechanisms, insisting that there be assessments of whether existing institutions and mechanisms are adequate to meet needs.

Proposed Action: State should provide an assessment of existing institutions and mechanisms related to financial assistance for climate change.

3. Development and Transfer of Technology

-- Following other framework conventions, it would be usual for the convention to call upon the parties, in a general way, to promote the development and transfer of technology to assist developing countries in taking measures to address climate change.

Issues:

-- Whether the convention should call for special terms to attach to climate-related transfers of technology (e.g., preferential, non-commercial), taking into account the protection of intellectual property rights.

U.S. Position to Date: Given that private industry, rather than the U.S. government, owns environmentally-related technologies, we have traditionally not been in a legal position to ensure any special terms of transfer. Thus, we have generally endorsed a rather weak commitment to "promote" such transfers. In the ozone context, where the substitutes and technologies are fairly discrete and EPA works closely with the relevant companies, we agreed "to take every practicable step...to ensure...that the best

available, environmentally safe substitutes and related technologies are expeditiously transferred to [developing countries] and that [such] transfers occur under fair and most favorable conditions". However, our agreement was not to be taken as a precedent for other environmental areas. In this context, we would need to ensure that any such article did not preclude a subsequent emissions trading system as the means of satisfying technology transfer needs.

Proposed Action: State should draw on the expertise of EPA's International Environmental Technology Transfer Advisory Board, as well as work with DOC, USTR, and other relevant agencies, to consider whether and, if so, how we could go beyond a general commitment to promote the development and transfer of environmentally-related technologies.

Institutions

-- It has been the general practice under international environmental agreements to establish various institutional mechanisms, including a secretariat (a standard administrative body) and a Conference of the Parties (not an independent organization but simply the mechanism through which the parties act, including taking decisions).

Issues:

-- Should any of the convention's institutions, through some kind of majority vote, have the authority to bind all the parties with respect to specific response measures?

U.S. Position to Date: Such an approach would be unacceptable in that we would not want to be bound by specific response obligations without our consent.

-- Should any international institution have powers with respect to surveillance, verification, and compliance?

Proposed Action: State should work with the Task Force on Climate Approaches and other agencies, as appropriate, to consider how any of the surveillance/verification/compliance functions that might accompany the comprehensive/economic mechanisms approaches should be handled (including whether they are necessary in the convention itself).

-- Should provision be made for the establishment of scientific or other bodies, on a permanent or ad hoc basis, to advise the parties on various technical matters?

U.S. Position to Date: We have supported the existence of subsidiary bodies on topics such as science and economics.

Proposed Action: State should prepare a review and analysis of existing institutions with a view to identifying possible gaps and recommending how best to fill them. Further, State should work with the Task Force on Climate Approaches and other agencies, as appropriate, to consider what institutions would best further implementation of the comprehensive and economic mechanisms approaches.

Research, Systematic Observations and Analysis

-- It would follow general practice for the convention to include provision for cooperation in research and monitoring. We have advocated strong research and monitoring provisions in the framework convention.

Proposed Action: The Interagency Working Group on Data Management for Global Change and any other appropriate interagency group should develop proposals it considers the United States should make with respect to research and monitoring.

-- In terms of research, there appears to be consensus that each party might be called upon to undertake, initiate, and/or cooperate in, directly or through competent international bodies, the conduct of research in a variety of listed areas.

Proposed Action: We need to develop an updated list of research areas to include in the convention, perhaps in an annex (as was done in the Vienna Convention). In addition to any areas identified by the Interagency Working Group on Data Management, such a list should include areas in which further research is needed for development and implementation of the comprehensive and economic mechanisms approaches. The Task Group on Climate Approaches should develop such a list.

-- General consensus also emerged on the need for monitoring and analysis of climate and cooperation in ensuring collection, validation and transmission of research, observational data and analysis through appropriate data centers.

Issues:

-- Whether there should be provision for open and non-discriminatory access to meteorological data developed by all countries?

U.S. Position to Date: We have strongly favored such a provision and will be promoting the concept at the Second World Climate Conference.

-- Whether a specific scientific research fund should be established?

U.S. Position to Date: Although not in the context of a convention, we are supporting the Climate Studies Fund, which is based on voluntary contributions, operated under WMO auspices, and designed to address climate change scientific research.

Proposed Action: State should work with relevant agencies to consider the merits of a fund dedicated solely to climate change research.

Information Exchange and Reporting

-- It would follow general practice for the convention to include provision for exchange of information on measures that parties had adopted in implementation of the convention and its protocol(s). In addition, as in the Vienna Convention, the parties could be called upon to exchange scientific, technical, socio-economic, commercial, and legal information related to climate change.

Proposed Action: State should work with relevant agencies to determine, in general, what kinds of information should be exchanged and under what conditions. The Task Force on Climate Approaches should determine what kinds of information should be exchanged in order to both develop and implement the comprehensive and economic mechanisms approaches.

Issues:

-- Whether there is a need for the elaboration of a comprehensive international research program in order to facilitate cooperation in the exchange of scientific and other information on climate change?

Proposed Action: The Interagency Working Group on Data Management for Global Change or other appropriate interagency group should provide its view on this issue.

-- Whether each party should be obligated to develop a national inventory of emissions, as well as strategies for addressing climate change?

U.S. Position to Date: We made this proposal in the IPCC Response Strategies Working Group.

Settlement of Disputes

-- It would be customary to include a provision on the settlement of disputes, should differences arise concerning the interpretation or implementation of the convention and/or any annex/protocol.

Issues:

-- Whether resort to binding dispute settlement should be voluntary or mandatory.

U.S. Position to Date: In the environmental context, we have generally favored voluntary resort to binding dispute settlement or mandatory resort to non-binding dispute settlement.

Proposed Action: We should consider whether, in the climate change context, we should support stronger dispute settlement provisions. State should prepare an options paper.

Final Clauses (such as amendment, adoption of annexes, adoption of protocols, signature, ratification, right to vote, entry into force, reservations, withdrawal)

-- These provisions are generally non-controversial.

Annexes and Protocols

-- It would follow general practice for the framework convention to provide for the possibility of annexes and protocols.

Issues:

-- Assuming that the convention itself does not contain obligations for greenhouse gas emissions limitations, whether the convention should provide how such obligations are to be addressed in any protocol(s), e.g., that greenhouse gases, their sources and sinks, are to be dealt with individually, in groups, or comprehensively.

U.S. Position to Date: As mentioned above, the U.S. view has been that the convention should not require the development of a protocol but should provide that any protocol that is developed to control greenhouse gas emissions must address these gases comprehensively.

-- Whether specific response obligations should be negotiated simultaneously with the framework convention (either directly in the convention or in a protocol being negotiated at the same time).

U.S. Position to Date: We have taken the view that specific response obligations should be contained in a protocol that should be negotiated subsequent to the framework convention.

Other

-- A remaining issue for the United States is the extent to which the convention should address economic mechanisms, such as emissions trading.

Proposed Action: The Task Force on Climate Approaches should develop the necessary analyses to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of economic approaches. Further, State should work with the Task Force to consider options for references in the convention to economic mechanisms, e.g.:

(a) the parties could be required to evaluate alternative administrative and enforcement mechanisms that could be used in connection with various response measures;

(b) the convention could require that any protocol developed to control emissions of greenhouse gases will provide for economically efficient and effective implementation mechanisms, including a system of international emissions trading; and/or

(c) the convention could require cooperation in research in issues related to emissions trading.

Negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change
Proposed actions:

Products:

1. Development of appropriate definitions [**Task Force on Climate Approaches**]
2. Preliminary assessments of best available information on effectiveness and Economic consequences of various response strategies before negotiations begin. [DOE, EPA, CEA]
3. Develop detailed analyses of the feasibility of meeting certain proposed targets in order to demonstrate the impracticability of these proposals. [DOE, EPA, CEA]
4. Calculate the impact on radiative forcing of emissions targets implemented by only a subset of countries (e.g., OECD members) [DOE, EPA AND CEA]
5. Set out in detail how the approach will work and the advantages of a comprehensive approach prior to negotiations.
6. Evaluate the feasibility and economic consequences of emissions targets for the U.S. and other key countries. (Part of the effort will be to identify potential allies) [EPA, CEA, OMB AND DOE]
7. Determine what could be listed under a "no regrets" heading. [STATE IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES]
8. Develop options regarding to what extent (i.e., how much detail) the framework convention should "tilt" the protocol in the direction of a comprehensive approach. [STATE WORKING WITH THE TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE APPROACHES]
9. Options paper on how to handle the possibility of differentiated treatment in the framework convention. [STATE]
10. Catalogue existing U.S. financial assistance related to climate change. [STATE]
11. Assessment of existing institutions and mechanisms related to financial assistance for climate change. [STATE]
12. Develop positions regarding technology development issues. [STATE, DOE, USDA, EPA'S INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ADVISORY BOARD, DOC, USTR, AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES]

13. Consider surveillance/verification/compliance functions that might accompany comprehensive/economic mechanisms to be included in the framework convention. [STATE AND THE TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE APPROACHES]

14. Review and analysis of existing institutions, identifying gaps. [STATE, TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE APPROACHES AND OTHER AGENCIES AS APPROPRIATE]

15. Develop proposals it considers the U.S. should make with respect to research and monitoring. [INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON DATA MANAGEMENT FOR GLOBAL CHANGE]

16. Develop an updated list of research areas to include in the convention, perhaps in an annex. The list should include areas in which further research is needed to determine an appropriate response strategy toward greenhouse gases. [TASK GROUP ON CLIMATE APPROACHES]

17. Determine the kinds of scientific and economic information should be exchanged and under what conditions. [STATE WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES]

18. Identify whether there is a need for the elaboration of a comprehensive international research program in order to facilitate cooperation in the exchange of scientific, economic and other information on climate change. [INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON DATA MANAGEMENT FOR GLOBAL CHANGE]

19. Options paper discussing whether we should support stronger dispute settlement provisions. [STATE]

20. Analyses to demonstrate the advantages of economic approaches and options for references in the convention to economic mechanisms. [TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE APPROACHES]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
AND BUDGET
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY AND DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY TO
THE CABINET
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC AND
DOMESTIC POLICY

SUBJECT: Working Group on Global Change

A Working Group on Global Change will be formed under the Domestic Policy Council (DPC) to coordinate global change policy for the Administration.

The Administration is committed to developing a better understanding of the processes that influence our global climate, exploring the consequences of significant climatic changes, and developing appropriate policy responses, as necessary.

Efforts are already underway to coordinate research activity, and to develop research strategies. The global change working group will coordinate agency activities and develop policy recommendations on domestic and international global environment issues for the President.

Specifically, the working group will, among other things: (1) review the current state of scientific information on global climate change and take steps to improve it; (2) develop an economic database for response options; (3) develop U.S. positions for participation in international organizations, meetings and agreements related to climate change; (4) evaluate and make recommendations on issues (i.e. legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions), as they emerge, related to climate change; (5) explore the responsibilities of Federal agencies and departments in providing information on and developing responses

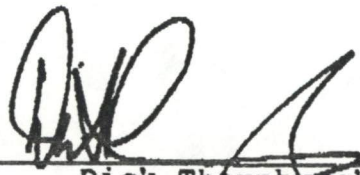
to international environmental problems; and (6) establish mechanisms to coordinate effectively agency activities to address global environmental issues.

The Assistant to the President for Science and Technology will chair the Working Group. The Working Group shall include representatives from the Departments of State, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, the Office of Management and Budget, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council of Economic Advisors, and the Council on Environmental Quality. In addition, it will include the Assistant to the President and Deputy to the Chief of Staff, the Assistant to the President for Economic and Domestic Policy, the Counsel to the President, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Cabinet Affairs.

Working group activities will be coordinated by the Executive Secretary to the Domestic Policy Council and the Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Please forward the name of your agency's representative, at the Assistant Secretary level or above, to Sara Sumner (456-6722) by the close of business on Friday, October 27, 1989.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.



Dick Thornburgh
Chairman Pro Tempore
Domestic Policy Council

