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Folder Title:
Closing Address to White House Conference on Science & Economics Research Related to Global Change 4/18/90 [OA 4729] [1]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 18, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN THE CLOSING ADDRESS
TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS RESEARCH
RELATED TO GLOBAL CHANGE

The J.W. Marriott

2:32 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, Dr. Bromley, very much. Dr. Boskin, Mr. Deland and Secretaries Watkins and Lujan of our Cabinet. Dr. Bolin, and distinguished delegates to this truly unprecedented conference.

After all of the hard work that's taken place here -- in what I know was an atmosphere of lively debate -- I would begin with thanks, and a moment of perspective: for your purpose here is profoundly important to the state of nature, and the fate of mankind. Your presence has offered hope for a new era of environmental cooperation around the world and the promise of a quieter, more thoughtful, more careful tenancy of nature's legacy to humanity.

You know, during these last two days we've listened and learned -- and I've been briefed thoroughly on some of the committee's works -- learned about Brazil's new initiatives to protect the Amazon rain forest, about Nigeria's plans to remove lead from gasoline, about Mexico's promising efforts to reduce the Mexico City air pollution.

A year ago I participated in an American education summit, and found the most productive sessions were those working groups. This conference was structured with that lesson in mind. So my thanks go to all the delegates who played such an integral role in those working groups -- particularly the foreign delegates who served as co-chairmen.

A growing sense of global stewardship prompted us to host this conference. It's a sense of stewardship shared by all of you and by the nations you represent. And it arises out of a natural sense of obligation. An understanding that we owe our existence, all that we know and are, to this miraculous sphere that sustains us. Somebody told me that the evening you had over at the museum brought this into very, very clear perspective when you heard from some of the NASA people.

Such stewardship finds expression in many ways -- from public demonstration to landmark legislation. But it is also rewarded in many ways, in moments unexpected and unforgettable. Nature's beauty has a special power -- a resonance that at once elevates the mind's eye, and yet humbles us as well.

Before nature, the works of humanity seem somehow small. We may build cathedrals, temples, mosques, monuments and mausoleums to great men and women and high ideals. And still we know we can build no monuments to compare with nature. Our greatest creations really can't equal God's smallest.

Yet as our tools and intellect advance, we've learned of our power to alter the Earth. We understand that small actions, taken together, can have profound global consequences for the

environment we share and the humanity we share it with. The importance of global stewardship can be best understood in human terms.

We also recognize that ours is an increasingly prosperous planet with greater hopes now than ever before that more of our people, in every nation, may come to know an enduring peace and an unprecedented quality of life.

So we're called upon to ensure that the Earth's integrity is preserved and that mankind's prospects for prosperity, peace, and in some regions, even survival, are not put at risk by the unintended consequences of noble intentions.

That's the reason we've held this conference.

The minds at work here are among the very best we have and they are the best insurance that our actions are sound. We've gathered talent from around the world -- scientists, economists, environmentalists, energy ministers, policymakers -- to address the environmental and developmental future of the planet. An unprecedented cross-fertilization of disciplines and of nations. That alone, I think, is reason for hope.

But if diversity of perspective is expected, unity of purpose is crucial. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, we must foster a climate of goodwill and a stubborn hope that we might forge solutions without the excessive heat of politics.

Among all the challenges in our tenancy of this planet, climate change is, of course, foremost in your minds. We're leading the search for response strategies and working through the uncertainty of both the science and the economics of climate change. But there is one area where we will allow for no uncertainty -- and that is our commitment to action -- to sound analyses and sound policies.

To those who suggest we're only trying to balance economic growth and environmental protection, I say they miss the point. We are calling for an early new way of thinking to achieve both while compromising neither. By applying the power of the marketplace in the service of the environment.

And we cannot allow a question like climate change to be characterized as a debate between economists versus environmentalists. To say that this issue has sides is about as productive as saying that the Earth is flat. It may simplify things, but it just doesn't do justice to the facts or to our future. The truth is, strong economies allow nations to fulfill the obligations of stewardship. And environmental stewardship is crucial to sustaining strong economies. If we lose sight of the forest for the trees we risk losing both.

But above all, the climate change debate is not about research versus action, for we've never considered research a substitute for action. Over the last two days, you've heard, formally and informally, that the United States is already taking action to stabilize and reduce emissions through our clean air legislation, our use of market-based incentives to control pollution, our search for alternative energy sources, our emphasis on energy efficiency, our reforestation initiatives, and our technical assistance programs to developing nations.

These policies were developed to address a broad range of environmental concerns, in particular our phaseout of CFCs, the impact of our Clean Air Act on emissions, our tree-planting initiative, and other strategies will produce reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that will reach 15 percent in 10 years -- and considerably more later on.

We're also making a leading investment in climate change research -- absolutely essential because it will tell us what to do

next. But what bears emphasis is that we are committed to domestic and international policies that are environmentally aggressive, effective, and efficient.

And we are deeply committed to an international partnership, through the IPCC process. We look forward to its interim assessment. And we would encourage a framework convention as a part of a comprehensive approach to address the system, sources, and sinks as a whole if a decision is made that environmental action is needed to reduce net emissions. We hope to provide a venue for the first negotiating sessions here in the United States.

And finally, here in conference working groups, we've offered four new ideas -- a charter for cooperation in science and economic research related to global change; possible creation of international institutes for research on the science and economics of global change; data and information transfers through a global change communications network; and a statement of principles for implementing international cooperation in scientific and economic research related to global change.

I call on you to support these suggestions. All of you here today understand climate change as one of many challenges in the call to global stewardship. Ozone depletion, water supply, ocean pollution, wetlands, deforestation, biological diversity, population change, hunger, energy demand -- in short, all the interrelated issues of the global environment. Each demands our attention. Each will have great impact.

And some we can predict, and regrettably and frankly, some can't be easily anticipated. But each has a human dimension we must never forget. Understand the choices we are making. They affect us all, but in profoundly different ways. We have many paths to choose from, and some of them are fraught with risk to precious and life-giving resources. Risk to geopolitical stability. And certainly, man-made limits to prosperity -- most painfully reflected in the hollow eyes of hungry children and their prospects for survival.

If developed nations ignore the growth needs of developing nations it will imperil us all. We know that even small changes in GNP growth rate often threaten adequate shelter, food, and health care for millions and millions of people. And to bear this in mind is no barrier to action. Those who have ascended the economic hill must break down the barriers to progress and assist others now making the climb. But this will only be possible if the nations of the world are linked in partnerships of every kind: scientific, economic, technical, agricultural, environmental.

Pollution is not, as we once believed, the inevitable by-product of progress. True global stewardship will be achieved not by seeking limits to growth, which are contrary to human nature, but by achieving environmental protection through more informed, more efficient, and cleaner growth.

Those who value environmental quality the most, should be the most ardent supporters of strategies that tap the power of free wills and free markets; strategies that turn human nature to environmental advantage. Equally, those who value economic development most highly should be the most ardent defenders of the environment, which provides the basis for a healthy economy. Efficient strategies are the only realistic hope for developing nations to save themselves from the mistakes that developed nations have already made.

And we have made mistakes. But over the past century, we've made tremendous progress in this country, especially in the last 20 years. In the United States, automotive emission controls have brought about a new generation of cars that emit only four percent as much pollution as the typical 1970 model. We've cut airborne particulates by 60 percent, carbon monoxide by about 40 percent, cut sulfur emissions, and virtually eliminated lead from the

air -- all during a period of population growth and economic expansion. And now we want to share that knowledge -- our technologies, new processes, and pollution prevention techniques -- with the developing world.

Two decades ago, America -- holding to its birthright of free expression -- was home to a movement symbolized by Earth Day. It motivated President Nixon to sign into law a national policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and the environment. And it set in motion a new sense of conscience that a few idealists hoped would change the world.

And it did. What began as an isolated American movement 20 years ago is now shared by over 130 countries on seven continents. And while many thought this experiment in environmental protection would prove impossible, that you couldn't maintain both a productive economy and a healthy environment, we've learned that economic prosperity and environmental protection go hand in hand. And we've learned that worldwide, united action is essential and possible, as the Montreal Protocol proved.

America and other nations must now extend an offered hand to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and to developing societies around the world. In some, the raging fires of forests and grasslands burned for compelling but devastating economic reasons have been visible to astronauts in space. Other nations, in the struggle to support life, have been virtually stripped of the resources that sustain life.

And in Eastern Europe, whether through the tyranny of neglect or the neglect of tyrants, pollution has been unveiled as one of the Old World's cruelest dictators; an oppressor. Not man, but man-made.

In the majestic city of Krakow, that I visited a couple of years ago, monuments to great men, statues that survived countless invasions by kings and emperors, by Hitler and by Stalin, have been defaced by pollution; their medieval majesty reduced to shapeless lumps of stone.

If mankind's greatest creations cannot equal God's smallest, some may grieve that our greatest destruction is turned at times upon ourselves.

Let us neither grieve nor quarrel, but act on what we know can help, and act in good faith. Our challenge is global stewardship. To work together to find long-term strategies that will meet the needs of the entire world, and all therein.

Our convictions, and my sincere belief, is that environmental protection and economic growth, well-managed, complement one another. And that we can serve this generation while preserving the Earth for the next and all that follow. It is an uncommon opportunity we share. And so let us seize the moment. And together, we will succeed.

Thank you for what, I believe, is a significant contribution to environmental progress in the world. Thank you for coming our way. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END 2:50 P.M. EDT

[redacted]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 4/16/90

NOTE FOR: DAVID DEMAREST

[redacted]

The President has reviewed the attached, and it is forwarded to you for your:

information ☐
action ☑

(Both speeches attached.)

Thank you.

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
(x-2702)

cc: Chriss Winston

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE:

FROM THE PRESIDENT

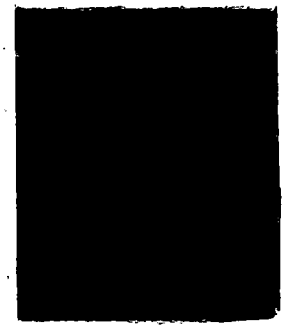
TO: Dave D

I discussed

with J-S.

I worry that

it is too rhetorical



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 13, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: DAN MCGROARTY

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE: WELCOME

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, April 17, at 10:00 a.m. you will address the first plenary session of the White House Conference on Global Change at the J.W. Marriott. About 400-450 people will be in the audience, representing the U.S. and seventeen foreign delegations, the EC and OECD.

Chairman Boskin is the moderator for the session, and Secretary Brady will speak before you. The three co-chairmen of the conference -- Chairmen Boskin and Deland and Director Bromley -- will be there. Also present will be; Governor Sununu, Secretaries Mosbacher, Lujan, Yeutter, Watkins, Administrator Reilley, Erich Bloch (Director of National Science Foundation), and John Knauss (Director of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (10 min./teleprompter) discuss the three ways this conference will help tackle global change, focusing on the issues of scientific uncertainty and understanding; the relation of science and economics, and the need to form an international partnership of knowledge and investigation on the matter.

# # #

McGroarty/Dooley
April 13, 1990
3:00 pm
[change]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: (Welcoming Remarks) WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE
J.W. MARRIOTT
APRIL 17, 1990
10:00 A.M.

Thank you. [Introductory acknowledgements.] I'm pleased to welcome this international field of distinguished high-level officials -- experts on the environment, economics, science and energy to the White House Conference on Global Change.

Two months ago, I had the honor of addressing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change -- the UN body doing such vital work on this key environmental issue. I see this conference helping to accelerate the IPCC's agenda as it searches for understanding of some very critical questions. //

This gathering is the first to focus on the obligation to broaden the global change dialogue -- the first to explore the link between scientific research and economic analysis in the study of global change. // And of course, this conference is itself another sign of the growing importance of the environment on the international agenda.

Here in the United States, we've moved one step closer to a great victory for the environment: strengthening our Clean Air statutes -- already the world's toughest -- with a comprehensive package of new Clean Air initiatives.

Ten months ago, we renewed momentum lost in legislative stalemate for 12 years. / This month, a clean air package cleared the U.S. Senate, with overwhelming support. And just two weeks ago, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce voted out its own version of a clean air bill, 42-1 -- with a full, floor vote in the House possible in early May. //

The hard work isn't over. Both Houses -- and the White House -- still have plenty to say on the shape of the final Clean Air bill. But we certainly hope that the United States will have a new Clean Air Act on the books before the year is out. //

We're moving ahead on Clean Air legislation because it is in America's interest. But, like so many of the environmental issues that concern us -- we aren't the only beneficiary of a better environment. // When it comes to the environment, we are learning that local actions can have global consequences.

Understanding the effects of our actions on our Earth system is the **first step to a sound environment** -- and the subject that led me to invite all of you here. I want to speak this morning about what we can do over the course of the next two days to advance our understanding of the critical question of global change.

This conference will help in three ways.

First, it provides an opportunity to help sort out the science on the complex issue of global change. // To start with what we know -- about the Earth, this home we share. About the factors -- natural as well as man-made -- that cause our

environment to change. // And to work from what we know toward answers to the many **uncertainties** that abound.

Perhaps it's not surprising when the subject is global change that the debate often generates more **heat** than **light**. // One thing we do know is that we can't afford to bury our heads in the sand. // What we need are **facts**: the stuff science is made of. A better understanding of the **basic processes** and their relationships as they work in our environment. **Better earth system models** -- that enable us to calculate the complex interaction between **man** and our **environment**.

That's why I've asked Congress to approve a 60% increase in our budget for the Global Change Research Program -- an aggressive research program for which we've budgeted **more than $1 billion dollars in 1991** -- to **reduce the uncertainties** surrounding global change, and move us closer to the **scientific understanding we need**, if we are to make decisions to maximize benefits -- and minimize unintended consequences. //

The second way this gathering can advance our understanding is to address the economic factor in environmental questions. We know that cleaning up our environment costs money. We know it means changes in the way we work and live. Here in the U.S., we're already making those changes -- moving forward on clean air. Planting trees -- through our America the Beautiful initiative -- and working with other nations to find ways to halt deforestation. Phasing-out the use of CFCs. Encouraging conservation and exploring alternative sources of fuel and

what we are doing

energy, and market-based incentives for pollution control. We're proud of all we've done -- but we know we're far from finished.

And yet as we move forward, all of us must make certain we preserve our **environmental well-being and our economic welfare.** We know that these are not separate concerns. They are **two sides of the same coin.** Recognizing this fact is in the interest of every nation here today -- in the interests of the **developed** world and the **developing** world alike.

Let me focus for a moment on the developing world. In a climate of poverty, or persistent economic struggle, protecting the environment becomes a far more difficult challenge. Cold statistics don't begin to capture the harsh realities at stake. **Development doesn't mean just another point of GNP -- it's measured in human lives. An end to hunger. Longer life expectancy. Lower infant mortality. // Not just quality of life -- but life itself. Environmental policies that ignore the economic factor -- the human factor -- are destined to fail.**

But there is another reason to consider the economic factor when the issue is the environment. Economic policies that ignore the environment will undermine the very basis for both **life** and **growth.** There is no better ally in service of our environment than strong economies. Economies that make possible the increased efficiencies that enable us to make environmental gains. Economies that generate the new technologies that help us arrest and reverse the damage we have done to our environment. Whatever the technology -- whether it's CFC substitutes, new

refrigerants, reformulated gasoline -- each new venture provides economic opportunities as well as environmental benefits. // We need economies that allow us to make vital investments in our common future. //

That brings me to the third way this conference contributes to a net gain in knowledge: the fact that it provides us the opportunity to form a partnership -- between nations, and across the many disciplines represented here.

No subject is so vast as the field of global change. Few subjects offer a greater challenge to the understanding of man. And yet, too often, the different disciplines focusing on this question have worked in isolation -- with little interchange of ideas, analysis, information.

This conference is a new departure -- a logical next step in the study of global change -- because it brings together, for the first time at a high level and in a working format, environmentalists and economists, experts from the fields of energy and science -- to search for common ground. To provide an opportunity to share the expertise each discipline can bring to this difficult and demanding concern.

And this new partnership must bind nations as well. The fact of the matter is, no one nation -- acting alone -- can safeguard our Earth environment. Success requires a sense of global stewardship -- an understanding that it is the Earth that endures -- and that all of us are no more than tenants, in temporary possession of a sacred trust. //

For the next two days, you'll be grappling with questions of global stewardship -- questions of global consequence. I thank all of you for joining us here -- for seeking to advance our current state of understanding on an issue with such profound affect on every nation and every individual for generations to come. // God bless you all.

# # #

need to update to include some of Conference debate - etc. etc

(Lange/Cawley)
April 13, 1990
7:30 P.M.
[GLOBAL.DOC]

1990 APR 13 PM 9:05

(Main Speech at Conference Close)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE
J. W. Marriott, Grand Ballroom
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990
2:30 P.M.

[Acknowledgements...]

After all of the work that has taken place here -- in what I know was an atmosphere of lively debate -- I would begin with thanks, and a moment of perspective: for your purpose here is profoundly important to the state of nature, and the fate of mankind.

Your presence offers hope for a new era of environmental cooperation around the world -- and the promise of a quieter, more thoughtful, more careful tenancy of nature's legacy to humanity.

A growing sense of global stewardship prompted us to host this conference. It is a sense of stewardship shared by all of you, and by the nations you represent. And it arises out of a natural sense of obligation. An understanding that we owe our existence, all that we know and are, to this miraculous sphere that sustains us.

Such stewardship finds expression in many ways -- from public demonstration to landmark legislation. But it is also rewarded in many ways, in moments unexpected and unforgettable. To feel the cold rush of water falling from an ancient glacier, to see the glint of light in a leopard's eye, to stand in silent witness to the timeless beauty of a heron's flight: Such moments

a little more for me

are among the most precious mankind might know on this abundant earth.

Such moments also have a special power -- a resonance that at once elevates the mind's eye, and yet humbles us as well. Before such beauty, the works of humanity seem somehow small. We may build cathedrals, temples and mosques; monuments and mausoleums to great men and women, and high ideals. And still we know we can build no monuments to compare with nature. Our greatest creations cannot equal God's smallest.

Yet as our tools and intellect advance, we've learned of our power to alter the earth. We understand that small actions, taken together, can have profound global consequences for the environment we share, and the humanity we share it with. The importance of global stewardship can be best understood in human terms.

That is the reason we have held this conference.

We also recognize that ours is an increasingly prosperous planet -- with greater hopes now than ever before that more of our people may come to know an enduring peace, and an unprecedented quality of life.

So we are called upon to ensure that the earth's integrity is preserved -- and that mankind's prospects for prosperity, peace, and in some regions, even survival, are not put at risk by the unintended consequences of noble intentions.

The minds at work here are among the very best we have -- and they are the best insurance that our actions are sound. We

have gathered talent from around the world -- scientists, economists, environmentalists, energy ministers, policy-makers -- to assess the environmental and developmental future of the planet. An unprecedented cross-fertilization of disciplines -- and of nations. That alone is reason for hope.

But if diversity of perspective is expected, unity of purpose is crucial. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, we must foster a climate of good will -- and a stubborn hope -- that we might forge solutions without the excessive heat of politics.

Among all the challenges in our tenancy of the planet, climate change is, of course, foremost in your minds. We are working through the uncertainty of both the science and the economics of climate change. But there is one area where we will allow for no uncertainty -- and that is our commitment to sound analyses and sound policies.

There are several things that the climate change debate is not about. It is not "Jobs versus Environment" -- the two are inseparably interdependent, as the common global experience of so many nations has shown. We must clearly understand that a clean and wholesome environment is not possible without a strong economy -- just as a strong economy depends on a clean and wholesome environment. If we lose sight of the forest for the trees, we risk losing both.

Nor is the climate change debate about "Economists versus Environmentalists." Only in the most primitive minds has that

debate has been reduced to a rhetorical holy-war between bean-counters and tree-huggers.

But above all, the climate change debate is not about "Research versus Action" -- for we have never considered research a substitute for action. In fact, we are already moving in areas where research has led to action.

Over the last two days you've heard, formally and informally, that the United States is already moving forward. You've heard about our leading investment in climate change research, our action to stabilize and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, our Clean Air legislation, our use of market-based incentives to control pollution, our search for alternative and more efficient energy sources, our re-forestation initiatives, and our technical assistance programs to developing nations.

What bears emphasis is that we are committed to domestic and international policies that are environmentally aggressive, effective, and efficient.

And we are deeply committed to an international partnership, through the I.P.C.C. process. We look forward to its Interim Assessment. And we would encourage a framework convention as part of a comprehensive approach to address the system, sources, and sinks as a whole -- if a decision is made that international action is needed to reduce net emissions. We hope to host the first negotiating sessions here in the U.S. -- and [[Insert on specific proposals made at the conference, from O.S.T.P.]].

All of you here today understand climate change as one

of many challenges in the call to global stewardship. Ozone depletion, water supply, ocean pollution, wetlands, deforestation, biological diversity, population change, hunger, energy demand -- in short, all the interrelated issues of the global environment. Each demands our attention. Each will have great impact. Some we can predict and regrettably, some can't be easily anticipated. And each has a human dimension we must never forget.

Understand the choices we are making. They affect us all, but in profoundly different ways.

In too many developing countries, the consequences of uninformed policy-making will be reflected in damage to precious and life-giving resources. Perhaps, in political instability -- certainly in man-made limits to prosperity. And it will be most painfully reflected in the hollow eyes of hungry children, and their prospects for survival.

If developed nations ignore the growth needs of developing nations, it will imperil us all. We know that even small changes in G.N.P. growth rate often threaten adequate shelter, food, and health care -- for millions and millions of people.

To bear this in mind is no barrier to action. It merely suggests that those who have ascended the economic hill must think twice before preventing others from making the climb. They must extend a helping hand. This is only possible if the nations of the world are linked in partnerships of every kind: scientific, economic, technical, agricultural, environmental.

Developing nations will contribute a growing share of the world's emissions in the coming decades. They face the greatest threats from environmental degradation of every kind -- and can least afford the consequences.

But pollution is not, as we once believed, the inevitable by-product of progress. The developed nations of the world will better serve their own interests, and those of the world community, not by seeking limits to growth -- which are contrary to human nature -- but by achieving environmental protection through more informed, more efficient, and cleaner growth.

Those who value environmental quality most highly, should be the most ardent supporters of strategies that tap the power of free wills and free markets -- that turn human nature to environmental advantage.

In the same way, those who value economic development most highly should be the most ardent defenders of the environment, which provides the basis for a healthy economy. Efficient strategies are the only realistic hope for developing nations to avoid making the mistakes that developed nations have made.

And we have made some mistakes. When America made its transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy, there was an impact. What we learned, we learned the hard way. Over the past century we've made tremendous progress -- especially in the last twenty years. We want to share that knowledge -- our technologies, new processes, and pollution prevention techniques -- with the developing world.

Two decades ago, this nation -- holding to its birth-right of free expression -- was home to a movement symbolized by Earth Day. It motivated President Nixon to sign into law "a national policy [to] encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment." And it set in motion a new sense of conscience that a few idealists hoped would change the world.

It did. What began as an isolated American movement twenty years ago is now shared by over 130 countries on seven continents. And while many thought our experiment in environmental protection would prove impossible -- that you couldn't maintain both a productive economy and healthy ecology -- we've learned that economic prosperity and environmental protection go hand in hand.

And we understand no nation can act effectively alone. Unilateral action is futile. But united action? Essential -- and possible, as the Montreal Protocol proved.

Around the world, America and other nations now extend an offered hand to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and to developing societies around the world.

In this hemisphere and in Africa, the raging fires of forests and grasslands burned for compelling but ultimately tragic economic reasons have been visible to astronauts in space. Other nations, in the struggle to support life, have been virtually stripped of the resources that sustain life.

And whether through the tyranny of neglect, or the neglect of tyrants, pollution has been unveiled as one of Eastern Europe's cruelest dictators. An oppressor. Not man -- but man-made.

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Our conviction, and my sincere belief, is that environmental protection and economic growth, well-managed, complement one another -- and that we can serve this generation, while preserving the earth for the next -- and all that follow.

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# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 18, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
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TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS RESEARCH
RELATED TO GLOBAL CHANGE

The J.W. Marriott

2:32 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, Dr. Bromley, very much. Dr. Boskin, Mr. Deland and Secretaries Watkins and Lujan of our Cabinet. Dr. Bolin, and distinguished delegates to this truly unprecedented conference.

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You know, during these last two days we've listened and learned -- and I've been briefed thoroughly on some of the committee's works -- learned about Brazil's new initiatives to protect the Amazon rain forest, about Nigeria's plans to remove lead from gasoline, about Mexico's promising efforts to reduce the Mexico City air pollution.

A year ago I participated in an American education summit, and found the most productive sessions were those working groups. This conference was structured with that lesson in mind. So my thanks go to all the delegates who played such an integral role in those working groups -- particularly the foreign delegates who served as co-chairmen.

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Yet as our tools and intellect advance, we've learned of our power to alter the Earth. We understand that small actions, taken together, can have profound global consequences for the

environment we share and the humanity we share it with. The importance of global stewardship can be best understood in human terms.

We also recognize that ours is an increasingly prosperous planet with greater hopes now than ever before that more of our people, in every nation, may come to know an enduring peace and an unprecedented quality of life.

So we're called upon to ensure that the Earth's integrity is preserved and that mankind's prospects for prosperity, peace, and in some regions, even survival, are not put at risk by the unintended consequences of noble intentions.

That's the reason we've held this conference.

The minds at work here are among the very best we have and they are the best insurance that our actions are sound. We've gathered talent from around the world -- scientists, economists, environmentalists, energy ministers, policymakers -- to address the environmental and developmental future of the planet. An unprecedented cross-fertilization of disciplines and of nations. That alone, I think, is reason for hope.

But if diversity of perspective is expected, unity of purpose is crucial. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, we must foster a climate of goodwill and a stubborn hope that we might forge solutions without the excessive heat of politics.

Among all the challenges in our tenancy of this planet, climate change is, of course, foremost in your minds. We're leading the search for response strategies and working through the uncertainty of both the science and the economics of climate change. But there is one area where we will allow for no uncertainty -- and that is our commitment to action -- to sound analyses and sound policies.

To those who suggest we're only trying to balance economic growth and environmental protection, I say they miss the point. We are calling for an early new way of thinking to achieve both while compromising neither. By applying the power of the marketplace in the service of the environment.

And we cannot allow a question like climate change to be characterized as a debate between economists versus environmentalists. To say that this issue has sides is about as productive as saying that the Earth is flat. It may simplify things, but it just doesn't do justice to the facts or to our future. The truth is, strong economies allow nations to fulfill the obligations of stewardship. And environmental stewardship is crucial to sustaining strong economies. If we lose sight of the forest for the trees we risk losing both.

But above all, the climate change debate is not about research versus action, for we've never considered research a substitute for action. Over the last two days, you've heard, formally and informally, that the United States is already taking action to stabilize and reduce emissions through our clean air legislation, our use of market-based incentives to control pollution, our search for alternative energy sources, our emphasis on energy efficiency, our reforestation initiatives, and our technical assistance programs to developing nations.

These policies were developed to address a broad range of environmental concerns, in particular our phaseout of CFCs, the impact of our Clean Air Act on emissions, our tree-planting initiative, and other strategies will produce reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that will reach 15 percent in 10 years -- and considerably more later on.

We're also making a leading investment in climate change research -- absolutely essential because it will tell us what to do

next. But what bears emphasis is that we are committed to domestic and international policies that are environmentally aggressive, effective, and efficient.

And we are deeply committed to an international partnership, through the IPCC process. We look forward to its interim assessment. And we would encourage a framework convention as a part of a comprehensive approach to address the system, sources, and sinks as a whole if a decision is made that environmental action is needed to reduce net emissions. We hope to provide a venue for the first negotiating sessions here in the United States.

And finally, here in conference working groups, we've offered four new ideas -- a charter for cooperation in science and economic research related to global change; possible creation of international institutes for research on the science and economics of global change; data and information transfers through a global change communications network; and a statement of principles for implementing international cooperation in scientific and economic research related to global change.

I call on you to support these suggestions. All of you here today understand climate change as one of many challenges in the call to global stewardship. Ozone depletion, water supply, ocean pollution, wetlands, deforestation, biological diversity, population change, hunger, energy demand -- in short, all the interrelated issues of the global environment. Each demands our attention. Each will have great impact.

And some we can predict, and regrettably and frankly, some can't be easily anticipated. But each has a human dimension we must never forget. Understand the choices we are making. They affect us all, but in profoundly different ways. We have many paths to choose from, and some of them are fraught with risk to precious and life-giving resources. Risk to geopolitical stability. And certainly, man-made limits to prosperity -- most painfully reflected in the hollow eyes of hungry children and their prospects for survival.

If developed nations ignore the growth needs of developing nations it will imperil us all. We know that even small changes in GNP growth rate often threaten adequate shelter, food, and health care for millions and millions of people. And to bear this in mind is no barrier to action. Those who have ascended the economic hill must break down the barriers to progress and assist others now making the climb. But this will only be possible if the nations of the world are linked in partnerships of every kind: scientific, economic, technical, agricultural, environmental.

Pollution is not, as we once believed, the inevitable by-product of progress. True global stewardship will be achieved not by seeking limits to growth, which are contrary to human nature, but by achieving environmental protection through more informed, more efficient, and cleaner growth.

Those who value environmental quality the most, should be the most ardent supporters of strategies that tap the power of free wills and free markets; strategies that turn human nature to environmental advantage. Equally, those who value economic development most highly should be the most ardent defenders of the environment, which provides the basis for a healthy economy. Efficient strategies are the only realistic hope for developing nations to save themselves from the mistakes that developed nations have already made.

And we have made mistakes. But over the past century, we've made tremendous progress in this country, especially in the last 20 years. In the United States, automotive emission controls have brought about a new generation of cars that emit only four percent as much pollution as the typical 1970 model. We've cut airborne particulates by 60 percent, carbon monoxide by about 40 percent, cut sulfur emissions, and virtually eliminated lead from the

air -- all during a period of population growth and economic expansion. And now we want to share that knowledge -- our technologies, new processes, and pollution prevention techniques -- with the developing world.

Two decades ago, America -- holding to its birthright of free expression -- was home to a movement symbolized by Earth Day. It motivated President Nixon to sign into law a national policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and the environment. And it set in motion a new sense of conscience that a few idealists hoped would change the world.

And it did. What began as an isolated American movement 20 years ago is now shared by over 130 countries on seven continents. And while many thought this experiment in environmental protection would prove impossible, that you couldn't maintain both a productive economy and a healthy environment, we've learned that economic prosperity and environmental protection go hand in hand. And we've learned that worldwide, united action is essential and possible, as the Montreal Protocol proved.

America and other nations must now extend an offered hand to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and to developing societies around the world. In some, the raging fires of forests and grasslands burned for compelling but devastating economic reasons have been visible to astronauts in space. Other nations, in the struggle to support life, have been virtually stripped of the resources that sustain life.

And in Eastern Europe, whether through the tyranny of neglect or the neglect of tyrants, pollution has been unveiled as one of the Old World's cruelest dictators; an oppressor. Not man, but man-made.

In the majestic city of Krakow, that I visited a couple of years ago, monuments to great men, statues that survived countless invasions by kings and emperors, by Hitler and by Stalin, have been defaced by pollution; their medieval majesty reduced to shapeless lumps of stone.

If mankind's greatest creations cannot equal God's smallest, some may grieve that our greatest destruction is turned at times upon ourselves.

Let us neither grieve nor quarrel, but act on what we know can help, and act in good faith. Our challenge is global stewardship. To work together to find long-term strategies that will meet the needs of the entire world, and all therein.

Our convictions, and my sincere belief, is that environmental protection and economic growth, well-managed, complement one another. And that we can serve this generation while preserving the Earth for the next and all that follow. It is an uncommon opportunity we share. And so let us seize the moment. And together, we will succeed.

Thank you for what, I believe, is a significant contribution to environmental progress in the world. Thank you for coming our way. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END 2:50 P.M. EDT

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE
CLOSING ADDRESS
J. W. MARRIOTT, GRAND BALLROOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990
2:30 P.M.

DR. BROMLEY, DR. BOSKIN, MR. DELAND. SECRETARIES WATKINS AND LUJAN. DR. BOLIN [BO-LEEN], AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES TO THIS UNPRECEDENTED CONFERENCE:

AFTER ALL OF THE HARD WORK THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE HERE -- IN WHAT I KNOW WAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF LIVELY DEBATE -- I WOULD BEGIN WITH THANKS, AND A MOMENT OF PERSPECTIVE: FOR YOUR PURPOSE HERE IS PROFOUNDLY IMPORTANT TO THE STATE OF NATURE, AND THE FATE OF MANKIND.

YOUR PRESENCE OFFERS HOPE FOR A NEW ERA OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION AROUND THE WORLD -- AND THE PROMISE OF A QUIETER, MORE THOUGHTFUL, MORE CAREFUL TENANCY OF NATURE'S LEGACY TO HUMANITY.

DURING THESE LAST TWO DAYS WE HAVE LISTENED AND LEARNED -- LEARNED ABOUT BRAZIL'S NEW INITIATIVES TO PROTECT THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST, ABOUT NIGERIA'S PLANS TO REMOVE LEAD FROM GASOLINE, ABOUT MEXICO'S PROMISING EFFORTS TO REDUCE MEXICO CITY'S AIR POLLUTION.

A YEAR AGO I PARTICIPATED IN AN AMERICAN EDUCATION SUMMIT, AND FOUND THE MOST PRODUCTIVE SESSIONS WERE THE WORKING GROUPS. THIS CONFERENCE WAS STRUCTURED WITH THAT LESSON IN MIND. OUR THANKS GO TO ALL THE DELEGATES WHO PLAYED SUCH AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN THOSE WORKING GROUPS -- PARTICULARLY THE FOREIGN DELEGATES WHO SERVED AS CO-CHAIRMEN.

A GROWING SENSE OF GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP PROMPTED US TO HOST THIS CONFERENCE. IT IS A SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP SHARED BY ALL OF YOU, AND BY THE NATIONS YOU REPRESENT. AND IT ARISES OUT OF A NATURAL SENSE OF OBLIGATION. AN UNDERSTANDING THAT WE OWE OUR EXISTENCE, ALL THAT WE KNOW AND ARE, TO THIS MIRACULOUS SPHERE THAT SUSTAINS US.

SUCH STEWARDSHIP FINDS EXPRESSION IN MANY WAYS -- FROM PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION TO LANDMARK LEGISLATION. BUT IT IS ALSO REWARDED IN MANY WAYS, IN MOMENTS UNEXPECTED AND UNFORGETTABLE. NATURE'S BEAUTY HAS A SPECIAL POWER -- A RESONANCE THAT AT ONCE ELEVATES THE MIND'S EYE, AND YET HUMBLES US AS WELL.

BEFORE NATURE, THE WORKS OF HUMANITY SEEM SOMEHOW SMALL. WE MAY BUILD CATHEDRALS, TEMPLES AND MOSQUES; MONUMENTS AND MAUSOLEUMS TO GREAT MEN AND WOMEN, AND HIGH IDEALS. AND STILL WE KNOW WE CAN BUILD NO MONUMENTS TO COMPARE WITH NATURE. OUR GREATEST CREATIONS CANNOT EQUAL GOD'S SMALLEST.

YET AS OUR TOOLS AND INTELLECT ADVANCE, WE'VE LEARNED OF OUR POWER TO ALTER THE EARTH. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SMALL ACTIONS, TAKEN TOGETHER, CAN HAVE PROFOUND GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT WE SHARE, AND THE HUMANITY WE SHARE IT WITH. THE IMPORTANCE OF GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP CAN BE BEST UNDERSTOOD IN HUMAN TERMS.

WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT OURS IS AN INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS PLANET -- WITH GREATER HOPES NOW THAN EVER BEFORE THAT MORE OF OUR PEOPLE, IN <u>EVERY</u> NATION, MAY COME TO KNOW AN ENDURING PEACE AND AN UNPRECEDENTED QUALITY OF LIFE.

SO WE ARE CALLED UPON TO ENSURE THAT THE EARTH'S INTEGRITY IS PRESERVED -- AND THAT MANKIND'S PROSPECTS FOR PROSPERITY, PEACE, AND IN SOME REGIONS, EVEN SURVIVAL, ARE NOT PUT AT RISK BY THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF NOBLE INTENTIONS.

THAT IS THE REASON WE HAVE HELD THIS CONFERENCE.

THE MINDS AT WORK HERE ARE AMONG THE VERY BEST WE HAVE -- AND THEY ARE THE BEST INSURANCE THAT OUR ACTIONS ARE SOUND. WE HAVE GATHERED TALENT FROM AROUND THE WORLD -- SCIENTISTS, ECONOMISTS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, ENERGY MINISTERS, POLICY-MAKERS -- TO ASSESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL FUTURE OF THE PLANET. AN UNPRECEDENTED CROSS-FERTILIZATION OF DISCIPLINES -- AND OF NATIONS. THAT ALONE IS REASON FOR HOPE.

BUT IF DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVE IS EXPECTED, UNITY OF PURPOSE IS CRUCIAL. IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY, WE MUST FOSTER A CLIMATE OF GOOD WILL -- AND A STUBBORN HOPE -- THAT WE MIGHT FORGE SOLUTIONS WITHOUT THE EXCESSIVE HEAT OF POLITICS.

AMONG ALL THE CHALLENGES IN OUR TENANCY OF THE PLANET, CLIMATE CHANGE IS, OF COURSE, FOREMOST IN YOUR MINDS. WE ARE LEADING THE SEARCH FOR RESPONSE STRATEGIES, AND WORKING THROUGH THE UNCERTAINTY OF BOTH THE SCIENCE AND THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. BUT THERE IS ONE AREA WHERE WE WILL ALLOW FOR NO UNCERTAINTY -- AND THAT IS OUR COMMITMENT TO ACTION -- TO SOUND ANALYSES AND SOUND POLICIES.

TO THOSE WHO SUGGEST WE'RE ONLY TRYING TO BALANCE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, I SAY THEY MISS THE POINT. WE ARE CALLING FOR AN ENTIRELY NEW WAY OF THINKING, TO ACHIEVE BOTH WHILE COMPROMISING NEITHER, BY APPLYING THE POWER OF THE MARKETPLACE IN THE SERVICE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE CANNOT ALLOW A QUESTION LIKE CLIMATE CHANGE TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS A DEBATE BETWEEN "ECONOMISTS VERSUS ENVIRONMENTALISTS." TO SAY THAT THIS ISSUE HAS "SIDES" IS ABOUT AS PRODUCTIVE AS SAYING THAT THE EARTH IS FLAT. IT MAY SIMPLIFY THINGS, BUT IT DOESN'T DO JUSTICE TO THE FACTS, OR OUR FUTURE.

THE TRUTH IS, STRONG ECONOMIES ALLOW NATIONS TO FULFILL THE OBLIGATIONS OF STEWARDSHIP -- AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IS CRUCIAL TO SUSTAINING STRONG ECONOMIES. IF WE LOSE SIGHT OF THE FOREST FOR THE TREES, WE RISK LOSING BOTH.

BUT ABOVE ALL, THE CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE IS NOT ABOUT "RESEARCH VERSUS ACTION" -- FOR WE HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED RESEARCH A SUBSTITUTE FOR ACTION.

OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS YOU'VE HEARD, FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY, THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ALREADY TAKING ACTION TO STABILIZE AND REDUCE EMISSIONS -- THROUGH OUR CLEAN AIR LEGISLATION, OUR USE OF MARKET-BASED INCENTIVES TO CONTROL POLLUTION, OUR SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES, OUR EMPHASIS ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY, OUR REFORESTATION INITIATIVES, AND OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO DEVELOPING NATIONS.

THESE POLICIES WERE DEVELOPED TO ADDRESS A BROAD RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. IN PARTICULAR, OUR PHASE-OUT OF CFCS, THE IMPACT OF OUR CLEAN AIR ACT ON EMISSIONS, OUR TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVE AND OTHER STRATEGIES WILL PRODUCE REDUCTIONS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THAT WILL REACH 15 PERCENT IN TEN YEARS -- AND CONSIDERABLY MORE LATER ON.

WE ARE ALSO MAKING A LEADING INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH -- ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL, BECAUSE IT WILL TELL US WHAT TO DO NEXT. BUT WHAT BEARS EMPHASIS IS THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES THAT ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY AGGRESSIVE, EFFECTIVE, AND EFFICIENT.

AND WE ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP, THROUGH THE I.P.C.C. PROCESS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ITS INTERIM ASSESSMENT. AND WE WOULD ENCOURAGE A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESS THE SYSTEM, SOURCES, AND SINKS AS A WHOLE, IF A DECISION IS MADE THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION IS NEEDED TO REDUCE NET EMISSIONS. WE HOPE TO PROVIDE A VENUE FOR THE FIRST NEGOTIATING SESSIONS HERE IN THE U.S.

FINALLY, HERE IN CONFERENCE WORKING GROUPS, WE'VE OFFERED FOUR NEW IDEAS: A "CHARTER FOR COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS RESEARCH RELATED TO GLOBAL CHANGE" ; POSSIBLE CREATION OF "INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH ON THE SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS OF GLOBAL CHANGE" ; DATA AND INFORMATION TRANSFER THROUGH A "GLOBAL CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK" ; AND A "STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES" FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH RELATED TO GLOBAL CHANGE. I CALL ON YOU TO SUPPORT THESE SUGGESTIONS.

ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY UNDERSTAND CLIMATE CHANGE AS ONE OF MANY CHALLENGES IN THE CALL TO GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP. OZONE DEPLETION, WATER SUPPLY, OCEAN POLLUTION, WETLANDS, DEFORESTATION, BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, POPULATION CHANGE, HUNGER, ENERGY DEMAND -- IN SHORT, ALL THE INTERRELATED ISSUES OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. EACH DEMANDS OUR ATTENTION. EACH WILL HAVE GREAT IMPACT.

SOME WE CAN PREDICT -- AND REGRETTABLY, SOME CAN'T BE EASILY ANTICIPATED. BUT EACH HAS A HUMAN DIMENSION WE MUST NEVER FORGET. UNDERSTAND THE CHOICES WE ARE MAKING. THEY AFFECT US ALL, BUT IN PROFOUNDLY DIFFERENT WAYS.

WE HAVE MANY PATHS TO CHOOSE FROM. SOME OF THEM ARE FRAUGHT WITH RISK TO PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING RESOURCES. RISK TO GEOPOLITICAL STABILITY. AND CERTAINLY, MAN-MADE LIMITS TO PROSPERITY -- MOST PAINFULLY REFLECTED IN THE HOLLOW EYES OF HUNGRY CHILDREN AND THEIR PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL.

IF DEVELOPED NATIONS IGNORE THE GROWTH NEEDS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS, IT WILL IMPERIL US ALL. WE KNOW THAT EVEN SMALL CHANGES IN G.N.P. GROWTH RATE OFTEN THREATEN ADEQUATE SHELTER, FOOD, AND HEALTH CARE -- FOR MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

TO BEAR THIS IN MIND IS NO BARRIER TO ACTION. THOSE WHO HAVE ASCENDED THE ECONOMIC HILL MUST BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS TO PROGRESS, AND ASSIST OTHERS NOW MAKING THE CLIMB. BUT THIS WILL ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE LINKED IN PARTNERSHIPS OF EVERY KIND: SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL.

POLLUTION IS NOT, AS WE ONCE BELIEVED, THE INEVITABLE BY-PRODUCT OF PROGRESS. TRUE GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP WILL BE ACHIEVED NOT BY SEEKING LIMITS TO GROWTH -- WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO HUMAN NATURE -- BUT BY ACHIEVING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION THROUGH MORE INFORMED, MORE EFFICIENT, AND CLEANER GROWTH.

THOSE WHO VALUE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MOST HIGHLY SHOULD BE THE MOST ARDENT SUPPORTERS OF STRATEGIES THAT TAP THE POWER OF FREE WILLS AND FREE MARKETS -- STRATEGIES THAT TURN HUMAN NATURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ADVANTAGE. EQUALLY, THOSE WHO VALUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MOST HIGHLY SHOULD BE THE MOST ARDENT DEFENDERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WHICH PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR A HEALTHY ECONOMY. EFFICIENT STRATEGIES ARE THE ONLY REALISTIC HOPE FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM THE MISTAKES THAT DEVELOPED NATIONS HAVE MADE.

AND WE HAVE MADE MISTAKES -- BUT OVER THE PAST CENTURY WE'VE MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN THIS COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS. IN THE U.S., AUTOMOTIVE EMISSION CONTROLS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT A NEW GENERATION OF CARS THAT EMIT ONLY FOUR PERCENT AS MUCH POLLUTION AS THE TYPICAL 1970 MODEL. WE'VE CUT AIRBORNE PARTICULATES BY 60 PERCENT, CARBON MONOXIDE BY ABOUT 40 PERCENT, CUT SULFUR EMISSIONS, AND VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED LEAD FROM THE AIR -- ALL DURING A PERIOD OF POPULATION GROWTH AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION. NOW WE WANT TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE -- OUR TECHNOLOGIES, NEW PROCESSES, AND POLLUTION PREVENTION TECHNIQUES -- WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

TWO DECADES AGO, AMERICA -- HOLDING TO ITS BIRTH-RIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION -- WAS HOME TO A MOVEMENT SYMBOLIZED BY EARTH DAY. IT MOTIVATED PRESIDENT NIXON TO SIGN INTO LAW "A NATIONAL POLICY [TO] ENCOURAGE PRODUCTIVE AND ENJOYABLE HARMONY BETWEEN MAN AND HIS ENVIRONMENT." AND IT SET IN MOTION A NEW SENSE OF CONSCIENCE THAT A FEW IDEALISTS HOPED WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD.

IT DID. WHAT BEGAN AS AN ISOLATED AMERICAN MOVEMENT TWENTY YEARS AGO IS NOW SHARED BY OVER 130 COUNTRIES ON SEVEN CONTINENTS. AND WHILE MANY THOUGHT THIS EXPERIMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WOULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE -- THAT YOU COULDN'T MAINTAIN BOTH A PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT -- WE'VE LEARNED THAT ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GO HAND IN HAND. AND WE'VE LEARNED THAT WORLDWIDE, UNITED ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- AND POSSIBLE, AS THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL PROVED.

AMERICA AND OTHER NATIONS MUST NOW EXTEND AN OFFERED HAND TO EMERGING DEMOCRACIES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND TO DEVELOPING SOCIETIES AROUND THE WORLD. IN SOME, THE RAGING FIRES OF FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS BURNED FOR COMPELLING BUT DEVASTATING ECONOMIC REASONS HAVE BEEN VISIBLE TO ASTRONAUTS IN SPACE. OTHER NATIONS, IN THE STRUGGLE TO SUPPORT LIFE, HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY STRIPPED OF THE RESOURCES THAT SUSTAIN LIFE.

AND IN EASTERN EUROPE, WHETHER THROUGH THE TYRANNY OF NEGLECT, OR THE NEGLECT OF TYRANTS, POLLUTION HAS BEEN UNVEILED AS ONE OF THE OLD WORLD'S CRUELEST DICTATORS. AN OPPRESSOR. NOT MAN -- BUT MAN-MADE.

IN THE MAJESTIC CITY OF KRAKOW, MONUMENTS TO GREAT MEN, STATUES THAT SURVIVED COUNTLESS INVASIONS BY KINGS AND EMPERORS, BY HITLER AND BY STALIN, HAVE BEEN DEFACED BY POLLUTION -- THEIR MEDIEVAL MAJESTY REDUCED TO SHAPELESS LUMPS OF STONE.

IF MANKIND'S GREATEST CREATIONS CANNOT EQUAL GOD'S SMALLEST, SOME MAY GRIEVE THAT OUR GREATEST DESTRUCTION IS TURNED AT TIMES UPON OURSELVES.

LET US NEITHER GRIEVE NOR QUARREL, BUT ACT ON WHAT WE KNOW CAN HELP -- AND ACT IN GOOD FAITH. OUR CHALLENGE IS GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP. TO WORK TOGETHER TO FIND LONG-TERM STRATEGIES THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD, AND ALL THEREIN.

OUR CONVICTION, AND MY SINCERE BELIEF, IS THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, WELL-MANAGED, COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER -- AND THAT WE CAN SERVE THIS GENERATION, WHILE PRESERVING THE EARTH FOR THE NEXT -- AND ALL THAT FOLLOW.

IT IS AN UNCOMMON OPPORTUNITY WE SHARE. SO LET US SEIZE THE MOMENT. TOGETHER, WE WILL SUCCEED.

# # #

(Lange/Cawley)
April 18, 1990
11:50 A.M.
[GLOBAL.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE
CLOSING ADDRESS
J. W. MARRIOTT, GRAND BALLROOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990
2:30 P.M.

Dr. Bromley, Dr. Boskin, Mr. Deland. Secretaries Watkins and Lujan. Dr. Bolin [bo-LEEN], and distinguished delegates to this unprecedented conference:

After all of the hard work that has taken place here -- in what I know was an atmosphere of lively debate -- I would begin with thanks, and a moment of perspective: for your purpose here is profoundly important to the state of nature, and the fate of mankind.

Your presence offers hope for a new era of environmental cooperation around the world -- and the promise of a quieter, more thoughtful, more careful tenancy of nature's legacy to humanity.

During these last two days we have listened and learned -- learned about Brazil's new initiatives to protect the Amazon rain forest, about Nigeria's plans to remove lead from gasoline, about Mexico's promising efforts to reduce Mexico City's air pollution.

A year ago I participated in an American Education Summit, and found the most productive sessions were the working groups. This conference was structured with that lesson in mind. Our thanks go to all the delegates who played such an integral role

in those working groups -- particularly the foreign delegates who served as co-chairmen.

A growing sense of **global stewardship** prompted us to host this conference. It is a sense of stewardship shared by all of you, and by the nations you represent. And it arises out of a natural sense of obligation. An understanding that we owe our existence, all that we know and are, to this miraculous sphere that sustains us.

Such stewardship finds expression in many ways -- from public demonstration to landmark legislation. But it is also rewarded in many ways, in moments unexpected and unforgettable. Nature's beauty has a special power -- a resonance that at once elevates the mind's eye, and yet humbles us as well.

Before nature, the works of humanity seem somehow small. We may build cathedrals, temples and mosques; monuments and mausoleums to great men and women, and high ideals. And still we know we can build no monuments to compare with nature. Our greatest creations cannot equal God's smallest.

Yet as our tools and intellect advance, we've learned of our power to alter the earth. We understand that small actions, taken together, can have profound global consequences for the environment we share, and the humanity we share it with. **The importance of global stewardship can be best understood in human terms.**

We also recognize that ours is an increasingly prosperous planet -- with greater hopes now than ever before that **more** of

our people, in every nation, may come to know an enduring peace and an unprecedented quality of life.

So we are called upon to ensure that the earth's integrity is preserved -- and that mankind's prospects for prosperity, peace, and in some regions, even survival, are **not put at risk by the unintended consequences of noble intentions.**

That is the reason we have held this conference.

The minds at work here are among the very best we have -- and they are the best insurance that our actions are sound. We have gathered talent from around the world -- scientists, economists, environmentalists, energy ministers, policy-makers -- to assess the environmental and developmental future of the planet. An **unprecedented** cross-fertilization of disciplines -- and of nations. That alone is reason for hope.

But if diversity of perspective is expected, unity of purpose is crucial. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, we must foster a climate of good will -- and a stubborn hope -- that we might forge solutions without the excessive heat of politics.

Among all the challenges in our tenancy of the planet, climate change is, of course, foremost in your minds. We are leading the search for response strategies, and working through the uncertainty of both the science and the economics of climate change. But there is one area where we will allow for no uncertainty -- and that is **our commitment to action -- to sound analyses and sound policies.**

To those who suggest we're only trying to balance economic growth and environmental protection, I say they miss the point. We are calling for an entirely new way of thinking, to achieve both while compromising neither, by applying the power of the marketplace in the service of the environment.

We cannot allow a question like climate change to be characterized as a debate between "Economists versus Environmentalists." To say that this issue has "sides" is about as productive as saying that the earth is flat. It may simplify things, but it doesn't do justice to the facts, or our future.

The truth is, **strong economies allow nations to fulfill the obligations of stewardship -- and environmental stewardship is crucial to sustaining strong economies**. If we lose sight of the forest for the trees, we risk losing both.

But above all, the climate change debate is not about "Research versus Action" -- for we have **never** considered research a substitute for action.

Over the last two days you've heard, formally and informally, that the United States is already taking action to stabilize and reduce emissions -- through our Clean Air legislation, our use of market-based incentives to control pollution, our search for alternative energy sources, our emphasis on energy efficiency, our reforestation initiatives, and our technical assistance programs to developing nations.

These policies were developed to address a broad range of environmental concerns. In particular, our phase-out of CFCs, the impact of our Clean Air Act on emissions, our tree-planting initiative and other strategies will **produce reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that will reach 15 percent in ten years -- and considerably more later on.**

We are also making a leading investment in climate change research -- absolutely essential, because it will tell us what to do next. But what bears emphasis is that **we are committed to domestic and international policies that are environmentally aggressive, effective, and efficient.**

And we are deeply committed to an international partnership, through the I.P.C.C. process. We look forward to its Interim Assessment. And we would encourage a framework convention as part of a **comprehensive approach** to address the system, sources, and sinks as a whole, if a decision is made that international action is needed to reduce net emissions. We hope to provide a venue for the first negotiating sessions here in the U.S.

Finally, here in conference working groups, we've offered four new ideas: a "Charter for Cooperation in Science and Economics Research Related to Global Change" ; possible creation of "International Institutes for Research on the Science and Economics of Global Change" ; data and information transfer through a "Global Change Communications Network" ; and a "Statement of Principles" for implementing international

cooperation in scientific and economic research related to global change. I call on you to support those suggestions.

All of you here today understand climate change as one of many challenges in the call to global stewardship. Ozone depletion, water supply, ocean pollution, wetlands, deforestation, biological diversity, population change, hunger, energy demand -- in short, **all** the interrelated issues of the global environment. Each demands our attention. Each will have great impact.

Some we can predict -- and regrettably, some can't be easily anticipated. But each has a human dimension we must never forget. **Understand the choices we are making. They affect us all, but in profoundly different ways.**

We have many paths to choose from. Some of them are fraught with risk to precious and life-giving resources. Risk to geopolitical stability. And certainly, man-made limits to prosperity -- most painfully reflected in the hollow eyes of hungry children and their prospects for survival.

If developed nations ignore the growth needs of developing nations, it will imperil us all. We know that even small changes in G.N.P. growth rate often threaten adequate shelter, food, and health care -- for millions and millions of people.

To bear this in mind is no barrier to action. Those who have ascended the economic hill must break down the barriers to progress, and assist others now making the climb. But this will only be possible if the nations of the world are linked in

partnerships of every kind: scientific, economic, technical, agricultural, environmental.

Pollution is not, as we once believed, the inevitable by-product of progress. True global stewardship will be achieved not by seeking limits to growth -- which are contrary to human nature -- but by achieving environmental protection through more **informed**, more **efficient**, and **cleaner** growth.

Those who value environmental quality most highly should be the most ardent supporters of strategies that tap the power of free wills and free markets -- strategies that turn human nature to environmental advantage. Equally, those who value economic development most highly should be the most ardent defenders of the environment, which provides the basis for a healthy economy. Efficient strategies are the **only** realistic hope for developing nations to save themselves from the mistakes that developed nations have made.

And we have made mistakes -- but over the past century we've made tremendous progress in this country, especially in the last twenty years. In the U.S., automotive emission controls have brought about a new generation of cars that emit only four percent as much pollution as the typical 1970 model. We've cut airborne particulates by 60 percent, carbon monoxide by about 40 percent, cut sulfur emissions, and virtually eliminated lead from the air -- all during a period of population growth and economic **expansion**. Now we want to share that knowledge -- our

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It did. What began as an isolated American movement twenty years ago is now shared by over 130 countries on seven continents. And while many thought this experiment in environmental protection would prove impossible -- that you couldn't maintain both a productive economy and a healthy environment -- we've learned that economic prosperity and environmental protection go hand in hand. And we've learned that worldwide, united action is essential -- and possible, as the Montreal Protocol proved.

America and other nations must now extend an offered hand to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and to developing societies around the world. In some, the raging fires of forests and grasslands burned for compelling but devastating economic reasons have been visible to astronauts in space. Other nations, in the struggle to support life, have been virtually stripped of the resources that **sustain** life.

And in Eastern Europe, whether through the tyranny of neglect, or the neglect of tyrants, pollution has been unveiled as one of the Old World's cruelest dictators. An oppressor. Not man -- but man-made.

In the majestic city of Krakow, monuments to great men, statues that survived countless invasions by kings and emperors, by Hitler and by Stalin, have been defaced by pollution -- their medieval majesty reduced to shapeless lumps of stone.

If mankind's greatest **creations** cannot equal God's smallest, some may grieve that our greatest **destruction** is turned at times upon ourselves.

Let us neither grieve nor quarrel, but act on what we know can help -- and act in good faith. **Our challenge is global stewardship**. To work together to find long-term strategies that will meet the needs of the entire world, and all therein.

Our conviction, and my sincere belief, is that environmental protection and economic growth, well-managed, **complement** one another -- and that we can serve this generation, while preserving the earth for the next -- and all that follow.

It is an uncommon opportunity we share. **So let us seize the moment. Together, we will succeed.**

# # #

(Lange/Cawley)
April 18, 1990
11:25 A.M.
[GLOBAL.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE
CLOSING ADDRESS
J. W. MARRIOTT, GRAND BALLROOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990
2:30 P.M.

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Your presence offers hope for a new era of environmental cooperation around the world -- and the promise of a quieter, more thoughtful, more careful tenancy of nature's legacy to humanity.

During these last two days we have listened and learned -- learned about Brazil's new initiatives to protect the Amazon rain forest, about Nigeria's plans to remove lead from gasoline, about Mexico's promising efforts to reduce Mexico City's air pollution.

A year ago I participated in an American Education Summit, and found the most productive sessions were the working groups. This conference was structured with that lesson in mind. Our thanks go to all the delegates who played such an integral role

in those working groups -- particularly the foreign delegates who served as co-chairmen.

A growing sense of **global stewardship** prompted us to host this conference. It is a sense of stewardship shared by all of you, and by the nations you represent. And it arises out of a natural sense of obligation. An understanding that we owe our existence, all that we know and are, to this miraculous sphere that sustains us.

Such stewardship finds expression in many ways -- from public demonstration to landmark legislation. But it is also rewarded in many ways, in moments unexpected and unforgettable. Nature's beauty has a special power -- a resonance that at once elevates the mind's eye, and yet humbles us as well.

Before nature, the works of humanity seem somehow small. We may build cathedrals, temples and mosques; monuments and mausoleums to great men and women, and high ideals. And still we know we can build no monuments to compare with nature. Our greatest creations cannot equal God's smallest.

Yet as our tools and intellect advance, we've learned of our power to alter the earth. We understand that small actions, taken together, can have profound global consequences for the environment we share, and the humanity we share it with. **The importance of global stewardship can be best understood in human terms.**

We also recognize that ours is an increasingly prosperous planet -- with greater hopes now than ever before that **more** of

our people, in every nation, may come to know an enduring peace and an unprecedented quality of life.

So we are called upon to ensure that the earth's integrity is preserved -- and that mankind's prospects for prosperity, peace, and in some regions, even survival, are **not put at risk by the unintended consequences of noble intentions.**

That is the reason we have held this conference.

The minds at work here are among the very best we have -- and they are the best insurance that our actions are sound. We have gathered talent from around the world -- scientists, economists, environmentalists, energy ministers, policy-makers -- to assess the environmental and developmental future of the planet. An **unprecedented** cross-fertilization of disciplines -- and of nations. That alone is reason for hope.

But if diversity of perspective is expected, unity of purpose is crucial. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, we must foster a climate of good will -- and a stubborn hope -- that we might forge solutions without the excessive heat of politics.

Among all the challenges in our tenancy of the planet, climate change is, of course, foremost in your minds. We are leading the search for response strategies, and working through the uncertainty of both the science and the economics of climate change. But there is one area where we will allow for no uncertainty -- and that is **our commitment to action -- to sound analyses and sound policies.**

To those who suggest we're only trying to balance economic growth and environmental protection, I say they miss the point. We are calling for an entirely new way of thinking, to achieve both while compromising neither, by applying the power of the marketplace in the service of the environment.

We cannot allow a question like climate change to be characterized as a debate between "Economists versus Environmentalists." To say that this issue has "sides" is about as productive as saying that the earth is flat. It may simplify things, but it doesn't do justice to the facts, or our future.

The truth is, **strong economies allow nations to fulfill the obligations of stewardship -- and environmental stewardship is crucial to sustaining strong economies.** If we lose sight of the forest for the trees, we risk losing both.

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These policies were developed to address a broad range of environmental concerns. In particular, our phase-out of CFCs, the impact of our Clean Air Act on emissions, our tree-planting initiative and other strategies will **produce reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that will reach 15 percent in ten years -- and considerably more later on.**

We are also making a leading investment in climate change research -- absolutely essential, because it will tell us what to do next. But what bears emphasis is that **we are committed to domestic and international policies that are environmentally aggressive, effective, and efficient.**

And we are deeply committed to an international partnership, through the I.P.C.C. process. We look forward to its Interim Assessment. And we would encourage a framework convention as part of a **comprehensive approach** to address the system, sources, and sinks as a whole, if a decision is made that international action is needed to reduce net emissions. We hope to provide a venue for the first negotiating sessions here in the U.S.

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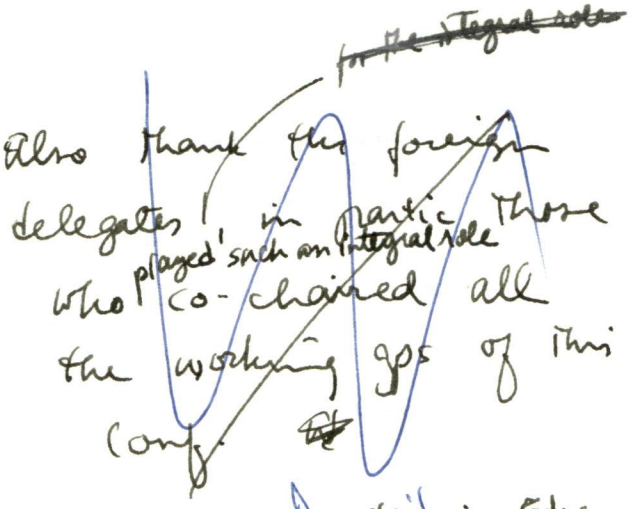

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Some we can predict -- and regrettably, some can't be easily anticipated. But each has a human dimension we must never forget. **Understand the choices we are making. They affect us all, but in profoundly different ways.**

We have many paths to choose from. Some of them are fraught with risk to precious and life-giving resources. Risk to geopolitical stability. And certainly, man-made limits to prosperity -- most painfully reflected in the hollow eyes of hungry children and their prospects for survival.

If developed nations ignore the growth needs of developing nations, it will imperil us all. We know that even small changes in G.N.P. growth rate often threaten adequate shelter, food, and health care -- for millions and millions of people.

To bear this in mind is no barrier to action. Those who have ascended the economic hill must break down the barriers to progress, and assist others now making the climb. But this will only be possible if the nations of the world are linked in partnerships of every kind: scientific, economic, technical, agricultural, environmental.

Pollution is not, as we once believed, the inevitable by-product of progress. True global stewardship will be achieved not by seeking limits to growth -- which are contrary to human nature -- but by achieving environmental protection through more **informed**, more **efficient**, and **cleaner** growth.

Those who value environmental quality most highly should be the most ardent supporters of strategies that tap the power of free wills and free markets -- strategies that turn human nature to environmental advantage. Equally, those who value economic development most highly should be the most ardent defenders of the environment, which provides the basis for a healthy economy. Efficient strategies are the **only** realistic hope for developing nations to save themselves from the mistakes that developed nations have made.

And we have made mistakes -- but over the past century we've made tremendous progress in this country, especially in the last twenty years. Our automotive emission controls have brought about a new generation of cars that emit only four percent as much pollution as the typical 1970 model. We've cut airborne particulates by 60 percent, carbon monoxide by about 40 percent, cut sulfur emissions, and virtually eliminated lead from the air -- all during a period of population growth and economic **expansion**. Now we want to share that knowledge -- our technologies, new processes, and pollution **prevention** techniques -- with the developing world.

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It did. What began as an isolated American movement twenty years ago is now shared by over 130 countries on seven continents. And while many thought this experiment in environmental protection would prove impossible -- that you couldn't maintain both a productive economy and a healthy environment -- we've learned that economic prosperity and environmental protection go hand in hand. And we've learned that worldwide, united action is essential -- and possible, as the Montreal Protocol proved.

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Our conviction, and my sincere belief, is that environmental protection and economic growth, well-managed, **complement** one another -- and that we can serve this generation, while preserving the earth for the next -- and all that follow.

It is an uncommon opportunity we share. **So let us seize the moment. Together, we will succeed.**

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(Lange/Cawley)
April 18, 1990
10:20 A.M.
[GLOBAL.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE
CLOSING ADDRESS
J. W. MARRIOTT, GRAND BALLROOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990
2:30 P.M.

Dr. Bromley, Dr. Boskin, Mr. Deland. Secretaries Watkins and Lujan. Dr. Bolin [bo-LEEN], and distinguished delegates to this unprecedented conference:

After all of the hard work that has taken place here -- by the Working Group Chairmen and all of the delegates, in what I know was an atmosphere of lively debate -- I would begin with thanks, and a moment of perspective: for your purpose here is profoundly important to the state of nature, and the fate of mankind.

Your presence offers hope for a new era of environmental cooperation around the world -- and the promise of a quieter, more thoughtful, more careful tenancy of nature's legacy to humanity.

During these last two days we have listened and learned -- learned about Brazil's new initiatives to protect the Amazon rain forest, about Nigeria's plans to remove lead from gasoline, about Mexico's promising efforts to reduce Mexico City's air pollution.

A growing sense of **global stewardship** prompted us to host this conference. It is a sense of stewardship shared by all of you, and by the nations you represent. And it arises out of a natural sense of obligation. An understanding that

That is the reason we have held this conference.

The minds at work here are among the very best we have -- and they are the best insurance that our actions are sound. We have gathered talent from around the world -- scientists, economists, environmentalists, energy ministers, policy-makers -- to assess the environmental and developmental future of the planet. An **unprecedented** cross-fertilization of disciplines -- and of nations. That alone is reason for hope.

But if diversity of perspective is expected, unity of purpose is crucial. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, we must foster a climate of good will -- and a stubborn hope -- that we might forge solutions without the excessive heat of politics.

Among all the challenges in our tenancy of the planet, climate change is, of course, foremost in your minds. We are leading the search for response strategies, and working through the uncertainty of both the science and the economics of climate change. But there is one area where we will allow for no uncertainty -- and that is **our commitment to action -- to sound analyses and sound policies.**

To those who suggest we're only trying to balance economic growth and environmental protection, I say they miss the point. We are calling for an entirely new way of thinking, to achieve both while compromising neither, by applying the power of the marketplace in the service of the environment.

We cannot allow a question like climate change to be characterized as a debate between "Economists versus Environmentalists." To say that this issue has "sides" is about as productive as saying that the earth is flat. It may simplify things, but it doesn't do justice to the facts, or our future.

The truth is, **strong economies allow nations to fulfill the obligations of stewardship -- and environmental stewardship is crucial to sustaining strong economies.** If we lose sight of the forest for the trees, we risk losing both.

But above all, the climate change debate is not about "Research versus Action" -- for we have **never** considered research a substitute for action.

Over the last two days you've heard, formally and informally, that the United States is already taking action to stabilize and reduce emissions -- through our Clean Air legislation, our use of market-based incentives to control pollution, our search for alternative energy sources, our emphasis on energy efficiency, our reforestation initiatives, and our technical assistance programs to developing nations.

In particular, our phase-out of CFCs, the impact of our Clean Air Act on emissions, our tree-planting initiative and other strategies will **produce reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that will reach 15 percent in ten years -- and considerably more later on.**

We are also making a leading investment in climate change research -- absolutely essential, because it will tell us what to do next. But what bears emphasis is that **we are committed to domestic and international policies that are environmentally aggressive, effective, and efficient.**

And we are deeply committed to an international partnership, through the I.P.C.C. process. We look forward to its Interim Assessment. And we would encourage a framework convention as part of a **comprehensive approach** to address the system, sources, and sinks as a whole, if a decision is made that international action is needed to reduce net emissions. We hope to provide a venue for the first negotiating sessions here in the U.S.

10:45

Finally, here ~~at this~~ in conference, working groups, we've offered four new ~~proposals:~~ ideas: ~~To endorse~~ a "Charter for Cooperation in Science and Economics Research Related to Global Change" ; ~~to create~~ possible creation of "International Institutes for Research on the Science and Economics of Global Change" ; ~~to encourage~~ data and information transfer through a "Global Change Communications Network" ; and ~~to endorse~~ a "Statement of Principles" ~~to develop an internal strategy for~~ for implementing international cooperation in Scientific and Economic Research ~~in~~ related to Global Change."

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Thank working group
Chairmen & hard work

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Judging from the press coverage of this issue, there are two misunderstandings about our position that I'd like to set straight. First, anyone who says we're only trying to balance economic growth and environmental protection misses the point. We are calling for an entirely new way of thinking, to achieve both while compromising neither, by applying the power of the marketplace in the service of the environment.

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It did. What began as an isolated American movement twenty years ago is now shared by over 130 countries on seven continents. And while many thought this experiment in environmental protection would prove impossible -- that you

couldn't maintain both a productive economy and a healthy environment -- we've learned that economic prosperity and environmental protection go hand in hand.

And we understand no nation can act effectively alone. Unilateral action is futile. But united action? Essential -- and possible, as the Montreal Protocol proved.

America and other nations must now extend an offered hand to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and to developing societies around the world. In some, the raging fires of forests and grasslands burned for compelling but devastating economic reasons have been visible to astronauts in space. Other nations, in the struggle to support life, have been virtually stripped of the resources that **sustain** life.

And in Eastern Europe, whether through the tyranny of neglect, or the neglect of tyrants, pollution has been unveiled as one of the old world's cruelest dictators. An oppressor. Not man -- but man-made.

In the majestic city of Krakow, monuments to great men, statues that survived countless invasions by kings and emperors, by Hitler and by Stalin, have been defaced by pollution -- their medieval majesty reduced to shapeless lumps of stone.

If mankind's greatest **creations** cannot equal God's smallest, some may grieve that our greatest **destruction** is turned at times upon ourselves.

Let us neither grieve nor quarrel, but act on what we know can help -- and act in good faith. **Our challenge is global**

stewardship. To work together to find long-term strategies that will meet the needs of the entire world, and all therein.

Our conviction, and my sincere belief, is that environmental protection and economic growth, well-managed, **complement** one another -- and that we can serve this generation, while preserving the earth for the next -- and all that follow.

It is an uncommon opportunity we share. **So let us seize the moment. Together, we will succeed.**

# # #

During these last two days we have listened and learned -- learned about Braxil's new iniatives to protect the Amazon rain forest or Nigeria's plans to remove lead from gasoline or Mexico's promising efforts to reduce Mexico City's air pollution.

Telephone please.

forest for the trees, we risk losing both.

But above all, the climate change debate is not about "Research versus Action" -- for we have **never** considered research a substitute for action. In fact, we are already moving in areas where research has led to action.

Over the last two days you've heard, formally and informally, that the United States is already taking steps to stabilize and reduce emissions -- through our Clean Air legislation, our use of market-based incentives to control pollution, our search for alternative energy sources, our emphasis on energy efficiency, our reforestation initiatives, and our technical assistance programs to developing nations.

These policies were developed to address other environmental objectives. However, in particular, our phase-out of CFC's, the impact of our Clean Air Act on emissions, our tree-planting initiative and other steps will produce reductions in net greenhouse gases that will reach 15 percent by the year 2000, and considerably higher in later years.

We are also making a leading investment in climate change research -- absolutely essential, because it will tell us what to do next. But what bears emphasis is that **we are committed to domestic and international policies that are environmentally aggressive, effective, and efficient.**

And we are deeply committed to an international partnership, through the I.P.C.C. process. We look forward to its Interim Assessment. And we would encourage a framework convention as

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part of a **comprehensive approach** to address the system, sources, and sinks as a whole, if a decision is made that international action is needed to reduce net emissions. We hope to provide a venue for the first negotiating sessions here in the U.S.

Finally, here at this conference, we've offered four new proposals: To endorse a "Charter for Cooperation in Science and Economics Research Related to Global Change" ; To create "International Institutes for Research on the Science and Economics of Global Change" ; To encourage data and information transfer through a "Global Change Communications Network" ; and to endorse a "Statement of Principle to develop an internal strategy for cooperation in Scientific and Economic Research in Global Change."

All of you here today understand climate change as one of <u>many</u> challenges in the call to global stewardship. Ozone depletion, water supply, ocean pollution, wetlands, deforestation, biological diversity, population change, hunger, energy demand -- in short, **all** the interrelated issues of the global environment. Each demands our attention. Each will have great impact.

Some we can predict -- and regrettably, some can't be easily anticipated. But each has a human dimension we must never forget. **Understand the choices we are making. They affect us all, but in profoundly different ways.**

We have many paths to choose from. Some of them are fraught with risk to precious and life-giving resources. Risk to

90 MAR 18 A8:27

The truth is, strong economies [illegible]

igations of stewardship -- and environmental stewardship is cial to sustaining strong economies. So if we lose sight of forest for the trees, we risk losing both.

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P. 4

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4

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and other steps

CW

(Lange/Cawley)
April 13, 1990
7:30 P.M.
[GLOBAL.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE
J. W. Marriott, Grand Ballroom
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1990
2:30 P.M.

[Acknowledgements...]

After all of the work that has taken place here -- in what I know was an atmosphere of lively debate -- I would begin with thanks, and a moment of perspective: for your purpose here is profoundly important to the state of nature, and the fate of mankind.

Your presence offers hope for a new era of environmental cooperation around the world -- and the promise of a quieter, more thoughtful, more careful tenancy of nature's legacy to humanity.

A growing sense of **global stewardship** prompted us to host this conference. It is a sense of stewardship shared by all of you, and by the nations you represent. And it arises out of a natural sense of obligation. An understanding that we owe our existence, all that we know and are, to this miraculous sphere that sustains us.

Such stewardship finds expression in many ways -- from public demonstration to landmark legislation. But it is also rewarded in many ways, in moments unexpected and unforgettable. To feel the cold rush of water falling from an ancient glacier, to see the glint of light in a leopard's eye, to stand in silent witness to the timeless beauty of a heron's flight: Such moments

are among the most precious mankind might know on this abundant earth.

Such moments also have a special power -- a resonance that at once elevates the mind's eye, and yet humbles us as well. Before such beauty, the works of humanity seem somehow small. We may build cathedrals, temples and mosques; monuments and mausoleums to great men and women, and high ideals. And still we know we can build no monuments to compare with nature. Our greatest creations cannot equal God's smallest.

Yet as our tools and intellect advance, we've learned of our power to alter the earth. We understand that small actions, taken together, can have profound global consequences for the environment we share, and the humanity we share it with. **The importance of global stewardship can be best understood in human terms.**

That is the reason we have held this conference.

We also recognize that ours is an increasingly prosperous planet -- with greater hopes now than ever before that more of our people may come to know an enduring peace, and an unprecedented quality of life.

So we are called upon to ensure that the earth's integrity is preserved -- and that mankind's prospects for prosperity, peace, and in some regions, even survival, are not put at risk by the unintended consequences of noble intentions.

The minds at work here are among the very best we have -- and they are the best insurance that our actions are sound. We

have gathered talent from around the world -- scientists, economists, environmentalists, energy ministers, policy-makers -- to assess the environmental and developmental future of the planet. An unprecedented cross-fertilization of disciplines -- and of nations. That alone is reason for hope.

But if diversity of perspective is expected, unity of purpose is crucial. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, we must foster a climate of good will -- and a stubborn hope -- that we might forge solutions without the excessive heat of politics.

Among all the challenges in our tenancy of the planet, climate change is, of course, foremost in your minds. We are working through the uncertainty of both the science and the economics of climate change. But there is one area where we will allow for no uncertainty -- and that is our commitment to sound analyses and sound policies.

There are several things that the climate change debate is not about. It is not "Jobs versus Environment" -- the two are inseparably interdependent, as the common global experience of so many nations has shown. We must clearly understand that a clean and wholesome environment is not possible without a strong economy -- just as a strong economy depends on a clean and wholesome environment. If we lose sight of the forest for the trees, we risk losing both.

Nor is the climate change debate about "Economists versus Environmentalists." Only in the most primitive minds has that

debate has been reduced to a rhetorical holy-war between bean-counters and tree-huggers.

But above all, the climate change debate is not about "Research versus Action" -- for we have **never** considered research a substitute for action. In fact, we are already moving in areas where research has led to action.

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And we are deeply committed to an international partnership, through the I.P.C.C. process. We look forward to its Interim Assessment. And we would encourage a framework convention as part of a **comprehensive approach** to address the system, sources, and sinks as a whole -- if a decision is made that international action is needed to reduce net emissions. We hope to host the first negotiating sessions here in the U.S. -- and **[[Insert on specific proposals made at the conference, from O.S.T.P.]]**.

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of many challenges in the call to global stewardship. Ozone depletion, water supply, ocean pollution, wetlands, deforestation, biological diversity, population change, hunger, energy demand -- in short, all the interrelated issues of the global environment. Each demands our attention. Each will have great impact. Some we can predict and regrettably, some can't be easily anticipated. And each has a human dimension we must never forget.

Understand the choices we are making. They affect us all, but in profoundly different ways.

In too many developing countries, the consequences of uninformed policy-making will be reflected in damage to precious and life-giving resources. Perhaps, in political instability -- certainly in man-made limits to prosperity. And it will be most painfully reflected in the hollow eyes of hungry children, and their prospects for survival.

If developed nations ignore the growth needs of developing nations, it will imperil us all. We know that even small changes in G.N.P. growth rate often threaten adequate shelter, food, and health care -- for millions and millions of people.

To bear this in mind is no barrier to action. It merely suggests that those who have ascended the economic hill must **think twice before preventing others from making the climb.** They must extend a helping hand. This is only possible if the nations of the world are linked in partnerships of every kind: scientific, economic, technical, agricultural, environmental.

Developing nations will contribute a growing share of the world's emissions in the coming decades. They face the greatest threats from environmental degradation of every kind -- and can least afford the consequences.

But pollution is not, as we once believed, the inevitable by-product of progress. The developed nations of the world will better serve their own interests, and those of the world community, **not** by seeking limits to growth -- which are contrary to human nature -- but by achieving environmental protection through more **informed**, more **efficient**, and **cleaner** growth.

Those who value environmental quality most highly, should be the most ardent supporters of strategies that tap the power of free wills and free markets -- that turn human nature to environmental advantage.

In the same way, those who value economic development most highly should be the most ardent defenders of the environment, which provides the basis for a healthy economy. Efficient strategies are the **only** realistic hope for developing nations to avoid making the mistakes that developed nations have made.

And we have made some mistakes. When America made its transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy, there was an impact. What we learned, we learned the hard way. Over the past century we've made tremendous progress -- especially in the last twenty years. We want to share that knowledge -- our technologies, new processes, and pollution **prevention** techniques -- with the developing world.

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