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Eric

National Audubon Society



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February 17, 1998

By Facsimile

Mr. Mack McLarty
Special Envoy to for the Americas
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

On behalf of the NGO participants at our meeting with you on February 11, 1998, we would like to thank you for your consideration of our requests concerning the March 1998 Trade Ministerial in Costa Rica and the April 1998 Hemispheric Summit in Santiago. We look forward to working with you and your staff on these important events.

Below is a summary of our discussion and requests on specific issues:

1. Unlike the conveners of previous Americas Business Forums, which are held in conjunction with the FTAA Trade Ministerials, the organizers of the IV Business Forum in Costa Rica in March 1998 have been unwilling to hold a workshop on Sustainable Development. A workshop generally lasts seven hours, during which the participants develop a consensus document that is in turn presented to the Trade Ministers. The IV Business Forum organizers have informed us that they will hold a one and a half hour panel rather than a seven and a half hour workshop. During this panel at least four people will present papers on Sustainability and Trade, allowing no time for the participants to discuss their individual positions or to build a consensus document to present to the Ministers. We feel that this is a significant step backwards from previous Business Forums, and ignores commitments made in the Miami Summit Declarations, both with respect to linking trade, sustainable development, and environmental protection as well as those commitments made with respect to the importance of public participation. At this late date, we realize that changing either the length of time allotted to the panel or the method for presenting findings to the Trade Ministers will be difficult but we would appreciate any assistance you can offer.

As we also mentioned, National Audubon and up to fifty other environmental groups will be holding a two day workshop just prior to the Trade Ministerial to develop a consensus document on trade and environment principles. We have received assurances that representatives from the Costa

① Nelson
② Eric
③ Mark
④ Don

① File
- Summit
- Environment

② Eric -
Are you
handling any
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Rican Trade Ministerial will attend some portion of our meeting. We hope to have this document presented to the Trade Ministers and request your help to accomplish our goal.

2. We also discussed the National Audubon Society and the Intel Corporation Trade and Environment seminar and reception that is scheduled for the evening of March 17th. This event, which we believe is one of the first of its kind, will inaugurate a long-term joint industry-environmental organization dialogue on trade and environment. We hope that you and other senior officials of the Clinton Administration will attend this event. If you are interested, we would also invite you to say a few words at this reception.

3. As we also discussed, a number of environmental groups from around the Western Hemisphere will be meeting in Santiago, Chile a few days in advance of the Santiago Summit of the Americas. This "People's Summit" will focus on issues relating to Trade and Environment. We request that the Clinton Administration encourage the governments of this hemisphere to formally recognize the proceedings and findings of this Summit.

4. With respect to the more than 150 initiatives that were approved at the Miami and Bolivian Summits, we request that the thirty-four Western Hemisphere governments take a serious look at whether these action items have been implemented. As we mentioned, a number of organizations have reviewed the progress made under a number of these initiatives. By and large, most of these initiatives have either not been fully implemented or have not been funded at all.

5. As you know, the proposed agenda for the Santiago Summit does not contain any new initiatives relating to sustainable development or the environment. We recommend that in the absence of any new environmental initiatives, the thirty-four countries identify their priorities under existing Summit commitments. We also suggest that in lieu of environmental proposals from all thirty-four governments, the U.S. government may want to announce its own specific biodiversity or environmental initiatives that may be relevant to protection of our hemispheric environment.

Again, we would like to thank you for meeting with us. We look forward to working with you on these important issues. We would also like to commend you personally for your work to create opportunities for public participation in hemispheric issues.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Rogers
Wildlife Counsel