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Al's Statements and Press Releases

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Al

FROM: Rick

DATE: March 7, 1989

RE: Some facts for the Nightline interview

(1) Important: The developed countries need to embark immediately to develop the technologies that the Third World will need to leapfrog the CFC-based technologies. Without this effort, could risk the same xenophobic response that we saw with the Brazilians and the rainforest. And we need to view this as a marketing opportunity, an opportunity to improve the competitiveness of U.S. products.

Otherwise, as we phase out CFC-based technologies, the developing nations will simultaneously be phasing them in.

China and India suggested that they would be willing to move beyond CFC-based technologies if attractive alternatives were

available. And the development of those alternatives is in the hands of the industrialized nations

(2) 1986 world consumption of Protocol-controlled substances -- weighted by their potential for depleting ozone -- was 1,185,000 metric tons for the entire world. The developing countries accounted for 195,000 metric tons, 16%. So, in 1986, the split was about 85%-15% for the industrialized world/developing world.

(3) Leaky auto air conditioners are the single largest source of CFC emissions to the atmosphere. According to EPA, that source accounts for one-fourth of all U.S. CFC emissions. CFC-12 is used most often in auto air conditioners, and escapes to the atmosphere most often through leaky hoses and fittings, or during servicing. The average auto air conditioner needs to be repaired and refilled every several years.

(4) Phaseouts:

(a) Protocol: 20% reduction in 1993, based on 1986 production levels

50% reduction in 1998

This is industrialized countries only.

This is consumption. Production can be increased up to 15% if its going to be exported to a country who can't produce enough to meet Protocol requirements.

For developing countries, a 10-year (1999) leeway before Protocol kicks in. They can produce, up to certain limits (0.3 kg/capita-year), all they want during that 10 years as long as its to meet "basic domestic needs."

The Soviets signed the Protocol, but have declined to follow the EC/US lead toward a tighter Protocol.

So, overall, Protocol is really not even a 50% reduction by 1998. OTA estimates that it currently could result in anything from a 45% cut, to a 20% increase, over 1986 production level, worldwide, over the next 20 years.

(b) London: EC called for a complete phaseout by Year 2000 among EC members. WRI estimates that EC produces a little over one-third of the world's CFCs. On Sunday, the EC Environmental Minister (Mr. Ripa di Meana) said that EC could eliminate CFC production by 1996-97. His proposal surprised his British hosts.

U.S. followed with same, provided "safe alternatives" are available. U.S. produces a little under one-third of world's CFCs.

(c) Gore: Freeze in 1990 on 1986 production levels.

75% reduction in 1991, based on 1986 levels.

50% reduction by 1992

95% reduction by 1994

100% reduction by 1996

This is on the most dangerous ozone depleters -- CFC-11, 12, 113, halon-1211, 1301.

For other, weaker ozone depleters (CFC-22, 114, 115, methyl chloroform, methylene chloride), we call for a Year 2000 phaseout.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 3, 1989

Contact: Marla Romash
(202) 224-4944
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EUROPEAN CFC PHASEOUT DEADLINE TOO LATE, GORE SAYS
Outlines New Proposal to Address Current CFC Emissions

****Gore to serve as delegate to Thatcher Ozone Conf. This Wknd****

WASHINGTON -- The European Community's agreement to phase-out, by the year 2000, chemicals now destroying the earth's protective ozone shield waits too long to take urgently needed action, U.S. Sen. Al Gore, D-TN, said today, outlining a new proposal to immediately reduce emissions of the chemicals.

"Waiting until the year 2000 means will we be forced to wait decades, maybe even a century before the damage from these chemicals will be reversed," Gore said. "There is no reason to wait -- every year of delay implies an additional 5 to 10 years that these chemicals will remain in the atmosphere, destroying ozone. We've identified a problem. We even know the solution. It's time to act," said Gore, whose legislation calling for a phase-out within five years is now pending in Congress.

Gore will be in London this weekend as part of a five-member U.S. delegation to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's international conference on saving the earth's upper ozone layer. He will be the only member of Congress in the delegation.

"Even a phase-out in five years doesn't adequately address the problem because today -- and for the next five years -- we will continue to release these chemicals into our environment and tear away at the ozone shield that protects our planet and our people," Gore said. "We must start working today to stop the release of these chemicals into our environment."

"We need to act in the U.S., but the rest of the world must take action as well. Fully one-quarter of the global release of the chemicals destroying the ozone layer is still from aerosol spray cans, an application that was banned in the U.S. years ago. At a minimum, that application should be banned around the world."

(MORE)

Sen. Gore/March 3/page 2

Gore, the author of the World Environment Policy Act of 1989, which includes the five-year phase-out, outlined new legislation he will introduce immediately upon his return from London to reduce the threat presented by current emissions of chlorofluorocarbons, the chemicals principally responsible for ozone depletion.

"As much as 10 to 15 percent of the damaging chemicals that the U.S. has produced in the last half-century are still out there, in our environment, in our everyday lives, being used in air conditioners, refrigerators, and numerous other applications," Gore said. "There are steps we can take now to recycle, recapture, and control the damage being done by these chemicals. As we work for long-term reductions and look toward the future, we cannot lose sight of the world we live in today," Gore said.

Gore's new legislation will:

- o Encourage recapture and recycling of CFCs by instituting a form of "CFC Deposit," affecting mainly the CFC producers and those who service CFC-containing equipment, and not the average consumer.

"For example, when refrigerators, air conditioners, and other equipment are serviced or disposed of, we should minimize the release of CFCs by promoting recapture and recycling," Gore said. "The technology exists, and the industry has taken steps toward this end."

- o Ban the sale of "do-it-yourself" cans of freon, used to recharge auto air conditioners, and recommend aircraft-quality hoses and fittings as standard equipment on auto air conditioners.

- o Promote the use of alternative technologies to manufacture rigid insulation and soft foam without CFCs.

- o Promote the use of alternative technologies for electronics cleaning applications.

##

SENATOR ALBERT GORE
Montcalm Hotel
Great Cumberland Place
London
FAX: 44-1-724-9180

Dear Senator:

The staff has developed some talking points for you to include in future discussions of the issues under consideration at the conference. Those points are:

I. PRESENT RESPONSE

In response to the scientific findings in Antarctica (British Antarctic survey team), the Arctic (the international team), and the Northern Hemisphere (last Spring's NASA Ozone Trends Panel findings that depletion is occurring over the Northern Hemisphere), an accelerated (relative to the Montreal Protocol) ban on the production of chemicals that destroy stratospheric ozone, principally the CFCs, has been proposed by the EC, the U.S., and other countries (e.g., Sweden's new law, the world's most aggressive, will cut CFC emissions in half by 1991, and eliminate them by 1995 -- but Sweden consumes only 0.5% of world's CFCs; Canada has announced a ban to take effect over the next ten years).

II. THE NEED FOR ADDED RESPONSE -- PRUDENT STEPS THAT SHOULD APPEAL TO COMMON SENSE

These production bans -- and I have called for a production ban within five years -- are only one part of the equation. The second part of the equation, one which has been largely overlooked, involves the immediate steps that we can take to halt the needless discharge of these chemicals to the environment. This second part of the equation, which I will outline in a moment, is -- I emphasize -- probably the easiest to justify in terms of simple common sense.

o Why a need for additional response? Well, for example, in the U.S. alone, one study shows that some 24,000 new cases of the two most common types of skin cancer will occur (in Caucasians) from each 1% drop in stratospheric ozone. It is logical to presume that similar increases in skin cancer victims will be felt in Europe, Australia, and elsewhere, as well. If the cause of such an increase in cancer victims was a pesticide, or some other toxic waste, there's no doubt that the public would demand that its use be banned immediately. With stratospheric ozone depletion, because the environmental damage is invisible to everyone other than the scientists who are directly involved, there is more of a tendency to avoid addressing the problem as aggressively as I believe that we should.

Note that this argument does not even include the other damage that increased UV radiation from a depleted ozone layer will do to the environment -- suppression of the human immune system, damage to plant life (of the 200 or so plant species that have been tested so far, over two-thirds showed sensitivity to increased UV radiation; especially sensitive were beans, peas, squash, melon, and cabbage species), and damage to aquatic organisms.

o Therefore, I believe that we need to immediately institute safeguards in the use and handling of ozone-destroying chemicals, just as we would for other cancer-causing chemicals, in order to minimize their unnecessary release to the environment. This is the other part of the equation.

III. GORE'S ADDED RESPONSE -- THE OTHER PART OF THE EQUATION

(1) First, we need to institute effective CFC recycling programs. The best way to accomplish this would be through a sort of "CFC ~~tax~~ deposit-fee." Recycling technology exists; we should maximize its use.

o The logic for this is simple: Between now and the time that a production ban is instituted, some amount of CFCs will be produced. For the sake of argument, let's imagine that 1 million pounds of CFCs will be produced during that period. Now, every single pound has only two possible final destinations: either it will be purposely destroyed through incineration (very little will meet this end), or it will eventually be released into the environment. We can extend the useful life of every pound of CFC -- before it meets one of those two final destinations -- by recycling. Therefore, fewer total pounds of new CFCs would have to be produced to meet a given level of demand.

o In addition, recycling programs would extend the availability of CFCs well beyond the production phaseout period -- remember, we have not produced any additional CFCs, just extended their useful life. This would allow owners of equipment using CFCs to attain a longer service life from that equipment before switching to alternative chemicals, or alternative technologies, without adding any net damage to the environment.

(2) In conjunction with this deposit/recycling program, we need to ban sales of "do-it-yourself" cans of freon, so that only those who buy CFCs in bulk (i.e., those who professionally service CFC-containing equipment, and would also have the tools to safely handle the CFCs) continue to purchase CFCs. The deposit fee would therefore be primarily a transaction between the CFC manufacturers and the equipment servicing industry, making the recycling program extraneous to the average consumer.

One example of the impact on the average consumer is as follows: If the consumer's auto air conditioner is leaking (25% of U.S. CFC emissions are from leaky auto air conditioners), then the consumer could not go to K-Mart and buy a can of freon (CFC) to recharge it -- CFCs that would soon leak to the environment. Instead, he/she would have to go to a service station (a bulk CFC buyer) to get it repaired and recharged. The service station would take care of recycling the CFCs.

3) Other items that would fall under this "second part of the equation" include:

- o Require that annual vehicle inspections include inspection of the auto air conditioner.

- o Require aircraft-quality hoses and fittings on all new-vehicle auto air conditioners.

- o Ban the sale of fire extinguishers (for consumer applications) that contain halons or other ozone-destroying chemicals.

I INTEND TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION UPON MY RETURN FROM THIS CONFERENCE THAT CALLS FOR THE MEASURES THAT I'VE JUST OUTLINED, ADDRESSING THIS "OTHER PART OF THE EQUATION." THIS ONE-TWO PUNCH -- IMMEDIATE "SAFE HANDLING" OF OZONE-DESTROYING CHEMICALS COUPLED WITH A PRODUCTION PHASEOUT -- IS THE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE TO EARTH'S OZONE LAYER.

IV. ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

In addition, I want to encourage my fellow delegates to encourage their own countries to support an immediate worldwide ban on the use of CFCs in spray cans -- fully one-quarter of CFCs that are released to the environment today come from this application, which was banned in the U.S. a decade ago. This use is clearly one for which alternatives exist.

Good luck during the next two days of the conference.

Best regards,

Rick Adcock
Staff, Senator Albert Gore
Washington, DC
(202) 224-6458

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE:

TO:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

A year 2000 phaseout is not soon enough. There is no need to wait. Even if we ceased all production today, it would take decades, to a century, to repair the damage that's been done. Scientists who appeared before me last week testified that the Arctic is primed for ozone destruction, once the sunlight returns this spring. That is why I have called for an even more aggressive phaseout, one that will take affect within 5 years. Under the phaseout plan anounced by the EC, damage will continue well into the next century.

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 7, 1989

TO: AG

FROM: MER, BNR, JPA

SUBJECT: NIGHT LINES

*****URGENCY**

"If you found cyanide in your food supply, you wouldn't phase it out over ten years." ✓

"If someone was poisoning your children, you wouldn't give them ten years to stop."

"The longer we wait to phase out CFCs, the more time CFCs will have to phase out ozone." ✓

"For every year we hesitate now, we'll wait ten years for the damage to be repaired later."

"The developing countries probably hold the wild card. If they're not willing to sit at the table, the cards we draw become worthless."

*****OBSTACLES**

"We know what to do. It is no longer a great mystery. The problem is, there are too many who don't want to believe there's a problem or face up to the solutions."

"Imagine never seeing a huge steel battleship on the water, if someone told you it'd float, you wouldn't believe them. That's where we are now. The potential problems we face, the real problems we already face, are completely beyond anyone's experience so few want to believe they're possible, or even that they're already here."

"What's happening now is unlike anything we have ever seen. And until we accept that, we're going to be unable to stop it, to stop the slow, almost imperceptible slide to environmental disaster."

"Politicians don't like mysteries. They want to know "who done it" and then act. We can't wait for the last chapter. We've got to take the evidence we have now -- compelling evidence -- and begin to take action. Uncertainty cannot continue to be an excuse for inaction."

****EXAMPLES:**

"What took thousands of generations is now taking one or two generations, where population is concerned. In my lifetime, the world's population has more than doubled. Before that, it took thousands of lifetimes to see the same kind of increases."

"Imagine if the population of your office increased by ten and they didn't give you any extra space."

"Those population increases mean pollution increases. We're asking a very fragile world to suddenly and safely absorb more auto pollution, more industry, more development, and at the same time withstand a brutal environmental assault on very limited resources."

"Look at the population increases. Chart them on a graph with damage to the ozone shield, deforestation, global warming, the disappearance of different forms of plants and animals. The lines all run the same way. These patterns are as obvious as the stripe on a tie."

"Remember the science experiment with a frog? Heat the water and the frog slowly and the frog just sits there. Drop the frog in boiling water and it jumps out fast. We're like the frog being heated slowly. We don't think about geological time, we think about today and tomorrow, this week and next. And so we sit here as the environment nears the boiling point."

*****FOLKSY**

"My religious faith teaches me that we're given dominion over the earth, but it also says that we should be good stewards of the earth, that it's our responsibility to take care of it. What do we tell our children and grandchildren if we allow the destruction of more than half the living things on earth, if we allow the poisoning of our environment. We're going to leave our great grandchildren shaking their heads, wondering what in the world we were doing back in 1989 ignoring all this."

"This is not a bad science fiction plot. This is real. Our future, our children's future -- the quality of life we

enjoy today and the quality of life they will enjoy tomorrow
-- is really what we're talking about when you cut through
all the scientific explanations and the alphabet of
chemicals. "

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THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT POLICY ACT OF 1989

STATEMENT OF U.S. SEN. AL GORE

January 25, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT, As we set the agenda this winter and sort our priorities for this 101st Congress, as we look ahead, I am reminded of scenes from our too recent past. Of last summer's drought and heat. Of signs warning bathers away from polluted beaches. Of needles washing up with the waves. Of streams destroyed by hazardous wastes. Of record-breaking air pollution levels that left our cities covered in a brown -- and dangerous -- haze.

This summer's news was heavy with our pollution problems, thought-provoking stories that put familiar problems in a far more urgent context. The Greenhouse Effect became the subject of everyday conversations. The hole in the earth's protective ozone shield became well-known fact. All the while, there remained in the background the steady ticking of an overpopulation bomb.

Eight years ago, I had the first Congressional hearing on this issue, and in a long series of hearings since, I have

watched it become the most serious environmental problem we have ever faced.

Now, Mr. President, as we look to the future, we must make the memories of last summer a call to action. We must make these issues our highest priorities and preserve for them not only a place on our agenda but a spot at the top of our agenda.

These challenges are not ours alone -- though they present us with real-life problems we and our families face daily, though they pose real-life threats to our future and our children's future. These are problems we must face not only as parents and as neighbors who share communities, but also as Americans who are neighbors to those in all nations with whom we share a global environment.

During this Congressional recess, I visited some of the front lines of our world's environmental conflicts: the icy wilderness of Antarctica, the steamy rain forests of Brazil. In Antarctica, there are the earliest and most dramatic signs of the destruction of the ozone shield as well as evidence of global warming.. In Brazil, tropical rainforests are scientific and economic treasures being looted -- destroyed and burned at the rate of a football field-sized area every second.

These problems must be faced by every nation around the globe. We are all responsible for the future, for the quality of life we will enjoy-- or endure --in every country, in every state, in every neighborhood. Which is why, Mr. President, today I am introducing The World Environment Policy Act of 1989.

We need an alliance for environmental progress, recognition that the threats we face transcend national boundaries and personal interests. We can no longer afford to shift the burden onto others or pretend we can meet the challenge by ourselves. This bill sets ambitious new targets for a cleaner, safer world. These proposals have a dual purpose, to protect our environment and to employ economic common sense in that job.

Briefly, Mr. President, I hope this bill will help us develop national and international policy responses to world environmental problems. It will provide meaningful controls on the chemicals and gases destroying the ozone shield. It will present a comprehensive plan to promote recycling and dramatically reduce the wastes now crowding and closing our landfills. And, it will provide new, innovative efforts to promote reforestation, preserve the biological diversity of our world, and confront the very real problems of overpopulation.

Many of my colleagues here in the Senate and others in the House have contributed greatly to the debate on these issues. I applaud their commitment and am grateful for their expertise and insight. I have joined with them in their efforts and will continue to support their work. Sen. Hollings, Sen. Chafee, Sen. Baucus, Sen. Wirth, former Sen. Stafford, Congressman Scheuer, Congresswoman Schneider, Congressman Hochbrueckner deserve special praise. I am proud to stand with them.

This bill is intended to complement their work. It also goes beyond what has come before. It is designed to address all of the major causes of the Greenhouse Effect and the global ecological crisis.

There are 12 titles in this bill. Let me summarize some of them now.

First, I am proposing a new Council on World Environmental Policy to replace the Council on Environmental Quality with a body better able to link the scientists' research with the policy makers' plans and, to introduce to that process a global perspective that recognizes the full reach of these issues.

Second, this bill proposes the complete phaseout of the production of the chloroflourocarbons which are rapidly

destroying the stratospheric ozone and contributing to the Greenhouse Effect.

It mandates improvements in fuel economy standards for passenger cars and light trucks to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions that global climate changes and the Greenhouse Effect.

This bill instructs the EPA, NASA and NOAA to identify methane emission sources, analyze methane's role in global change processes, and recommend methods for controlling emissions and, it amends the Solid Waste Disposal Act to minimize emissions of methane from landfills.

In addition, Mr. President, this bill addresses the complex and difficult issue of recycling and the reduction of solid wastes. This bill is designed to reduce the mountains of garbage our throwaway society will soon be unable, literally, to throw away. Three thousand landfills have been closed in the past five years and, by 1993, one-third of those that remain will be closed as well.

This bill creates a research program to examine alternatives for recycling and a clearinghouse for information on existing, successful recycling programs. It presents a program for the complete phase-out of non-recyclable products within five

years. Simply put, five years after enactment, this bill would prohibit the production of any goods that can not be recycled unless those goods are biodegradable, photodegradable, or naturally degradable. Items could be excluded only where the EPA Administrator determines that recycling is not feasible or threatens national security. The standards would be federal, the authority to implement them would be with the states.

This bill would establish a national policy for the conservation of biological diversity. It would require assessments of the effects on biological diversity in all evaluations of the environmental impacts of major federal actions and it would establish a federal strategy for preserving biological diversity, coordinating that effort among federal, state, and private initiatives. It calls for a study of our nation's biological diversity and, it supports basic research.

Finally, Mr. President, this bill will help sustain and protect our world's forests by specifically addressing tropical wood products, deforestation, and protection of the Amazon Basin.

I am proposing a phased-in ban on the importation of tropical wood products not obtained from regimes of sustained

yield management. The uncontrolled logging of such woods is a major threat to the rain forests. The United States, the European Communities and Japan are the major markets for such woods. This bill proposes that the principle consuming nations support a lending facility to help the producers of tropical woods develop sustained yield management systems.

To stop global deforestation, this bill would instruct the director of AID to assess the potential gains and costs of a program to help small landholders with the capital needed to make improvements -- in many cases, minor doses of capital could produce major improvements. The intent is to expand the use of the Micro-Enterprises Act as a channel to bring such aid directly to small landholders.

And, because we know that a substantial increase in reforested areas would not only help alleviate regional environmental and economic problems, but also ameliorate the greenhouse effect, this bill would provide a report identifying the potential for expanded areas of reforestation around the world, an estimate of costs, and a plan for allocating those costs internationally.

I am also proposing that our Secretary of State propose to the Government of Brazil that the Brazilians take the lead in

protecting the Amazon Basin by convening a conference focused on identifying programs to conserve the Basin's resources. There is a finding that the major industrial nations, recognizing the need for this action on global environmental grounds, should be prepared to consider substantial material contributions toward that end. At the same time, the Congress directs the U.S. directors of multilateral development banks to urge reconsideration of and restraint in lending that would exacerbate the problem.

Mr. President, this bill is intentionally comprehensive and far reaching. Just as the environmental fate and future of our nation is tied to those of every other nation, so too are these issues tied to each other and to the resolution of the problems we face here and around the globe.

These are priority issues for me and, I believe for many of my colleagues and many of our constituents. In Tennessee, there is grave concern about hazardous wastes, about the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink, about the protection of our parks and wilderness. That concern stretches across our country and beyond our borders. There is a vital and important connection between the rainforests of

Brazil, the frozen wilderness of Antarctica and the natural resources we enjoy in our home states. That connection is our

future, our quality of life today and our children's quality of life tomorrow. We must recognize that connection and act now.

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Remarks of

SENATOR AL GORE

Hearing on Pending CFC Legislation

Committee on Environment and Public Works

May 19, 1989

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for holding these hearings on what we can all agree is one of the most urgent aspects of the global environmental crisis that our planet is facing: depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer by manmade chemicals.

(A) Double Problem (B) 15 years ago (C) - Protocol (D) Ant. (E) Arctic

The world's governments are moving with remarkable speed toward ending production of these chemicals, which have been shown to be responsible not only for depleting the Earth's protective ozone layer, but also for causing up to 20% of the greenhouse effect. The Montreal Protocol, a landmark international agreement to protect the global environment, went into effect at the beginning of the year.

- Cancer
- cataracts
- Immunity
- food chain
- Ozone
Protocol
Sho

Commerce

But soon afterward, in hearings before my subcommittee, we heard from an international scientific team that the Arctic

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1 - Trip
- London
- Hearings

atmosphere was primed with manmade chemicals that would cause ozone depletion in a manner analogous to those that caused a hole in the stratosphere over Antarctica. Soon thereafter, in March, I was a member of the U.S. delegation to Prime Minister Thatcher's conference, "Saving the Ozone Layer." There, the nations of the world joined to call for a faster phaseout of ozone-destroying chemicals than that specified by the Montreal Protocol, a phaseout by the end of the century. In Helsinki, the parties to the Montreal Protocol continued along those lines of discussion -- talks that should lead to the faster phaseout schedule.

But the evidence of the danger that these chemicals pose to the world's environment continues to mount, and each time, we are forced to go back to the drawing board, to tighten restrictions, to hasten the phaseout schedule. Mr. Chairman, I believe that the evidence points clearly toward the need to reduce -- and eventually halt -- emissions of these chemicals as rapidly as possible.

Lieberman
S201

Stafford (orig. co-sp.)
(Chapman + Bennett)

I have introduced three bills to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The first, the "Consumer Ozone Protection Act," has been referred to the Commerce Committee. It would label, regulate, and -- in some cases -- eliminate the sale of certain consumer products that contain manmade substances that have been

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shown to deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. It regulates the servicing of auto air conditioners, and calls for the development of a Chlorofluorocarbon and Halon Reclamation Plan for the purpose of encouraging recapture and recycling of ozone-depleting substances.

2 The second bill, the "Ozone Layer Conservation Act," is in the Finance Committee, and calls for a manufacturers' excise tax on certain chemicals that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. This same measure has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Stark, and has 59 co-sponsors there. In addition, my bill establishes an Ozone Layer Conservation Trust Fund in the Treasury Department, and directs half of the revenues from the excise tax into the Trust Fund for the purpose of promoting research, development, and market incentives for technological alternatives to ozone-depleting chemicals. The bill calls on the EPA and the DOE to develop a strategic plan for disbursing revenues held in the Trust Fund in order to achieve these objectives, and specifies the use of market incentives that are modeled on previous federal efforts to stimulate growth of new industries.

* The third bill, the "Upper Ozone Chemicals Act," has been referred to this Committee. It calls for a five-year phaseout of

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six substances that deplete the ozone layer (CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, halon-1211, halon-1301, and carbon tetrachloride), and a ten-year phaseout of other, less damaging chemicals. There are exceptions for medical and national security reasons. In addition, the bill has provisions for certifying that nations from which we import products that contain ozone-depleting chemicals have a similar phaseout program in place, and a requirement for safe disposal of ozone-depleting chemicals. Finally, the bill calls for developing a safe alternatives policy, for replacing the substances to be phased out with chemicals, product substitutes, or alternative manufacturing processes that reduce overall risks to public health and the environment.

Risk
Tradeoff

There will be some who claim that the five-year phaseout of the six most harmful ozone-depleting chemicals is too soon. But Mr. Chairman, I do not agree. I believe that the threat to the earth's ozone shield is too serious for complacency. And I believe that the rapid phaseout of these six chemicals will stimulate the development of alternative substances and technologies. We became aware that manmade chemicals depleted the stratospheric ozone layer over a decade ago. Rather than find alternatives, however, industry chose to ignore the problem. Except for a federally mandated ban on uses in spray cans, the response was one of business-as-usual.

A more rapid phaseout of these six ozone-destroying chemicals will not only protect the environment for ourselves and our children, it will also speed the development of new, post-CFC technologies.

And these technologies, in turn, will benefit not only the environment, but the U.S. trade balance as well. Obsolete, chlorofluorocarbon-based refrigerators are being purchased by Third World consumers as we speak. In the capital-poor developing world, this equipment will not be replaced for decades, and will require additional chlorofluorocarbons to replace those lost during their service lifetimes. Some of these countries, like China, are not parties to the Montreal Protocol. The problem that we are addressing with the legislation that will be discussed today will be made much worse by the introduction of these CFC-based technologies to yet other areas of the world. The U.S. is in a position to lead the world to post-CFC technologies, and our economy will benefit enormously from that effort.

The imperative is to preserve the future of our children, and of generations to follow. It is a moral imperative. Although Congress is recognizing the challenge of this and other components of the global environmental crisis, there remains a critical need for President Bush to show that as

a nation, we have the vision and the courage to act responsibly. We must also transform our behavior. The solutions we seek will be found in a new faith in the future of life on earth after our own, a faith in the future which justifies sacrifices in the present, and a new moral courage to choose higher values in the conduct of human affairs.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, July 14, 1989

Contact: Marla Romash
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202-547-0806 (H)

**AMENDMENT WOULD CUT DEFENSE DEPT. EMISSIONS OF OZONE-DEPLETERS
Committee Approves, Includes in Defense Authorization**

WASHINGTON-- Military emissions of chemicals responsible for destroying the earth's stratospheric ozone layer would be reduced if the bill approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee today (7/14), authorizing Fiscal Year 1990 spending for the Defense Department, is enacted, said Sen. Al Gore, D-TN, the co-author of that provision.

"The Armed Services Committee recognizes the urgency of the environmental crisis we face and the need to take immediate action to reduce emissions of chemicals which to date, have ripped a continent-sized hole in the upper ozone layer," said Gore, who, with Sen. John Warner of Virginia -- the Committee's Ranking Republican, offered an amendment to restrict military emissions of chlorofluorocarbons and halons.

Gore and Warner also introduced language, accepted by the committee, that will promote recycling at military installations and increase the military's use of biodegradable packaging and plastics.

The CFC/halon amendment offered by Gore and Warner and accepted by the committee into the final authorization bill, directs the Department of Defense to adopt programs to reduce unnecessary CFC and halon emissions resulting from maintenance procedures and training and testing. The Department will six months to report the the Armed Services Committee details of the reduction programs it will implement.

In addition, the authorization bill now creates a CFC Advisory Committee to study the use of CFCs in the Defense Department and the cost and feasibility of substitutes. The Advisory Committee would report to Congress by the end of fiscal 1990.

"The Defense Department has recognized the global effort to reduce emissions of these chemicals and has taken steps

toward that end. But we must ensure that the search for alternatives proceeds at the fastest pace possible," said Gore.

"The armed services now can substantially reduce emissions with changes in readiness, testing and exercise procedures. An earlier Defense Department directive recognizes this, but doesn't establish any goals for reductions or any deadlines."

Gore also is the author of separate legislation to significantly reduce emissions of ozone-depleting chemicals, including a proposed bill to completely ban CFCs within five years.

Separate language in the Defense Department authorization appropriates up to \$100,000 to continue research into the use of biodegradable materials in ration packaging and, encourage the use of biodegradables and recycling throughout the armed services.

##

July 7, 1989

Report language:

The Department of Defense is an important consumer of chlorofluorocarbons and halons, which it uses for refrigerants, fire-fighting and as solvents. Recognizing the global effort now underway to phase out these substances, the Department of Defense has set up a process aimed at the same goal. The Committee is concerned that the armed services move at the fastest pace possible to find and employ alternatives to CFCs and halons. There is also a concern that the costs for so doing be identified, and that the military's peculiar requirements for CFCs and halons be taken account of in plans for a transition.

Meanwhile, pending success in replacing these substances, the Department of Defense could substantially reduce the release of CFCs and halons into the atmosphere, as a consequence of changes which can be made in readiness, testing, and exercise procedures. This possibility is already recognized in DOD's directive 6050.9 of February 13, 1989 on Chlorofluorocarbons and Halons. Existing guidance does not, however, establish any goals for such reductions either in term of amounts of the substances in question or the pace of progress. It is the Committee's view that such targets should be set and mandated.

Amendment

The Department of Defense shall adopt procedures for the reduction of emissions of CFCs and halons to the atmosphere as a consequence of maintenance procedures (in particular, recycling), training and testing practices, with the goal of cutting such emissions by the year 1995, to 10% of present annual rates, as measured by the average consumption of CFCs and halons for such purposes over the last five fiscal years. Overall responsibility for this effort shall be vested in the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Production and Logistics.



June 5, 1989

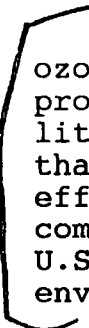
Dear Colleague:

Recently, I introduced three pieces of legislation to deal with destruction of the earth's stratospheric ozone layer by manmade chemicals.



Many who have examined the global environmental crisis believe that one of the first actions we should take is to deal effectively with those manmade chemicals -- chlorofluorocarbons and halons -- which are known to not only catalyze the destruction of the ozone layer, but also cause 20% to 25% of the greenhouse effect.

This three-part legislative package is designed to help protect the stratospheric ozone layer and the earth's climate system. The first bill, S.870, The Consumer Ozone Protection Act of 1989, has been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The second bill, S. 871, The Ozone Layer Conservation Act of 1989 has been referred to the Committee on Finance. The third bill, S. 872, The Upper Ozone Chemicals Act of 1989, has been referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.



The world is poised to meet the challenge of stratospheric ozone destruction, and has taken great steps to address the problem. But those steps have already been shown to be too little, too late. The U.S. is a major emitter of the chemicals that both destroy the ozone layer and worsen the greenhouse effect. These bills -- taken together -- represent a comprehensive package that will demonstrate to the world that the U.S. is going to be a leader in addressing the global environmental crisis.

Summaries of all three bills are enclosed. If you would like to join me as a cosponsor of S. 870, S. 871, or S. 872, please contact Rick Adcock of my staff at 4-6458.

Sincerely,

Albert Gore Jr.

enclosures

Remarks of
SENATOR AL GORE
Hearing on Pending CFC Legislation
Subcommittee on Environmental Protection
Committee on Environment and Public Works

May 19, 1989

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for holding these hearings on what we can all agree is one of the most urgent aspects of the global environmental crisis that our planet is facing: depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer by manmade chemicals.

Most of the world's governments are moving with remarkable speed toward ending production of these chemicals, which have been shown to be responsible not only for depleting the Earth's protective ozone layer, but also for causing up to 20% of the greenhouse effect. The Montreal Protocol, a landmark international agreement to protect the global environment, went into effect at the beginning of the year.

But soon afterward, in hearings before my subcommittee, we heard from an international scientific team that the Arctic atmosphere was primed with manmade chemicals that would cause ozone depletion in a manner analogous to those that caused a hole in the stratosphere over Antarctica. Soon thereafter, in March, I was a member of the U.S. delegation to Prime Minister Thatcher's conference on "Saving the Ozone Layer." There, the nations of the world joined to call for a faster phaseout of ozone-destroying chemicals than that specified by the Montreal Protocol, a phaseout by the end of the century. In Helsinki, the parties to the Montreal Protocol continued along those lines of discussion -- talks that should lead to the faster phaseout schedule.

But the evidence of the danger that these chemicals pose to the world's environment continues to mount, and each time, we are forced to go back to the drawing board, to tighten restrictions, to hasten the phaseout schedule. Mr. Chairman, I believe that the evidence points clearly toward the need to reduce -- and eventually halt -- emissions of these chemicals as rapidly as possible.

I have introduced three bills to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The first, the "Consumer Ozone Protection Act," has been referred to the Commerce Committee. It would label,

regulate, and -- in some cases -- eliminate the sale of certain consumer products that contain manmade substances that have been shown to deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. It regulates the servicing of auto air conditioners, and calls for the development of a Chlorofluorocarbon and Halon Reclamation Plan for the purpose of encouraging recapture and recycling of ozone-depleting substances.

The second bill, the "Ozone Layer Conservation Act," is in the Finance Committee, and calls for a manufacturers' excise tax on certain chemicals that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. This same measure has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Stark, and has 59 co-sponsors there. In addition, my bill establishes an Ozone Layer Conservation Trust Fund in the Treasury Department, and directs half of the revenues from the excise tax into the Trust Fund for the purpose of promoting research, development, and market incentives for technological alternatives to ozone-depleting chemicals. The bill calls on the EPA and the DOE to develop a strategic plan for disbursing revenues held in the Trust Fund in order to achieve these objectives, and specifies the use of market incentives that are modeled on previous federal efforts to stimulate growth of new industries.

The third bill, the "Upper Ozone Chemicals Act," has been referred to this Committee. It calls for a five-year phaseout of six substances that deplete the ozone layer (CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, halon-1211, halon-1301, and carbon tetrachloride), and a ten-year phaseout of other, less damaging chemicals. There are exceptions for medical and national security reasons. In addition, the bill has provisions for certifying that nations from which we import products that contain ozone-depleting chemicals have a similar phaseout program in place, and a requirement for safe disposal of ozone-depleting chemicals. Finally, the bill calls for developing a safe alternatives policy, for replacing the substances to be phased out with chemicals, product substitutes, or alternative manufacturing processes that reduce overall risks to public health and the environment.

There will be some who claim that the five-year phaseout of the six most harmful ozone-depleting chemicals is too soon. But Mr. Chairman, I do not agree. I believe that the threat to the earth's ozone shield is too serious for complacency. And I believe that the rapid phaseout of these six chemicals will stimulate the development of alternative substances and technologies. We became aware that manmade chemicals depleted the stratospheric ozone layer over a decade ago. Rather than find alternatives, however, industry chose to ignore the problem.

Except for a federally mandated ban on uses in spray cans, the response was one of business-as-usual.

A more rapid phaseout of these six ozone-destroying chemicals will not only protect the environment for ourselves and our children, it will also speed the development of new, post-CFC technologies.

And these technologies, in turn, will benefit not only the environment, but the U.S. trade balance as well. Obsolete, chlorofluorocarbon-based refrigerators are being purchased by Third World consumers as we speak. In the capital-poor developing world, this equipment will not be replaced for decades, and will require additional chlorofluorocarbons to replace those lost during their service lifetimes. Some of these countries, like China, are not parties to the Montreal Protocol. The problem that we are addressing with the legislation that will be discussed today will be made much worse by the introduction of these CFC-based technologies to yet other areas of the world. The U.S. is in a position to lead the world to post-CFC technologies, and our economy will benefit enormously from that effort.

The imperative is to preserve the future of our children, and of generations to follow. It is a moral

imperative. Although Congress is recognizing the challenge of
this and other components of the global environmental crisis,
there remains a critical need for President Bush to show that as
a nation, we have the vision and the courage to act responsibly.
We must also transform our behavior. The solutions we seek will
be found in a new faith in the future of life on earth after our
own, a faith in the future which justifies sacrifices in the
present, and a new moral courage to choose higher values in the
conduct of human affairs.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I commend the Subcommittee
for its pioneering work.

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ALBERT GORE JR.

(D - Tennessee) SR 393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 1988

CONTACT: Mark Armour
(202)224-4944

GORE CALLS FOR CURBS ON CHEMICALS THAT DESTROY THE EARTH'S SHIELD AGAINST CANCER-CAUSING RAYS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Al Gore (D-TN) today called for immediate steps to protect the atmospheric ozone layer which shields the earth from the sun's cancer-causing rays and for a renewed effort to clean up toxic waste.

In a major environmental address, Senator Gore said that ozone depletion is a "potentially cataclysmic threat to our planet," and he criticized the Reagan-Bush administration for allowing industry to dictate administration policy.

Senator Gore called for an immediate ban on non-essential uses of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and a rapid phase-out of other harmful uses of the chemicals, which are used in fast-food packaging and aerosols, and linked to the destruction of the ozone layer. He said that the depletion of the ozone layer at projected rates could cause an estimated 7 million additional cases of cancer in the United States over the next 80 years, and 131 million cases worldwide.

Senator Gore called for six immediate steps to stop the threat to the ozone layer:

- An immediate ban on non-essential uses of CFCs;
- A rapid phase-out over 5 years of all other uses of the most harmful CFCs;
- An immediate assessment of \$1.00 per pound on the most harmful CFCs to encourage CFC producers to develop environmentally sound alternatives;
- A ban on the importation of CFC-containing products into the United States that don't meet U.S. standards;
- For the President to urge Japan and European nations to ratify the Montreal Protocol in time for the June Economic Summit; and
- For the President to put the issue on the agenda of the June summit and push for an amendment to the Montreal Protocol to further accelerate a total ban of harmful CFCs.

Senator Gore also said that he would put more emphasis on toxic waste clean-up.

"The enduring symbol of the Reagan administration's environmental failures will be a barge filled with garbage, slowly drifting out to sea," Senator Gore said. "But responsible men and women cannot let these problems drift."

"We need to recognize that toxic wastes threaten not only individuals but entire communities -- and it is working families who are most likely to suffer," he said. "We need to find a tough cop for the EPA -- to appoint someone who will enforce the law, not ignore it, flout it, or break it."

AL GORE



'88

President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 1988

CONTACT: Arlie Schardt
Press Secretary

GORE CALLS FOR CURBS ON CHEMICALS THAT DESTROY THE EARTH'S SHIELD AGAINST CANCER-CAUSING RAYS

PUEBLO, Colorado -- Presidential candidate Al Gore today called for immediate steps to protect the atmospheric ozone layer which shields the earth from the sun's cancer-causing rays and for a renewed effort to clean up toxic waste.

In a major environmental address in Pueblo, Colorado, Gore said that ozone depletion is a "potentially cataclysmic threat to our planet," and he criticized the Reagan-Bush administration for allowing industry to dictate administration policy.

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"We need to recognize that toxic wastes threaten not only individuals but entire communities -- and it is working families who are most likely to suffer," he said. "As President, my first priority will be to find a tough cop for the EPA -- to appoint someone who will enforce the law, not ignore it, flout it and break it."

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PAID FOR BY ALBERT GORE JR FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE INC

11

AL GORE



'88

President

STATEMENT OF SENATOR AL GORE
"A NEW AGENDA FOR THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT"
PUEBLO, COLORADO -- 17 MARCH 1988.

CONTACT: Arlie Schardt
(703) 979-1988

During twelve years in Congress and throughout my campaign I have stressed the importance of a healthy and clean environment to our future. We need to recognize that toxic wastes threaten not only individuals but entire communities -- and it is working families who are most likely to suffer. We have seen children grow mysteriously ill, entire communities' water supplies contaminated, and people forced from their homes. We need the dedication, the technology, leadership, and the basic human concern to stop these tragedies.

The need is not simply more money but more courage. As president, my first priority will be to find a tough cop for the EPA; to appoint someone who will enforce the law -- not ignore it, flout it, and break it. I intend to appoint men and women in my EPA whose solution for the ozone problem is something more than sunglasses and straw hats and who won't try to solve acid rain by liming our lakes.

Because of these concerns, I was particularly pleased to recently receive the League of Conservation Voters highest grade among this year's presidential candidates. It was with a great deal of personal pride that I read their description of me as "an environmental Paul Revere." "Long before most of his colleagues are even aware of a problem," they said, "Gore is likely to be studying it...holding hearings and sounding the alarm."

Well, today I am sounding the alarm again. I am calling on the President to take six emergency steps to respond to the unprecedented global threat of depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer.

First, there should be an immediate ban on non-essential uses of CFCs.

Second, a rapid phase out, over five years, of all other uses of the most harmful CFCs.

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11

Third, an immediate assessment of \$1.00 per pound on the most harmful chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs, the chemicals responsible for ozone depletion. The fee should increase to \$2.00 in 1989, and reach \$5.00 by 1992. This will send a long overdue message to the producers of CFCs that we must embark on a crash program to develop environmentally sound alternatives. It will raise \$260,000,000 in the first year, a portion of which should go to fund research into alternatives for CFCs and to help those industries who depend on CFCs to manufacture their product.

Fourth, to ban the importation of CFC-containing products into this country that do not meet U.S. standards.

Fifth, the president should personally call on the leaders of Japan and the European nations to urge the ratification in their countries of the Montreal protocol in time for the June Economic Summit. So far, only the United States and Mexico have done so.

Sixth, the president should put this issue on the agenda of the June summit, and to push at that time for an amendment to the Montreal protocol to further accelerate a total ban of harmful CFCs. After all, this problem has its origin in commerce, and it is precisely the sort of issue that would most benefit from this high level discussion.

Yesterday, government scientists, reporting on atmospheric ozone depletion, publicly confirmed what the experts have been warning us about for many years -- that we face a potentially cataclysmic threat to our planet, entirely beyond the ability of science to predict.

In a world where the threat of nuclear annihilation, economic collapse, famine, regional conflict, and the AIDS pandemic compete for the attention of world leaders, it's not surprising that some -- particularly those in the Reagan-Bush Administration -- would dismiss such problems as depletion of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect as the concerns best left to the lower levels of the bureaucracy. But the findings in the NASA report clearly demonstrate that we face a peril as great as any we have faced. Virtually everyone now accepts that this is a deadly serious threat to the health, and well being, of men, women, and children all over the world.

For years the Reagan-Bush administration has crossed its fingers and hoped this problem would simply go away. It responded as it has to virtually every environmental problem it has confronted, allowing the industry at fault to call the shots. As a result once again rather than answers we are left only with questions.

This year, in the U.S. alone, there will be an additional 50,000 cases of skin cancer, an increase of almost 10 percent,

yet Americans are left to wonder why rather than a strategy to assure the rapid development of alternatives to the worst CFCs, instead the administration has agreed to a scheme that seems designed only to guarantee CFC producers windfall profits.

Under the administration/industry plan, producers are guaranteed the same share of the market they currently hold. As the supply of CFCs drops, as it is required to do under the Montreal protocol, and demand remains high, the only thing that will change is that companies will be able to charge more for CFCs. The result will be big profits for the producers of CFCs, the same companies that have misled industry and the American people for years into believing that somehow this would all just go away.

For six years, I have chaired hearings in the House and Senate to call attention to these problems. The ozone problem may have begun 60 years ago when chemists developed compounds called chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, that came to be used as coolants and as propellants in aerosol sprays. Millions of tons of CFCs were used before traces of them were found in the atmosphere in the early 1970's. By 1974, scientists had concluded that CFCs in the upper atmosphere were destroying the ozone layer that protects the earth by blocking the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

By 1978, the U.S. banned the use of CFCs in spray cans. But that was not enough, as long as other countries continued to use them. In 1985, British scientists discovered a mysterious hole that was opening up in the ozone layer over Antarctica. It became increasingly clear that CFCs were a major factor in this alarming development. We now know that it is the key factor. Scientists say such a breakdown could lead to millions more cases of skin cancer.

In May of last year, some Reagan officials began to fear that governmental action against this threat might offend the President's laissez-faire philosophy. Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel was quoted as saying the answer to ozone depletion might be for people to wear sunglasses and floppy hats! Fortunately, wiser minds prevailed, and Lee Thomas recently helped negotiate a 24-nation international treaty to limit the production of CFCs.

This treaty is a tiny but important first step. We must now immediately do much more. Even under the terms of the agreement, ozone depletion may cause an estimated seven million additional cases of cancer in the U.S. over the next 80 years -- and 131 million cases worldwide. That is simply not acceptable.

Even worse, the greenhouse effect, caused by increased carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other trace gases in the atmosphere, is

trapping in heat and causing a long-term warming of the earth, could have equally dire results.

In 1981, I chaired the first of a series of congressional hearings that focused on the greenhouse effect and the upper atmosphere. In 1985, I introduced the first legislation specifically directed at the greenhouse effect.

Six years ago, at our first hearing, Professor Roger Revelle of the University of California, testified that the greenhouse effect was no longer a hypothesis, but had become a reality.

In 1982 hearings, Dr. James Hansen of NASA and Professor George Kukla of Columbia testified that the rise in carbon dioxide levels could be closely correlated with a rise in the earth's mean temperature, a shrinking of glacial ice, and the rise of the sea level.

The more we learned, the more we realized that the greenhouse effect is too vast and its causes too elusive for any scientific quick fix. It will require major international scientific study and action.

What can America do?

In addition to the steps I have called for today on the ozone problem, I have sponsored legislation to create an International Year of the Greenhouse Effect, to focus international attention on the problem, as was done with the successful International Geophysical Year of 1957. I and other Senators have also urged Secretary of State George Shultz to include the greenhouse effect on the agenda of the next U.S.-Soviet summit meeting.

We can't stop there.

As President, I will convene an international summit devoted to the related problems of the ozone depletion and the greenhouse effect. I will give personal attention and personal leadership to these issues. I will appoint a White House Science Advisor, with Cabinet rank, to coordinate our government's efforts to solve these problems.

Are not these classic examples of problems upon which we, the Soviet Union, and other world powers should work together, pooling our scientific skills to benefit humankind, rather than devoting them to a costly and destructive arms race?

I will challenge General Secretary Gorbachev to join with us and other nations in an all-out, coordinated and cooperative attack on these urgent threats to the environment of this planet we all share and love.

We must be prepared also to work with the United Nations, the World Bank, and other international organizations, on these issues. We know, for example, that the greenhouse effect appears to be a direct by-product of resource consumption -- the destruction of forests, the use of fossil fuels, and of CFCs. We know that certain less developed nations are rapidly destroying their tropical rain forests, forests that serve as the major oxygen and carbon dioxide conversion mechanisms in the world. Twelve of the 17 most heavily indebted nations, including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and the Philippines, are destroying their forests at an alarming rate.

The entire world has a huge stake in these tropical forests, so great that an arrangement is needed whereby certain international debts will be eased in exchange for forest conservation.

What will this planet be like 50 or a 100 years from now? Will we avert nuclear war, only to be undone by ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect, ocean pollution, global overcrowding, contaminated ground water, or polluted air and acid rain? These threats are not science fiction -- the world's best scientists are telling us these things can happen unless we act.

The enduring symbol of the Reagan administration's environmental failures will be a barge filled with garbage, slowly drifting out to sea.

But responsible men and women cannot let these problems drift. Starting in January of 1989, we must have leadership that understands our past and cares about our future. That is the leadership I intend to provide.

Thank you.

K

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 7, 1989

TO: Al

FROM: Rick

SUBJECT: What Nightline will discuss concerning the new legislation

I've offered the following explanation on legislation to nightline:

The Montreal Protocol, the calls from the EC and the U.S. last week, and the legislation that you introduced in S.201, deal with production phaseouts -- though not on the same timetable (see memo that I handed to you tonight for the timetables). The phaseout is an important step.

But there are additional measures that we can take in the near term, to reduce CFC emissions immediately. You intend to introduce in a week or so additional legislation dealing with some of these additional measures, including

(1) a ban on over-the-counter sales of freon (which is a trade name for CFCs),

[The explanation for (1) is that, with the ban, freon could only be sold in bulk, thus only those who buy in bulk -- the servicers -- would purchase it. Then, if, say, your auto air conditioner was leaking, you'd have to go to the service station to get the leak fixed -- we could require the station to fix the leak before refilling the air conditioner. Otherwise, with the "small," 14-ounce cans available, consumers typically just purchase them and use them to recharge their air conditioners until they finally get around to eventually fixing the leak. Pouring the stuff into a leaky air conditioner is just like pouring the stuff into the atmosphere.]

(2) a ban on halon-using fire extinguishers for consumer applications, and

(3) a ban on products that can be referred to as nonessential CFC applications. These include party streamers (like Silly String, but don't use the name on TV), horns, and the stuff used in the consumer photographic equipment cleaning.

To the best of my knowledge, no Senator has called for these measures in particular.

FYI -- I didn't tell Nightline about the Baucus or Chafee bills, but here's what they contain:

Chafee's bill:

- prohibits, as of Jan.1, 1993, the venting and release of these chemicals into the environment; recapture, recycle, and safe disposal are required. By 1994, he wants CFCs to be removed from equipment (like refrigerators) before disposal, new equipment to have a servicing aperture for CFC recovery, and foams blown with CFCs to be disposed of so as to avoid CFC release.

- freezes production at 1986 levels as of July 1, 1989

- follows with a three-step phaseout, to 80% in 1992, 50% in 1995, and to 5% in 1997 (relative to 1986 levels).

Baucus' bill:

- essentially calls for a surcharge to be added to CFCs, to make the alternatives competitive economically.

- the surcharge is to be collected by the Treasury, and a portion (up to \$100 million) is to go to funding R&D into alternatives.

I've asked Nightline to deemphasize this "new legislation," saying that the more important issue here is your trip to London. What I've given you above -- except for the stuff on the Chafee and Baucus bills -- is simply going into a briefing memo for Koppel.

Also, remember that the U.S. call for a phaseout is tied to the availability of "new, safe alternatives." In other words, they've given themselves an "out." And, are we going to just wait for the current CFC producers to find alternatives for their products, or are we going to broaden the horizon and look for alternative technologies that don't rely on CFCs at all, like helium-based refrigeration?

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 7, 1989

TO: AG

FROM: MER, BNR, JPA

SUBJECT: NIGHT LINES

***URGENCY

"If you found cyanide in your food supply, you wouldn't phase it out over ten years."

"If someone was poisoning your children, you wouldn't give them ten years to stop."

"The longer we wait to phase out CFCs, the more time CFCs will have to phase out ozone."

"For every year we hesitate now, we'll wait ten years for the damage to be repaired later."

"The developing countries probably hold the wild card. If they're not willing to sit at the table, the cards we draw become worthless."

***OBSTACLES

"We know what to do. It is no longer a great mystery. The problem is, there are too many who don't want to believe there's a problem or face up to the solutions."

"Imagine never seeing a huge steel battleship on the water, if someone told you it'd float, you wouldn't believe them. That's where we are now. The potential problems we face, the real problems we already face, are completely beyond anyone's experience so few want to believe they're possible, or even that they're already here."

"What's happening now is unlike anything we have ever seen. And until we accept that, we're going to be unable to stop it, to stop the slow, almost imperceptible slide to environmental disaster."

✱

"Politicians don't like mysteries. They want to know "who done it" and then act. We can't wait for the last chapter. We've got to take the evidence we have now -- compelling evidence -- and begin to take action. Uncertainty cannot continue to be an excuse for inaction."

****EXAMPLES:**

"What took thousands of generations is now taking one or two generations, where population is concerned. In my lifetime, the world's population has more than doubled. Before that, it took thousands of lifetimes to see the same kind of increases."

"Imagine if the population of your office increased by ten and they didn't give you any extra space."

"Those population increases mean pollution increases. We're asking a very fragile world to suddenly and safely absorb more auto pollution, more industry, more development, and at the same time withstand a brutal environmental assault on very limited resources."

"Look at the population increases. Chart them on a graph with damage to the ozone shield, deforestation, global warming, the disappearance of different forms of plants and animals. The lines all run the same way. These patterns are as obvious as the stripe on a tie."

"Remember the science experiment with a frog? Heat the water and the frog slowly and the frog just sits there. Drop the frog in boiling water and it jumps out fast. We're like the frog being heated slowly. We don't think about geological time, we think about today and tomorrow, this week and next. And so we sit here as the environment nears the boiling point."

✱ *FOLKSY**

"My religious faith teaches me that we're given dominion over the earth, but it also says that we should be good stewards of the earth, that it's our responsibility to take care of it. What do we tell our children and grandchildren if we allow the destruction of more than half the living things on earth, if we allow the poisoning of our environment. We're going to leave our great grandchildren shaking their heads, wondering what in the world we were doing back in 1989 ignoring all this."

"This is not a bad science fiction plot. This is real. Our future, our children's future -- the quality of life we

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enjoy today and the quality of life they will enjoy tomorrow
-- is really what we're talking about when you cut through
all the scientific explanations and the alphabet of
chemicals. "

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 3, 1989

Contact: Marla Romash
(202) 224-4944
(202) 547-0806 (H)

CFC PHASEOUT DEADLINE TOO LATE, GORE SAYS
Outlines New Proposal to Address Current CFC Emissions

****Gore to serve as delegate to Thatcher Ozone Conf. This Wknd****

WASHINGTON -- The European Community's agreement to phase-out, by the year 2000, chemicals now destroying the earth's protective ozone shield -- a timetable reportedly under consideration by the Bush Administration -- waits too long to take urgently needed action, U.S. Sen. Al Gore, D-TN, said today, outlining a new proposal to immediately reduce emissions of the chemicals.

"Waiting until the year 2000 means will we be forced to wait decades, maybe even a century before the damage from these chemicals will be reversed," Gore said. "There is no reason to wait -- every year of delay implies an additional 5 to 10 years that these chemicals will remain in the atmosphere, destroying ozone. We've identified a problem. We even know the solution. It's time to act," said Gore, whose legislation calling for a phase-out within five years is now pending in Congress.

Gore will be in London this weekend as part of a five-member U.S. delegation to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's international conference on saving the earth's upper ozone layer. He will be the only member of Congress in the delegation.

"Even a phase-out in five years doesn't adequately address the problem because today -- and for the next five years -- we will continue to release these chemicals into our environment and tear away at the ozone shield that protects our planet and our people," Gore said. "We must start working today to stop the release of these chemicals into our environment."

"We need to act in the U.S., but the rest of the world must take action as well. Fully one-quarter of the global release of the chemicals destroying the ozone layer is still from aerosol spray cans, an application that was banned in the U.S. years ago. At a minimum, that application should be banned around the world."

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Gore, the author of the World Environment Policy Act of 1989, which includes the five-year phase-out, outlined new legislation he will introduce immediately upon his return from London to reduce the threat presented by current emissions of chlorofluorocarbons, the chemicals principally responsible for ozone depletion.

"As much as 10-15 per cent of the damaging chemicals that the U.S. has produced in the last half-century are out there, in our environment, in our everyday lives, from air conditioners to refrigerators," Gore said. "There are steps we can take now to recycle, recapture, and control the damage being done by these chemicals. As we work for long-term reductions and look toward the future, we cannot lose sight of the world we live in today," Gore said.

Gore's new legislation will:

- o Encourage recapture and recycling of CFCs by instituting a form of "CFC Deposit," mainly affecting the CFC producers and those who service CFC-containing equipment, and not the average consumer.

"For example, when refrigerators, air conditioners, and other equipment are serviced or disposed of, we should minimize the release of CFCs through recapture and recycling," Gore said. "The technology exists, and the industry has taken steps toward this end."

- o Ban the sale of "do-it-yourself" cans of freon, used to recharge auto air conditioners, and recommend aircraft-quality hoses and fittings as standard equipment on auto air conditioners.

- o Promote the use of alternative technologies to manufacture rigid insulation and soft foam without CFCs.

- o Promote the use of alternative technologies for electronics cleaning applications.

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Mention announced efforts to phase out CFC
Use, conservation, etc.

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR ALBERT GORE
[HEARING ON ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC OZONE DEPLETION]
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE

FEBRUARY 23, 1989
←

Let me start this morning by welcoming our guests and by expressing to them our appreciation for their testimony.

The groundbreaking work of these scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration must be reflected in our policy and, in no small way, in our very way of life. The business and industry representatives here today are on the front lines of this real-world battle.

These scientists used the most complicated instruments, the most sophisticated measuring devices to examine, what for many Americans, is a something someone else can worry about. For most families, stratospheric ozone is not nearly as pressing a concern as the mortgage payment. So maybe it's not surprising that the first question the scientists faced at a news conference where they discussed their findings, was from a

reporter looking for plain language explanations. She was speaking for a large portion of the public.

There are compelling reasons to turn this
disinterest in activism. For example, there are warnings of
severe economic and social disruption in the coming decade -- in
the 1990s -- unless we move now to reverse the deterioration of
our environment. Ozone depletion is a key factor in the warnings.

 Destruction of the earth's protective ozone shield
in the upper atmosphere will mean lost protection from the sun's
most damaging rays and an increase in skin cancers. Estimates are
that for every one percent depletion of the ozone layer, there
will be a two percent increase in the incidence of skin cancer.
Worldwide, some 100,000 people each year die from skin
cancer. Since 1969, in the U.S. alone, ozone concentrations have
decreased two to three percent. The mathematics are deadly.

 Destruction of the earth's protective ozone
threatens thousands of plants and crops in ways the scientists
have not even fully measured and already has resulted in damage
to the most basic organisms at the bottom of our food chain,
simple vegetation in the Antarctic, for example, that sustains
the smallest fish to the largest whale.

~~X~~ The scientists tell us we have a problem now. The
hole in the upper ozone above Antarctica is the size of the
continental United States. Conditions at the Arctic present a
virtual time bomb that could cause similar problems. We know
what's punching these holes -- chloroflourocarbons. We've put
them up there with aerosal sprays, air conditioners,
refridgerators, styrofoam. The sad truth is that everything we've
dumped into our environment hasn't even yet reached the upper
atmosphere.

Between today and the year 2000, the quantity of
chemicals in our upper atmophere will have doubled. ~~X~~ If we think
we have a problem now, ten years from now, we will have four
times as big a problem in the Arctic and Antarctic. Stated as
simply as possible, for [^]that plain-language reporter and others,
this is one of the most serious environmental threats our planet
faces.

~~X~~ Importantly, however, this is a challenge we can
meet. It may mean changes in our refrigerators, different
types of airconditioners in our cars. It may mean we can no
longer go to the store and buy freon off the shelf.
But the fact is, we know what causes this problem: CFCs. And, we

know that reducing our consumption of these chemicals will reduce the environmental risk.

In the coming month, this hearing will be followed by another to focus on the impacts of ozone depletion and the policy responses needed to stimulate international cooperation. Today, I and my colleagues, are eager to discuss the findings of the most recent Arctic research and the private sector progress in developing alternatives to CFCs.

There must be a marriage between the scientists and the policy makers. That's the idea behind legislation I recently introduced, S. 201, which would, among other things, mandate a five year phase out of CFCs. We can't wait any longer to address this problem. The Montreal Protocol, which the Senate ratified last year, put in place international limits on CFC production. But a 50 percent reduction by 1999, as the protocol requires, is too little, too late.

~~The scientists who have come here today~~ are our first defense against global environmental threats like ozone depletion. Recognizing what is happening to our planet will show us what measures we must take to halt the damage. We need a broad, international effort to monitor and understand the earth,

so that we can respond wisely to the global environmental crisis

-- from ozone depletion and global warming to deforestation and

acid rain.

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR AL GORE
"A NEW AGENDA FOR THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT"

22 MARCH 1988

Mr. President, today I am rising to sound the alarm on an issue we have recently heard a great deal about, but about which frankly, much more needs to be done. I am calling on the President to take six emergency steps to respond to the unprecedented global threat of depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer.

First, there should be an immediate ban on non-essential uses of CFCs.

Second, a rapid phase out, over five years, of all other uses of the most harmful CFCs.

Third, an immediate assessment of \$1.00 per pound on the most harmful chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs, the chemicals responsible for ozone depletion. The fee should increase to \$2.00 in 1989, and reach \$5.00 by 1992. This will send a long overdue message to the producers of CFCs that we must embark on a crash program to develop environmentally sound alternatives. It will raise \$260,000,000 in the first year, a portion of which

should go to fund research into alternatives for CFCs and to help those industries who depend on CFCs to manufacture their product.

Fourth, to ban the importation of CFC-containing products into this country that do not meet U.S. standards.

Fifth, the president should personally call on the leaders of Japan and the European nations to urge the ratification in their countries of the Montreal protocol in time for the June Economic Summit. So far, only the United States and Mexico have done so.

Sixth, the president should put this issue on the agenda of the June summit, and to push at that time for an amendment to the Montreal protocol to further accelerate a total ban of harmful CFCs. After all, this problem has its origin in commerce, and it is precisely the sort of issue that would most benefit from this high level discussion.

Mr. President, last week, one day after we voted to ratify the Montreal ozone treaty, government scientists, publicly confirmed what the experts have been warning us about for many years -- that we face a potentially cataclysmic threat to our planet, entirely beyond the ability of science to predict.

In a world where the threat of nuclear annihilation, economic collapse, famine, regional conflict, and the AIDS pandemic compete for the attention of world leaders, it's not surprising that some -- particularly those in the Reagan-Bush Administration -- would dismiss such problems as depletion of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect as the concerns best left to the lower levels of the bureaucracy. But the findings in the NASA report clearly demonstrate that we face a peril as great as any we have faced. Virtually everyone now accepts that this is a deadly serious threat to the health, and well being, of men, women, and children all over the world.

For years the Reagan-Bush administration has crossed its fingers and hoped this problem would simply go away. It responded as it has to virtually every environmental problem it has confronted, allowing the industry at fault to call the shots. As a result once again rather than answers we are left only with questions.

This year, in the U.S. alone, there will be an additional 50,000 cases of skin cancer, an increase of almost 10 percent, yet Americans are left to wonder why rather than a strategy to assure the rapid development of alternatives to the worst CFCs, instead the administration has agreed to a scheme that seems designed only to guarantee CFC producers windfall profits.

Under the administration/industry plan, producers are guaranteed the same share of the market they currently hold. As the supply of CFCs drops, as it is required to do under the Montreal protocol, and demand remains high, the only thing that will change is that companies will be able to charge more for CFCs. The result will be big profits for the producers of CFCs, the same companies that have misled industry and the American people for years into believing that somehow this would all just go away.

For six years, I have chaired hearings in the House and Senate to call attention to these problems. The ozone problem may have begun 60 years ago when chemists developed compounds called chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, that came to be used as coolants and as propellants in aerosol sprays. Millions of tons of CFCs were used before traces of them were found in the atmosphere in the early 1970's. By 1974, scientists had concluded that CFCs in the upper atmosphere were destroying the ozone layer that protects the earth by blocking the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

By 1978, the U.S. banned the use of CFCs in spray cans. But that was not enough, as long as other countries continued to use them. In 1985, British scientists discovered a mysterious hole that was opening up in the ozone layer over Antarctica. It became increasingly clear that CFCs were a major factor in this

alarming development. We now know that it is the key factor. Scientists say such a breakdown could lead to millions more cases of skin cancer.

In May of last year, some Reagan officials began to fear that governmental action against this threat might offend the President's laissez-faire philosophy. Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel was quoted as saying the answer to ozone depletion might be for people to wear sunglasses and floppy hats! Fortunately, wiser minds prevailed, and Lee Thomas helped negotiate the 24-nation international treaty we ratified last week to limit the production of CFCs.

The treaty is a tiny but important first step. We must now immediately do much more. Even under the terms of the agreement, ozone depletion may cause an estimated seven million additional cases of cancer in the U.S. over the next 80 years -- and 131 million cases worldwide. That is simply not acceptable.

Even worse, the greenhouse effect, caused by increased carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other trace gases in the atmosphere, is trapping in heat and causing a long-term warming of the earth, could have equally dire results.

In 1981, I chaired the first of a series of congressional hearings that focused on the greenhouse effect and the upper

atmosphere. In 1985, I introduced the first legislation specifically directed at the greenhouse effect.

Six years ago, at our first hearing, Professor Roger Revelle of the University of California, testified that the greenhouse effect was no longer a hypothesis, but had become a reality.

In 1982 hearings, Dr. James Hansen of NASA and Professor George Kukla of Columbia testified that the rise in carbon dioxide levels could be closely correlated with a rise in the earth's mean temperature, a shrinking of glacial ice, and the rise of the sea level.

The more we learned, the more we realized that the greenhouse effect is too vast and its causes too elusive for any scientific quick fix. It will require major international scientific study and action.

What can America do?

In addition to the steps I have called for today on the ozone problem, I have sponsored legislation to create an International Year of the Greenhouse Effect, to focus international attention on the problem, as was done with the successful International Geophysical Year of 1957. I and other Senators have also urged Secretary of State George Shultz to

include the greenhouse effect on the agenda of the next U.S.-Soviet summit meeting.

We can't stop there.

The United States should call for an international summit devoted to the related problems of the ozone depletion and the greenhouse effect. We should urge an immediate reconvening of the signators of the Montreal protocol to take additional steps.

Are not these classic examples of problems upon which we, the Soviet Union, and other world powers should work together, pooling our scientific skills to benefit humankind, rather than devoting them to a costly and destructive arms race?

We should challenge General Secretary Gorbachev to join with us and other nations in an all-out, coordinated and cooperative attack on these urgent threats to the environment of this planet we all share and love.

We must be prepared also to work with the United Nations, the World Bank, and other international organizations, on these issues. We know, for example, that the greenhouse effect appears to be a direct by-product of resource consumption -- the destruction of forests, the use of fossil fuels, and of CFCs. We know that certain less developed nations are rapidly destroying

their tropical rain forests, forests that serve as the major oxygen and carbon dioxide conversion mechanisms in the world. Twelve of the 17 most heavily indebted nations, including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and the Philippines, are destroying their forests at an alarming rate.

The entire world has a huge stake in these tropical forests, so great that an arrangement is needed whereby certain international debts will be eased in exchange for forest conservation.

What will this planet be like 50 or a 100 years from now? Will we avert nuclear war, only to be undone by ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect, ocean pollution, global overcrowding, contaminated ground water, or polluted air and acid rain? These threats are not science fiction -- the world's best scientists are telling us these things can happen unless we act.

The enduring symbol of the Reagan administration's environmental failures will be a barge filled with garbage, slowly drifting out to sea.

But responsible men and women cannot let these problems drift. Starting in January of 1989, we must have leadership that understands our past and cares about our future.

Thank you.

Remarks of
SENATOR AL GORE

Hearing on S. 870 -- The Consumer Ozone Protection Act

Consumer Subcommittee
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
October 19, 1989

Mr. Chairman, let me first thank you for your interest in these issues. Your willingness to conduct a hearing allows us to continue what must be an ongoing investigation into key aspects of what I believe is the most serious environmental crisis we have ever faced.

The most recent news from Antarctica reinforces both the sense of urgency and the unparalleled scope of these challenges. Researchers are telling us that the chemicals we've been pouring into our atmosphere are creating a dangerous hole of shocking and unprecedented proportions in the stratospheric ozone layer above that continent. This year could be as bad as 1987 and that year, stratospheric ozone levels above Antarctica fell to record lows -- nearly 50 percent of the upper ozone destroyed and a continent-sized hole created.

We know more than enough to know that we are responsible. The scientific evidence is overwhelmingly clear: chemicals we're dumping into the atmosphere are destroying the atmospheric "shield" that protects us from the sun's deadliest radiation. Around the globe, governments are moving with remarkable speed to end production of these chemicals, chlorofluorocarbons and halons, and private industry is identifying alternatives. But neither government nor industry is moving really fast enough.

In our daily lives, it's not that we intend to poison our environment when we put these chemicals into the atmosphere. It's the kind of activities that make up an average weekend at home: fixing the air conditioners in our cars; decorating the kid's birthday hat with party streamers from a spray can; sounding a noise horn at a ball game. Most of us don't even know we're dealing with CFCs when we are, and most of us don't even think about it.

That's why this legislation is so important. As we work for international agreements to bring ever more effective limits on these chemicals and move toward the fastest possible complete phase-out -- here and abroad -- we also must recognize there are small steps we can take closer to home that will make a big difference. A phase-out in the production of these chemicals is a long-term solution. Right now, we can act and move toward these broader goals.

Labeling products that have ozone-eating chemicals among their ingredients can increase consumer awareness of these

substances and their destructive ability. Ending the sale of non-essential consumer products with CFCs -- such as the party streamers in a spray can -- can prevent frivolous but still damaging emissions. Taking more care to prevent emissions of CFCs when we service our automobile air conditioners makes sense.

This legislation allows us to make a difference. To choose products without these chemicals or, when alternatives do not yet exist, to know that the products contain ozone-destroying chemicals and must be disposed of properly in order to protect our environment.

These are steps we should take immediately to reduce the amount of these harmful chemicals we're releasing into our environment. The warning signals of the global environmental crisis -- and depletion of the stratospheric ozone is a key warning -- are compelling and clear. They are warnings of severe economic and environmental dislocation in the coming decade that will be prevented only if we move now.

The phase-out of these chemicals over the long-term is essential. But, if someone was poisoning your children you wouldn't give them the option to stop only if they could find a safe substitute. Already, many in the private sector have taken a leadership role in finding alternatives to ozone-depleting chemicals and reducing emissions. Almost every week we read about another company pledging to phase-out its use of ozone-depleting chemicals in the near future. Just as these companies are recognizing their responsibility, so should we. The longer we wait to phase-out these chemicals, the longer these chemicals will have to phase-out the stratospheric ozone layer.

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