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Harwood - Briefing Materials on INC [Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee] - 7th Session
March 9, 1993

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INC/7

MEMORANDUM

TO: KATIE
FROM: David Harwood
DATED: March 10, 1993
SUBJECT: EESI briefing

What follows are my recommendations for what you should say at the EESI briefing.

*** The 7th Session of the INC will meet next week to discuss primarily matters relating to the financial mechanism for the convention. At the outset, the INC will elect new officers for the bureau (the Chairman, Vice Chairman and working group chairs). We are flexible on filling these slots and there is great fluidity right now as to who the likely replacements will be. (There are four likely candidates for the Secretariat -- Raul Estrada, Argentina; Ambassador Akao, Japan; Winfred Lange, Australia; Ahmed Djoghla, Algeria). We hope that the selection of these officers will not take up too much of the INC's time.

*** The basis for the financial discussions will be a background paper prepared by the Secretariat.

*** The Administration recognizes that there is a great deal of interest in other nations and non-governmental organizations as to how the new Administration will approach the issue of commitments to reduce greenhouse gases.

*** Our delegation will have a statement to respond to that interest. Basically, we will describe to the INC the process by which we are reviewing our policy on global climate change. Last week, Eileen Claussen and Buff Bohlen briefed interested parties on the Hill about this review -- which will comprehensively examine our current policies and possible options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

*** On the specific issues related to the financial mechanism, we believe that a reformed GEF can and should serve as the financial mechanism for the Convention. We will encourage the INC to make recommendations for the Conference of the Parties (COP) that would enable the GEF to serve as the financial mechanism.

*** We believe that the COP should give guidance to the GEF on policies, program priorities and eligibility criteria related to the convention. At the same time, we continue to support the basic principle behind the GEF -- which is to pay the incremental costs of actions that will produce global environmental benefits. The small island states and others will argue for expanding the scope of funding decisions from those that produce "global environmental benefits," to include assistance for adaptation to global climate change. We would support funding the incremental costs of adaptation measures to the extent they produce global environmental benefits.



United States Department of State
Transition Team

2201 C Street, N.W., Room 1208A
Washington, DC 20520
Tel.: 202-736-4510

Fax Coversheet

Date: 3/9/93

Total Pages (including cover sheet): 7

TO: PAM / KATIE Fax No. _____

FROM: HARWOOD Fax No. _____

Subject: CLIMATE

Message:

Timothy E. Wirth
Colorado

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

CLIMATE STATEMENT

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CLINTON MADE STATEMENT
DURING RIO - - - -

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STATEMENT OF THE U.S. DELEGATION

7TH SESSION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
NEW YORK
MARCH 15, 1993

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity you have afforded this delegation to make a brief statement on behalf of the new Administration.

Mr. Chairman, we are conscious of the enormous breadth and importance of the work that this Committee must accomplish before the Convention enters into force and before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Convention requires that we reach decisions at that meeting on a substantial number of issues. Among them, the Convention requires that we review the adequacy of the commitments contained in Article 4.2(a) and (b), and provides for us to take appropriate action based on this review, which may include the adoption of amendments.

We are conscious that the Convention truly represents an historic step. Still, we are conscious of the disappointment in many quarters that the Convention did not go further, particularly in Article 4.2(a) and (b).

In this regard, the new Administration has initiated a comprehensive review of U.S. policy with respect to global climate change. We are examining all aspects of our policy to determine as quickly as possible how best to proceed toward effective implementation of the Convention.

In our review, we will both reassess existing measures and programs and identify additional actions that can be taken. Our goal is to determine whether we can at least stabilize our emissions of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels by the year 2000. As you know, President Clinton recently announced plans to move forward with a new energy tax. This measure, along with others that will emerge in our review, will help move beyond previous policies. *And this new Admin of U.S. believes we must move beyond previous policies and act w/ a sense of urgency*

In our view, it is vital that we meet the challenge of this "global concern of mankind" with all the energy and creativity we can summon. We must not delay in beginning serious efforts toward meeting the Convention's ultimate objective. *to tackle the enormous challenge of climate change*

Mr. Chairman, last December the United States submitted a document entitled "U.S. Action Plan for Global Climate Change." The submittal was made in accordance with paragraph 6 of this Committee's resolution on "Interim Arrangements," which invited states to communicate information concerning measures consistent with the Convention pending its entry into force. As the U.S. delegation made clear at the time, however, the document submitted was by no means a final plan.

Since December, it has been subject to public review and comment in the United States. The public review and comment period ended last Monday, March 8. I can assure you that the plan will be revised to take carefully into account the comments received. We aim to set a high standard for ourselves, and to encourage the highest possible standard under the Convention.

Our goal is to produce a new version of the U.S. Plan by the Committee's next session in August this year.

Mr. Chairman, the Earth Summit and the negotiations that led to it created historic opportunities for the nations and peoples of our planet to join forces in pursuit of sustainable development. The problems we face are daunting, but Rio proved that together we can make a difference. Together we have established a new basis for integrating the twin imperatives of environment and development. Together we can reorient our lives and safeguard the lives of future generations.

But the hour now is critical. Rio is past. While the enthusiasm it generated has subsided, the promise of Rio has yet to be fulfilled. Tempting as it may be, we cannot afford to rest.

This Committee and the vital preparations on which it is embarked can help to fulfill that promise. Let me assure you that we will move with vigor and resolve.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



REMARKS BY GOVERNOR BILL CLINTON
PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE RIO EARTH SUMMIT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
6-12-92

Thank you very much Governor Babbitt. For all the leadership you exhibited as Governor. For your wonderful leadership of the environmental movement in America. For years of friendship.

I have a statement I would like to make today about the Rio Conference. And I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Today, by making himself the lone holdout to environmental progress at the historic Earth Summit, President Bush has weakened the United States position in the world and slowed progress toward a healthier and more prosperous planet.

Over the last year or so, while the President was been gutting wetlands protection, weakening the Clean Air Act, he refused to exert personal leadership with regard to the Earth Summit as it approached.

He refused to even commit to attending for the longest time. He declined to advocate his principles for sustainable development. He abdicated both national and international leadership on the environment at the very moment when the world was most amenable to following the lead of the United States.

If I had been President over the last year, today's ceremonies would have capped a year of energetic United States leadership, rather than a year of grudging participation and general denial of the problems that exist and the phenomenal opportunities before us to create a real new world order rooted in economic prosperity and environmental protection.

I would have shaped the Earth Charter, Agenda 21, the Forest Principles, and Climate Change and Bio-Diversity conventions to convey our commitment to a new world in which each nation's environmental performance is the concerns of its neighbors. And today I would be signing every one of those documents proudly.

George Bush is out of touch with this new era. He does not understand that rising global temperatures can threaten our own standard of living.

He does not understand that protecting the bio-diversity of the

world's habitats and species protects Americans against squandering genetic resources that can combat diseases, boost crop yields, lower energy prices, and create new growth industries for the United States. He does not understand that we cannot protect the world's forests unless we lead by example and protect our own.

Above all, the President is out of touch when he suggests international environmental leadership is the enemy of national economic growth. This is a false choice.

By committing to attain 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2000, we could have spurred a whole wave of energy efficiency and technological innovation that would have made the United States economy more competitive not weaker.

By making the Earth Summit a showcase for American leadership, we could have expanded America's share of a \$300 billion global market in environmental technologies and services.

Just this morning I talked at some length with both Senator Gore and Senator Wirth about what is going on at the Earth Summit in Rio.

And both pointed out the aggressive activity of the Japanese especially and the Germans and others. Working the nations of the world at Rio. Exerting leadership, promoting environmental technology.

Already 70 percent of the environmental technology sold in the United States is manufactured overseas. Many of those manufacturers going out with what was originally American technological innovations. We are giving up a huge market.

Even as we give up our moral leadership on global warming, even as we gave up the opportunity to sign the bio-diversity pact with reservations to legitimately protect our interest in biotechnology.

We have made grievous errors in not taking advantage of the opportunities of Rio.

Like the economic isolationists of the 1920's, George Bush weakens international confidence in the United States, surrenders opportunities to advance our markets and democratic values, and invites an era of international tension and suspicion, dims global hopes for sustainable economic growth throughout tomorrow's nine billion person world.

Senator Wirth and Senator Gore both echoed what many have reported in the press: the nations of the world at the Rio conference were looking to the United States for leadership and instead they found reluctance.

They wanted us to lead, instead they found in many cases we would

not even follow. We have blown a great opportunity. And I can only hope this election will be a referendum on another big issue of the 1990's.

Must economic growth be the enemy of environmental protection? Or can we find a way to promote our own economic health and well being through protecting our environment?

I believe the answer is yes. And I will dedicate this campaign to proving that answer is the answer the American people will also embrace.

Thank you.

12:00 Mtg 3/10

Briefing
Material

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