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United States Department of State

Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Name: Eileen Claussen

TEL. No. _____

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FROM:

Name: Stephanie Smith KipreyTel. No.: X 79312Office Symbol/Number OES/ENVFax No.: 647-5947*****
*****MESSAGEAs promised, please get a copy to
Katie, also.

Thanks, SK

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TAGS: ECOSOC, SAID, ECON, KNSD, SEW
SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT
ECOSOC 1993 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
REF: USUN 674

1. SUMMARY. THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
WAS FORMALLY CREATED AT THE RECENT ECOSOC ORGANIZATIONAL
SESSION (26 JANUARY AND 2-12 FEBRUARY). THE US WAS
ELECTED FOR A ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP.
END SUMMARY.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW UP THE UN

CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. REF A
DESCRIBES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD), INCLUDING SEPARATE
PROVISIONS FOR PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPLEMENT THE
STANDARD RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS,
AND DESCRIPTION OF EFFORTS TO DEFINE THE STATUS OF
REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS (NAMELY,
THE EEC) AT CSD.

3. CSD WILL HOLD AN ORGANIZING SESSION FEBRUARY 24-26,
AND ITS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION JUNE 14-25, BOTH IN
NEW YORK.

4. THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NEW CSD PROGRESSED
RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY ON THE QUESTION OF THE ROLE OF NGOS
IN THE NEW COMMISSION; A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM FOR THE
USG.

5. HOWEVER, THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFINE THE STATUS AND
ROLE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS RAN
INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE AS MAJOR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION
SURFACED. THE ISSUE WAS RAISED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY
THE ATTEMPT OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION (EEC) TO
BUILD ON ITS EXPERIENCE IN UNCTED TO CREATE A SIGNIFICANT
PRECEDENT FOR A CLEARLY DEFINED SPECIAL AND PERMANENT
ROLE IN THE CSD. THE USA, JAPANESE, CANADIAN,
AUSTRALIAN, AND G-77 FOUGHT THE EEC AND ITS MEMBER
DELEGATIONS TO A STANDSTILL, OFFERING A STATUS BASED
SOLELY ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT; ANALOGOUS TO
THAT OF UN MEMBER STATES NOT/MEMBERS OF THE CSD. IN
THE EVENT, THE EEC DELS MISTIMED THEIR FINAL

CAPITULATION SO THAT THE COUNCIL DECISION ON THE CSD AND
ITS RULES AND PROCEDURES WAS PASSED BY CONSENSUS ON THE
FINAL FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1993
WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO
A NEW STATUS FOR THE EEC.

6. THIS RESULT WAS PARTIALLY DUE TO THE ATTEMPT BY THE
G-77 TO OBTAIN A SIMILAR STATUS, COINED IN HYPOTHETICAL

TERMS, FOR OTHER REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION
ORGANIZATIONS (REOS). THE G-77, DRIVEN BY ITS AFRICAN
MEMBERS, TRIED TO PUSH THROUGH AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT
FOR OTHER REOS, BUT WERE UNABLE TO FIND WORDING WHICH
WAS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE US AND JAPAN AND THE
EUROPEANS. THE G-77 CLAIMED THAT THE DEAL OFFERED TO
THE EEC WOULD ONLY BE ACCEPTABLE AS PART OF A PACKAGE
CONTAINING THEIR REQUEST. THE NEGOTIATING SESSION BROKE
DOWN FRIDAY EVENING, WITH THE G-77 EXPRESSING A DESIRE
TO HAVE THE MATTER TAKEN UP AT ECOSOC'S RESUMED SESSION
IN APRIL.

7. THE EUROPEANS APPEAR TO HAVE MIXED REACTION TO THIS
DEVELOPMENT. THE EEC MISSION PEOPLE IN NY ARE SAYING
THAT BRUSSELS PREFERS TO HOLD OUT FOR THEIR ORIGINAL
REQUEST RATHER THAN ACCEPT THE PREFERRED OFFER. AT THE
SAME TIME, LOCAL EC DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO
ARRANGE FOR INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND
G-77 TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT ON THE PACKAGE OF THE TWO
NEW RULES SO THAT THEY COULD BE APPROVED IN A BRIEF
RESUMED SESSION OF ECOSOC IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
HOWEVER, FEBRUARY 17 WE LEARNED THAT THE EUROPEANS ARE
CALLING OFF THIS EFFORT ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM BRUSSELS.

ACCORDING TO THE DANISH MISSION (CURRENT EEC PRESIDENT),
A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN BRUSSELS DECIDED TO RENEW THE
ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THEIR DESIRED SPECIAL ROLE IN THE CSD
BY SENDING A QUITE HIGH-LEVEL UNQUOTE POLITICAL
DELEGATION TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON DURING THE COMING
WEEK, FEBRUARY 22-26.

8. FINALLY, THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE NEW
COMMISSION PRODUCED SOME INTERESTING RESULTS. A
BRILLIANT EFFORT BY THE CURRENT WEOG PRESIDENT (GREECE)
TO OBTAIN A MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM OF ENDORSED SEATS (WHICH
AMONG OTHER BENEFITS GUARANTEED PERMANENT SEATS FOR THE
USA, UK, AND FRANCE) WAS SCUTTLED AT THE LAST MOMENT BY
THE NETHERLANDS, WHICH REPORTEDLY IS SEEKING A PERMANENT
STATUS FOR ITSELF, AND THE FIRST YEAR'S CHAIRMANSHIP FOR
DUTCH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER PRONK. IN THE VOTING, THE
ANGLOPHONE EAST AFRICAN STATES WERE CUT OUT OF ANY SEATS
BY THE FRANCOPHONE BROTHERS AND THE THREE ARAB COUNTRIES
RUNNING FOR SEATS IN THE REGIONAL GROUP (JORDAN, KUWAIT,
AND SAUDI ARABIA) WERE ALL IGNOMINIOUSLY DEFEATED.
EGYPT IS THE SOLE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRY IN THE CSD,
HAVING BEEN ELECTED ON THE AFRICAN GROUP LIST.
(HOWEVER, TURKEY, MOROCCO, AND TUNISIA WERE ALSO
ELECTED.)

9. FINAL COMMENT: THE VARIOUS MANEUVERS BRIEFLY
DESCRIBED ABOVE REMIND US, IF ANY SUCH REMINDER IS
NECESSARY, THAT THE NEW COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT WILL BE MUCH LIKE OTHER UN
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, DESPITE THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS
MANDATE AND THE POLITICAL AND PUBLIC PROMINENCE OF ITS

BIRTH. THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS WILL COME WITH THEIR OWN
AGENDAS WHICH WILL INCLUDE POLITICAL AS WELL AS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. THE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT OR
CULTURE OF THE UN WILL NOT/NOT BE DISCARDED IN THIS NEW
COMMISSION, WHICH, IN ANY CASE, WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO
RECOMMEND, NOT DECIDE. WHILE THE POTENTIAL FOR THE CSD
IS CERTAINLY IMPRESSIVE, ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS POTENTIAL
WILL BE THE RESULT OF A LONG PROCESS OF
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION RATHER THAN BY RAPID
DECISION MAKING BY A SINGLE-MINDED BODY. FOR THIS
REASON THE EXPANDED ROLE OF NGOS WILL BE IMPORTANT, AND
CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE EXPEDITIOUS PROCESS THAN IS
NORMAL FOR UN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES. NEVERTHELESS,
IT WILL BE A PROCESS AND THE US AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS

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SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR A LONG HAUL; WHICH WILL HAVE TO
INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE UN SYSTEM
AND MOST NOTABLY REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ITSELF.

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18. FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF THE GSD ELECTIONS HELD
FEBRUARY 16.

WEOG:

1. AUSTRIA (2 YR TERM)
2. BELGIUM (3)
3. CANADA (1)
4. FRANCE (2)
5. ITALY (1)
6. TURKEY (3)
7. US (1)
8. AUSTRALIA (2)

EASTERN EUROPE:

1. RUSSIA (3 YR TERM)
2. BELARUS (1)
3. BULGARIA (1)
4. POLAND (3)
5. CZECH (2)
6. HUNGARY (2)

9. GERMANY (3)
10. NETHERLANDS (3)
11. UK (1)
12. ICELAND (3)
13. NORWAY (2)

ASIA:

1. INDIA (1 YR TERM)
2. SINGAPORE (2)
3. INDONESIA (3)
4. MALAYSIA (1)
5. PHILIPPINES (2)
6. VANUATU (2)
7. SRI LANKA (2)
8. JAPAN (1)
9. PAKISTAN (3)
10. CHINA (3)
11. REP. KOREA (3)

AFRICA:

1. GUINEA (1 YR TERM)
2. NIGERIA (2)
3. MADAGASCAR (1)
4. BURKINA FASO (3)
5. CABON (3)
6. MOROCCO (1)
7. BENIN (2)
8. ALGERIA (2)
9. TUNISIA (3)
10. EGYPT (2)
11. ANGOLA (1)
12. NAMIBIA (3)
13. MALAWI (3)

LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN:

1. BRAZIL (2 YR TERM)
2. URUGUAY (3)
3. MEXICO (1)
4. VENEZUELA (1)
5. BOLIVIA (3)
6. CHILE (3)
7. COLOMBIA (2)
8. ANTIGUA-BARBUDA (3)
9. BARBADOS (1)
10. CUBA (2)

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