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Katie
FKI

March 25, 1992

Senator Albert Gore, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Al:

Congratulations on the success of your speech at lunch on Monday. I have heard nothing but good things from those who were present, and I am sure that you were pleased, as I was, by the article by Paul Lewis on the first page of the New York Times.

I am enclosing a speech which Mario Cuomo gave to another audience at the UN earlier this month. I am sure the Governor would appreciate a letter from you commenting on his speech, if you care to write one.

Finally, I am also enclosing a letter from Gianni Agnelli thanking me for sending him a copy of your book, and the latest draft on institutions which Malaysia introduced yesterday and which is now the basis of negotiations.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,



Richard N. Gardner
Professor of Law and
International Organization

RNG:dv
Enclosures
/0324ag

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR MARIO M. CUOMO
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
NEW YORK CITY
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1992
(c) 1992

THANK YOU MAURICE STRONG. TED KHEEL, JEAN-CLAUDE FABY,
MR. URQUHART, PETE LEVIN AND PAT BIANCO.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

HOW WONDERFUL THE MUSIC; HOW SOARING --
HOW IT LIFTS US ABOVE THE DIFFICULT DISTRACTIONS -- HOW
PERFECTLY IT DESCRIBES THE SUBJECT THAT BRINGS US HERE --
SOMETHING LARGER, MORE IMPORTANT, MORE BEAUTIFUL, MORE
RIGHT -- THAN MOST THINGS MOST OF US ARE FORCED TO DEAL
WITH, IN THE COURSE OF OUR EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES.

THROUGH ALL THE AGES, HUMANKIND'S FIRST PREOCCUPATION
HAS BEEN THE STRUGGLE TO UNDERSTAND, AND TO COPE WITH, OUR
PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE.

AT ONE LEVEL WE CONCERN OURSELVES, BEYOND MERE
SURVIVAL, WITH THE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE
WORLD'S LIFE-GIVING ELEMENTS.

AT OUR VERY BEST, WE THINK OF OURSELVES AS BEING
ASSIGNED TO THE TASK OF PERFECTING THE WORK OF CREATION, AND

THAT REQUIRES PRESERVING THE PURITY OF THE ELEMENTS WE START WITH.

IT IS INDEED A GRAND ASPIRATION, BUT IT IS NOT MORE THAN WE ARE CAPABLE OF, OR SHOULD COMMIT OURSELVES TO. IN THE END, IT IS AS SIMPLE AS ACCEPTING THE MIRACLE OF AIR AND WATER AND EARTH, AS DEMANDING OUR ATTENTION -- AND EVEN OUR REVERENCE.

AT A TIME -- LIKE MOST TIMES -- WHEN THE WORLD IS DRAGGED DOWN BY MEANER NEEDS AND NARROWER CONCERNS, IT IS GOOD THAT THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENES THIS CONFERENCE.

I CONGRATULATE YOU ALL -- AND ON BEHALF OF 18 MILLION VITALLY INTERESTED NEW YORKERS, I THANK YOU ALL -- FOR THE GOOD IT IS CERTAIN TO ACCOMPLISH.

#

THE TIMING OF THE CONFERENCE, I THINK, IS EXQUISITE.

SO LONG AS THE INTELLIGENCE AND PROCESSES THAT PUT THIS MIRACULOUS UNIVERSE TOGETHER ELUDE OUR PERFECT UNDERSTANDING, WE CANNOT SAY FOR SURE WHAT WILL BE 50 OR 100 YEARS FROM NOW.

BUT, IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT A CENTURY OR SO FROM NOW, HISTORIANS WILL LOOK BACK ON THIS ERA AS ONE WHEN GLOBAL AND BIOSPHERIC CHANGES OF AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED, PERCEPTIBLY THREATENED THE BALANCES THAT SUSTAIN LIFE ON THIS PLANET.

AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO JUDGE, BY THEN, WHETHER WE WHO SAW THE WARNING SIGNS, RESPONDED TO THEM WITH WISDOM AND STRENGTH.

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THE WARNING SIGNS ARE EVERYWHERE.

THE NOTION OF THE SKIES CLOSING IN ON US AND CHOKING US, AND SEA LEVELS RISING TO INUNDATE US, IS NO LONGER THOUGHT OF AS SCIENCE FICTION, OR THE APOCALYPTIC MUSINGS OF REMOTE ACADEMICIANS.

GREENHOUSE GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE ARE BUILDING AT AN INCREASING RATE; STRATOSPHERIC OZONE IS BEING DEPLETED; SEA LEVELS ARE RISING; FORESTS ARE BEING DESTROYED AND LANDSCAPES DEGRADED.

CLIMATIC INSTABILITY, AND ALL THE OTHER DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF IMBALANCE BECOME LESS IMPROBABLE EVERY DAY ... AND THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVASTATION GROWS AS THE WORLD'S POPULATION GROWS.

THERE WERE ONE BILLION HUMAN BEINGS ON THIS PLANET IN 1800. TWO BILLION IN 1930; FOUR BILLION IN 1975; 5.3 BILLION TODAY.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT A BILLION MORE PEOPLE WILL BE ADDED TO THE WORLD'S POPULATION IN JUST THE NEXT DECADE. AT THE CURRENT RATE, THE EARTH WILL BE HOME TO TEN BILLION PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2025.

AND UNLESS THERE IS A NEW -- EVEN UNPRECEDENTED --
WORLDWIDE POLITICAL ENLIGHTENMENT AND STATESMANSHIP, THE
PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH POPULATION GROWTH WILL BE COMPOUNDED
BY THE GROWING POVERTY OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD.

TODAY IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 40,000 CHILDREN DIE
EVERY 24 HOURS -- SIMPLY BECAUSE OF CONTAMINATED WATER.

AND ALL THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXACERBATED BY THE
ENORMOUS INTERNATIONAL DEBT THAT HANGS LIKE AN ALBATROSS
AROUND THE NECK OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

#

UNCED HAS THE DIFFICULT MISSION OF FINDING THE WAY TO
BALANCE TWO FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITIES: THE NEED TO PROMOTE
ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES; AND THE NEED TO DO SO IN A WAY THAT PROTECTS AND
ENHANCES OUR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT UPON WHICH ALL LIFE DEPENDS.

OBVIOUSLY, WE BEGIN BY REJECTING THE NOTION THAT WE
MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND IS
RIGHT: "THE ENVIRONMENT IS WHERE WE ALL LIVE; DEVELOPMENT IS
WHAT WE ALL DO IN ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE OUR LOT WITHIN THAT
ABODE. THE TWO ARE INSEPARABLE."

THAT MUST BE THE FIRST PREDICATE OF THIS CONFERENCE.

#

THE CHALLENGE AND THIS CONFERENCE COME, AS DICKENS PUT IT, AT THE BEST OF TIMES, AND THE WORST OF TIMES.

THE BEST OF TIMES BECAUSE, FINALLY, WE ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND AND RECOGNIZE THE ONE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL IDEA THAT WE LIVE WITH TODAY: NO MAN IS AN ISLAND. NO WOMAN. NO STATE. NO NATION. NO CONTINENT.

INTERCONNECTEDNESS, INTERDEPENDENCE -- MEANS THAT ALL THE PARTS AND ALL THE PLAYERS, EVERYWHERE, TOUCH AND MOVE AND REACT TO ONE ANOTHER.

WE AMERICANS MUST DEAL WITH THIS NEW TRUTH.

AND SO MUST THE REST OF THE WORLD. IT IS EASIER NOW BECAUSE THE END OF THE COLD WAR HAS TAKEN DOWN IDEOLOGICAL AND MILITARY BARRIERS THAT DIVIDED SO MANY NATIONS AGAINST EACH OTHER, ALLOWING FOR A NEW ERA OF COOPERATIVE ACTION IN DEALING WITH GLOBAL PROBLEMS.

#

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO DEAL INTELLIGENTLY WITH OUR INTERCONNECTEDNESS, IN THIS ERRATIC WORLD.

IN MANY WAYS THIS IS THE WORST OF TIMES: BECAUSE MUCH OF THE WORLD IS FORCED TO RESPOND TO OTHER IMMEDIATE CONCERNS THAT DISTRACT US AND DIMINISH OUR RESOURCES.

EVEN HERE WHERE WE MEET -- IN THIS BLESSED AND POWERFUL LAND -- POVERTY, DRUGS, AIDS, AN AGING POPULATION, ENDANGERED CHILDREN, SUFFOCATING DEBT, DEMAND OUR ATTENTION IN AN OFTEN PRE-EMPTIVE WAY.

OUR OWN INTERNAL WEAKNESSES ARE TURNING AMERICANS INWARD.

THAT REALITY IS COMPLICATED BY TWO OTHER FORCES ... ONE ARISING FROM THE NATURE OF TODAY'S POLITICS, THE OTHER FROM HUMAN NATURE.

POLITICALLY, OUR WHOLE THRUST -- AT LEAST HERE IN AMERICA, WITH ELECTIONS EVERY TWO OR FOUR OR SIX YEARS -- HAS BEEN TOWARDS SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS. POLITICIANS ARE GIVEN ONLY BRIEF TENURES, AND THAT DISCOURAGES THE DEVELOPMENT OF LONG-RANGE POLICIES.

MOST POLITICIANS ARE INCLINED TO BE DIFFERENT FROM SCIENTISTS, WHO -- AS C. P. SNOW ONCE OBSERVED -- "HAVE TO THINK OF ONE THING, DEEPLY AND OBSESSIVELY, FOR A LONG TIME."

IF POLITICIANS THINK OF ANYTHING OBSESSIVELY, IT IS APT TO BE WHAT THEY CAN DO QUICKLY IN ORDER TO GET RE-ELECTED.

THIS TENDENCY BECOMES A WORSE IMPEDIMENT TO SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED LONG-TERM ACTION BECAUSE OF A CONCOMITANT HUMAN INSTINCT. UNLIKE C. P. SNOW'S SCIENTISTS, MOST HUMAN BEINGS WILL RESIST CONTEMPLATING UNPLEASANT POSSIBILITIES THAT THEY THINK ARE REMOTE.

THAT RELUCTANCE COULD BECOME FOR US ONE OF THE DEADLY SINS.

#

THIS CONFERENCE SEEKS TO IMPROVE ON THAT ELEMENT OF OUR HUMAN NATURE. IT IS PREDICATED ON THE BELIEF THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF SOMETHING BETTER, NOBLER ... SMARTER.

IT SAYS WE CAN OPEN OUR MINDS TO THE FRIGHTENING PROSPECTS, AND MARSHAL THE ENERGY AND THE WILL TO CHANGE OUR HABITS SO AS TO AVOID CALAMITY.

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SURELY, THIS CONFERENCE WILL TELL US THE FIRST THING WE HAVE TO DO IS TO UNDERSTAND AND ADMIT THE PROBLEM.

THE TRUTH IS MOST PEOPLE HAVE NEITHER THE KNOWLEDGE OR COMPREHENSION TO ACCEPT AND DEAL WITH THE HARSH REALITIES THAT YOU WILL DEAL WITH IN THIS CONFERENCE.

WORSE THAN THAT, THERE ARE ALSO SIGNIFICANT VOICES INSIDE THIS COUNTRY -- AND INSIDE THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON -- THAT STILL REFUSE TO CONCEDE THAT GLOBAL WARMING IS A REAL, POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING PROBLEM ... DESPITE ALL THE EVIDENCE, AND THE EXPRESSED OPINION OF THE REST OF THE WORLD.

INDEED, SOME IN THE UNITED STATES ARGUE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO NEGOTIATE WAYS TO REDUCE THE THREAT: "WE DO NOT HAVE THE WEALTH. THE COSTS WILL CRUSH OUR ECONOMY."

I'VE HEARD THOSE VOICES.

THEY OFTEN BELONG TO THE SAME PEOPLE WHO SAY WE NEED
A \$300 BILLION DEFENSE BUDGET.

OR TO THE PEOPLE WHO SAY WE HAVE NOT THE WEALTH TO
FIGHT CONTAMINATION OF THE PLANET, BUT WE CAN FIND UPWARDS OF
A TRILLION DOLLARS TO BAIL OUT OUR CORRUPTED SAVINGS AND
LOANS.

THESE ARE WRONG JUDGMENTS:

-- WITH CFCs FLOATING UP TO THE SKY, BURNING HOLES
THROUGH THE OZONE, LETTING IN THE SUN'S HARMFUL RAYS WHICH
CAN BURN HOLES THROUGH YOUR SKIN.

-- WITH ACID RAIN FOULING OUR WATERS AND KILLING OUR
LAKES.

-- WITH TROPICAL AND BOREAL FORESTS BEING ENDANGERED.

WITH WHOLE SPECIES OF LIFE FACING EXTINCTION.

IT IS ABSURD FOR THIS POWERFUL NATION TO SAY THAT WE
CANNOT AFFORD TO CURB THE FLOW OF GREENHOUSE GASES ... WHEN
THEY'RE BUILDING UP LIKE A BLANKET IN THE ATMOSPHERE,
THREATENING EVENTUALLY TO MELT THE ICECAPS, TO FLOOD OUR
COASTAL REGIONS, TO TURN THE WORLD'S BREADBASKETS INTO
DESERTS, AND CONVERT THE PLANET INTO A COSMIC HOTHOUSE!

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THE THREAT WAS NOT CAUSED BY NATURE, ALONE.

THE THREAT WAS NOT CAUSED BY NATURE, ALONE.

OR BY THE WRATH OF AN ANGRY GOD.

HUMAN BEINGS -- MANY OF THEM AMERICANS -- CREATED THE THREAT; WE MUST DEFUSE IT ... AND I AM ONE OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE WE CAN.

#

I HOPE YOU WILL NOT REGARD IT AS PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME TO GIVE YOU SOME OTHER THOUGHTS ON WHAT I BELIEVE THIS CONVENTION MUST DO AND COMMUNICATE IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT WE CAN.

THEY ARE MORE THAN MY OWN PERSONAL POINTS OF VIEW: THEY REPRESENT A CONSENSUS OF THE MANY EXCELLENT EXPERTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT I AM PRIVILEGED TO HAVE ADVISING ME IN MY WORK AS GOVERNOR. HERE THEY ARE:

THE WORLD NEEDS A GLOBAL EFFORT TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ... AND IT NEEDS THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

AND SO I URGE PRESIDENT BUSH TO LEAD THE AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE RIO SUMMIT TO DEMONSTRATE IN THE STRONGEST WAY POSSIBLE -- THROUGH HIS OWN PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT -- THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD, TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TO PROTECT THE PLANET WE SHARE.

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HAVING ADMITTED THE FULL SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM, AND ENLISTED THE WORLD'S LEADERS TO RESPOND TO IT, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT, AS PRIME MINISTER GIULIO ANDREOTTI AND THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE SUGGESTED, WE WILL NEED A NEW INTERNATIONAL "RULE OF LAW" TO DEAL WITH ALL THESE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

THAT EFFORT SHOULD BEGIN WITH AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING A PROTOCOL TO STABILIZE AND REDUCE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS -- A PROGRAM WITH SPECIFIC GOALS AND SPECIFIC TIMETABLES AND A SPECIFIC COMMITMENT TO ASSIST NATURE IN ABSORBING CARBON EMISSIONS BY PLANTING TREES.

WE SHOULD SET AS OUR MINIMUM GOAL THE REDUCTION OF CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS BY THE YEAR 2000 TO AT LEAST THE LEVELS OF 1990.

A GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION WOULD PROVIDE A BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR ALTERING PATTERNS OF ABUSE AND FOR PROTECTING OUR COMMON HOME.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER JOHN MAJOR WAS CORRECT WHEN HE WROTE RECENTLY, IN DISCUSSING THE RIO SUMMIT, THAT THE RICH NATIONS OF THE WORLD MUST PROVIDE CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE WILLING TO PUT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL HOUSE IN ORDER.

THE UNITED STATES, AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST NATIONS -- AND THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR OF GREENHOUSE GASES - - HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

TODAY, THE U.S. USES TWICE AS MUCH ENERGY TO ACHIEVE ROUGHLY THE SAME STANDARD OF LIVING AS WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN. THIS IS WASTEFUL AND UNNECESSARY.

THE UNITED STATES MUST DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY THAT INTEGRATES ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS ... AS WE HAVE DONE AT THE STATE LEVEL IN NEW YORK.

THAT POLICY SHOULD RECOMMIT THE U.S. TO A STRONG NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM, AND ENCOURAGE THE EXPLORATION OF RENEWABLE FORMS OF ENERGY.

#

THEN, IN ADDITION TO THE SUBJECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ALL NATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, SHOULD RATIFY THE U.N. CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA -- ONE OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PIECES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ON THE ENVIRONMENT EVER NEGOTIATED.

THE CONVENTION CONTAINS A COMMON SET OF RULES FOR MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF OUR OCEANS AND MARINE RESOURCES. FIFTY-ONE NATIONS HAVE ALREADY RATIFIED THE CONVENTION. ONLY NINE MORE ARE NECESSARY FOR THE CONVENTION TO GO INTO EFFECT.

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THIRD, WE SHOULD COMMIT OURSELVES TO ENACTING A CONVENTION TO PROTECT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.

TODAY, 20 PERCENT OF ALL SPECIES IN THE BIOSPHERE REMAIN UNEXPLORED. THE "UNDISCOVERED SPECIES" OFFER THE PROMISE OF NEW, MIRACULOUS DISCOVERIES THAT COULD UNLOCK THE SECRETS TO LIFE AND DEATH.

WE MUST PRESERVE THESE GENE POOLS, PROTECT THE FOOD CHAIN AND ENSURE THAT THOSE NATIONS THAT ARE STEWARDS OF THIS BIOTIC WEALTH SHARE IN THE COMMERCIAL WEALTH DERIVED FROM ITS USE.

WE ALSO NEED A GREATER FLOW OF CAPITAL, IDEAS, TECHNOLOGY AND GOODS FROM NORTH TO SOUTH.

IT IS NOT FAIR OR REALISTIC TO ASK NATIONS STRUGGLING TO DEVELOP AN ECONOMY THAT WILL SUSTAIN THEIR POPULATION - NATIONS POORER THAN MOST OF THE REST OF THE WORLD - TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT HELP FROM THE MORE FORTUNATE OF US.

THE DEVELOPING WORLD'S DEBT BURDEN IS UNSUSTAINABLE. WE NEED TO REEXAMINE THE ENTIRE DEBT STRUCTURE THAT IS STRANGLING GROWTH IN DEVELOPING NATIONS AND THAT UNDERMINES THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS OF ALL NATIONS.

THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS SHOULD EXPLORE DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL PROGRAMS, SUCH AS "DEBT FOR NATURE" SWAPS, WHICH PROVIDE AN ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST FOR "STEWARD NATIONS" TO PROTECT THESE IRREPLACEABLE RESOURCES.

IT MAY TAKE A DECADE OF NEGOTIATING PROTOCOLS TO REALIZE OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE, BUT WE SHOULD EMBARK UPON THIS JOURNEY IN RIO.

#

HAVING OUTLINED A NEW RULE OF LAW, WE MUST ALSO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

o THE U.N. ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED. ALL THREE OF THESE PROPOSED TREATIES NEED A SECRETARIAT. THE PROGRAMME HAS ONLY 200 PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE. THAT'S INADEQUATE. THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD SHOULD EARMARK RESOURCES FOR A U.N. ENVIRONMENT FUND TO HELP ESTABLISH UNEP'S ROLE AND PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

o THE U.N. SHOULD ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN MEETING THE ENERGY NEEDS FOR THEIR EXPANDING POPULATIONS.

WE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER SOME OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

o ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY CENTER WITHIN THE U.N.;

o CREATING REGIONAL CENTERS UNDER U.N. AUSPICES FOR RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND JOINT PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES;

o USING RESOURCES OF MULTILATERAL LENDING
INSTITUTIONS TO FUND ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.

#

ALL THIS MUST BE DONE BY YOU AND THE OTHER WORLD
LEADERS OF THOUGHT AND OPINION IN THE FIELD OF THE
ENVIRONMENT.

BUT BECAUSE -- AS I HAVE NOTED -- MUCH OF THE WORLD
DOES NOT KNOW OR UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES WE DISCUSS TODAY, WE
HAVE ANOTHER IMPORTANT MISSION: AND THAT IS TO EDUCATE THE
PEOPLE.

THE PEOPLE DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND TERMS LIKE OZONE
DEPLETION AND GLOBAL WARMING. IF THEY DID, MORE OF THEM
WOULD BE PUSHING THEIR LEADERS TO RESPOND, NOW.

THE PEOPLE MUST UNDERSTAND THE THREAT, BECAUSE THE
ULTIMATE POLITICAL FORCE IS THE CONSENSUS OF THE PEOPLE
CLEARLY EXPRESSED.

THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT WE GET INTO THE SCHOOLS, TO
REACH YOUNG PEOPLE EARLY ON, TO INFLUENCE THE WAY THEY THINK
AND LIVE.

I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT HERE IN NEW YORK CITY, THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION IS CREATING A SPECIAL "ENVIRONMENTAL HIGH
SCHOOL" WHICH WILL SERVE AS A MODEL -- A TESTING GROUND --
TO TEACH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT DEVELOPING, PRESERVING AND
IMPROVING THE WORLD THEY WILL INHERIT.

CHANGING THE WAY OUR CHILDREN LOOK AT THE WORLD IS OUR BEST HOPE FOR CARRYING THROUGH THE LONG-TERM CHANGES THAT ARE NEEDED.

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I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN A GREAT DEAL OF YOUR VALUABLE TIME. LET ME TRY TO SUM UP:

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WITH THE END OF THE COLD WAR, THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD NOW HAVE A NEW CHANCE TO REALIZE MORE OF OUR VAST, UNTAPPED HUMAN POTENTIAL.

WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, AS A PLANET, TO RECHANNEL OUR WEALTH AWAY FROM EXPENSIVE INSTRUMENTS OF DESTRUCTION, AND TOWARDS THE THINGS THAT PROMOTE HUMAN DIGNITY AND SAFEGUARD THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD LEAD THAT EFFORT.

TOGETHER, WITH THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD --INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -- WE SHOULD LIFT OUR SIGHTS ... NOT JUST TO SAVE OUR CIVILIZATION, BUT TO IMPROVE IT, TO ELEVATE IT TO A NEW LEVEL.

WE CAN.

BY OPPOSING AGGRESSION, AS WE DID IN KUWAIT; BY PREVENTING BARBAROUS VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS; BY REAFFIRMING THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AS AN ANTIDOTE TO WORLD CHAOS; BY PROMOTING THE REDUCTION OF THE ABSURD

PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WORLD-WIDE; BY PROMOTING DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENTS ESPECIALLY BY WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN THE NEWLY EMERGING DEMOCRACIES OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

AND BY WORKING TOWARD ONE GREAT, INTEGRATED GLOBAL ECONOMY:

ONE THAT SUSTAINS OUR PLANET -- THAT PROTECTS THE AIR, THE OCEANS, THE EARTH, THE HEAVENS AND THE LIFE ALL AROUND US;

AND AN ECONOMY THAT, AT THE SAME TIME, GIVES THE MASS OF SUFFERING HUMANITY -- ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THIS WORLD -- A CHANCE TO LIVE IN DIGNITY AND TO REALIZE THE KIND OF OPPORTUNITY THAT MUCH OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD IS BLESSED WITH TODAY.

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JUST A GENERATION AGO, ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NATIONAL SYMBOLS -- THE BALD EAGLE -- WAS ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES -- A VICTIM OF WHAT RACHEL CARSON CALLED "A CHEMICAL BARRAGE ... HURLED AGAINST THE FABRIC OF LIFE."

BUT, FORTUNATELY, RACHEL CARSON'S WARNING HELPED EDUCATE AN ENTIRE GENERATION TO THE DELICATE ECOSYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT US ALL.

TODAY, THE BALD EAGLE HAS RETURNED, IN NEW YORK AND IN THE REST OF AMERICA.

THAT LESSON IS A REMINDER OF WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE WHEN WE APPROACH OUR ENVIRONMENT WITH REASON AND HUMILITY, AND A SINCERE WILLINGNESS TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

FRANKLY, I THINK ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS WE CAN TEACH OUR CHILDREN IS THAT OUR OWN SURVIVAL IS INTERWOVEN WITH THE SURVIVAL OF ALL GOD'S CREATURES.

FOR THAT REASON, PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT CAN BE AN ESSENTIAL INSTRUCTION IN FUNDAMENTAL VALUES.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS LIKE OURS IN NEW YORK AND THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PROMOTE ANY THEOLOGY, RELIGION, OR EVEN FORMAL PHILOSOPHY.

WHAT THEN ARE OUR ULTIMATE VALUES?

WHAT DO WE SAY TO OUR CHILDREN?

WHAT DO WE SAY TO HUMAN BEINGS ABOUT THE WAY THEY OUGHT TO BEHAVE? WITHOUT BEING ACCUSED OF TEACHING RELIGION?

THERE IS ONE AREA WHERE THE ASSERTION OF WHAT COULD EASILY BE ACCEPTED AS A "MORAL VALUE" IS ALLOWED. IT IS IN DEALING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

WHEN WE ACT TO PROTECT THE AIR, THE WATER, THE EARTH, THE SKY, AND THE LIFE THAT PASSES THROUGH IT ... WE'RE NOT DOING THESE THINGS FOR OURSELVES OR EVEN OUR OWN FAMILIES.

WE'RE PROTECTING GENERATIONS THAT WE WILL NEVER KNOW. AND GENERATIONS THAT WILL NEVER KNOW US.

IT IS THE ULTIMATE SELFLESS ACT.

ALL OUR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENT DEMONSTRATE OUR PROFOUND REVERENCE FOR "THE GREAT WEB OF BEING," FOR THE GENERATIONS BEFORE US WHO PLANTED AND PRESERVED THE EARTH, AND FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME:

ALL THE LIFE THAT SURROUNDS US, THE MAGNIFICENT LINKS OF CREATION, REACHING FORWARD, BEYOND US, TO PLACES AND TO DREAMS WE OURSELVES WILL NEVER REACH.

IT IS A KIND OF MAGNIFICENT STATEMENT ABOUT OUR HUMAN OBLIGATION TO ONE ANOTHER.

AN ACT AS INTELLIGENT AS ANY PRAYER EVER UTTERED: AS BEAUTIFUL AS ANY FAITH EVER HELD.

THAT IS OUR WORK TODAY ... AND IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

#

THE UPCOMING "EARTH SUMMIT" IN RIO DE JANEIRO PRESENTS THE NATIONS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THAT COMMON GOAL, TOGETHER.

PROTECTING THE PLANET WE SHARE, FOR OURSELVES, AND FOR GENERATIONS WE WILL NEVER KNOW, COULD SET THE TONE FOR THE KIND OF SYNERGISM OUR WORLD WILL NEED TO PROSPER INTO THE 21st CENTURY ... A WORLD THAT MUST BE FREER, MORE SECURE, MORE PROSPEROUS -- MORE HEALTHY -- THAN THE ONE WE KNOW TODAY.

WE LOOK TO YOU TO ADVANCE THAT EFFORT SIGNIFICANTLY
IN THIS CONFERENCE. WE TRUST OUR NATION'S LEADER WILL JOIN
YOU!

GOOD LUCK.

#

Chairman

FIAT

Turin, March 10, 1992

Mr. Richard N. Gardner
Coudert Brothers
200 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10166

Dear Dick,

I have received your kind letter of February 24, accompanying a copy of Senator Al Gore's new book "Earth in the Balance".

Thank you very much indeed for your courtesy; the book deals with issues that are of the greatest importance in today's world, and I really look forward to reading it with keen interest.

At the moment I cannot say when I shall be in New York next, but will let you know when my plans are more definite.

Marella joins me in reciprocating warmest wishes to you and Danielle.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Agnelli

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ELEMENTS FOR CHAPTER IV
OF UNCED AGENDA 21
- INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

(Draft Proposal prepared by
Issue Coordinator Ambassador Razali Ismail of Malaysia
for Working Group III)

A. BASIS OF ACTION

1. The mandate of the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) emanates from the General Assembly resolution 44/228, and the follow-up to the UNCED process shall be within the framework of the role of the United Nations system, with the General Assembly being the supreme policy making forum embodying the commitments of governments.
2. The United Nations system with its multi-sectoral capacity and extensive experience in international development cooperation is uniquely positioned to help governments achieve new and more effective patterns of economic and social development in the context of sustainable development.
3. In fulfilling the mandate of UNCED, there is a need for an inter-governmental institutional arrangement within the United Nations system in conformity with the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and the overall reform of the United Nations including on-going changes in the Secretariat.
4. In the spirit of reform and revitalization of the United Nations system, follow-up on the UNCED programme of action shall be on the basis of action and result

oriented approach and consistent with the principles of democracy, transparency, accountability and cost effectiveness.

5. The institutional structure as envisaged herein can only be realized given agreement on issues such as financial resources and mechanism, technology transfer, the Earth Charter and the Agenda 21 of UNCED. In addition, there has to be an effective link up between substantive action and financial support, and this requires close and effective cooperation between the U.N. functional organizations and the multilateral financial institutions for the follow-up of Agenda 21 within the institutional arrangement.

B. OBJECTIVES

Overall objective:

The integration of environment and development issues in the United Nations institutional arrangements.

Specific objectives:

1. Enhancement of the role and functioning of the United Nations system in the field of environment and development,
2. Strengthening cooperation and coordination on environment and development issues in the United Nations system.

3. Strengthening the cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental regional and global institutions in the field of environment and development.
4. Strengthening institutional capabilities and arrangements required for the effective implementation of the UNCED programme of action [Agenda 21].
5. Assist in the strengthening and coordination of regional and national capacities and actions in the areas of environment and development.
6. Establish an effective link-up and cooperation between the U.N. functional organizations and the multilateral financial bodies within the institutional arrangement for the follow-up of Agenda 21.

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

In pursuit of the above objectives, the following outline is proposed:-

U.N. General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be the supreme policy making and review organ on matters relating to the follow-up

to the UNCED Rio Summit, underlining its role of consensus building and policy direction.

In fulfilling this task and in ensuring the adequacy of follow-up arrangement and implementation, the General Assembly could consider the convening, at the highest possible level, of a Special Session at the earliest in 1995 to review the progress of the overall implementation of UNCED programme of action and take appropriate decision. To assist in the preparation of the Special Session of the General Assembly at an agreed date, a Ministerial level preparatory meeting could be convened.

The Secretary-General

A strong and effective leadership on the part of the Secretary-General is imperative as he will be the focal point of the institutional arrangement within the United Nations system on the successful follow-up to the UNCED programme of action.

U.N. High Level Coordination Mechanism

To ensure effective monitoring, coordination and supervision of the involvement of the United Nations system in the follow-up to UNCED programme of action, there is a need for a High Level Coordination Mechanism under direct leadership of the Secretary-General.

This task could be given to the U.N. Administrative Coordination Committee (ACC) which has the advantage of being directly headed by the Secretary-General and consisting of all the Heads of U.N. Agencies and the multilateral financial institutions. The ACC will also provide a vital link and interfacing between the multilateral financial institutions and U.N. functional bodies at the highest administrative level. However, the Secretary-General would need to revitalize the functioning of the Committee in a manner that would make it workable and effective in fulfilling its crucial role and ensure the successful implementation of the UNCED programme of action within the institutional arrangement.

The Secretary General and ACC can also benefit from the scientific community through a scientific advisory group. Such an advisory group can be conceived at an appropriate time in the future following the UNCED Rio Summit.

ECOSOC

The ECOSOC, in the context of its Charter role responsible to the General Assembly, and the on-going restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social field, will undertake the work of policy review and overseeing system-wide coordination on the implementation of the UNCED programme of action undertaken by the various U.N. bodies.

In addition, ECOSOC would undertake the task of directing system-wide coordination and integration of environmental policies and activities into the United Nations development programmes.

The ECOSOC will deliberate and consider the reports submitted by relevant United Nations subsidiary bodies and those from official regional and national sources, and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly.

The ECOSOC will be the principal organ to ensure proper functioning of the proposed Commission on Sustainable Development.

Commission on Sustainable Development

This shall be a functional Commission reporting and accountable to ECOSOC.

The functions of the Commission will be:-

- to receive and evaluate reports from all relevant U.N. agencies dealing with sustainable development and the implementation of UNCED programme of action;
- to monitor performances and feedbacks at the regional and national levels in relation to sustainable development and the fulfillment of regional and national responsibilities, including those relating to finance;
- to consider reports submitted by Member States on work at the national level.

- to receive relevant feedbacks from competent non-governmental organizations, including scientific and business communities in the context of overall implementation of UNCED programme of action;
- to provide appropriate recommendations to ECOSOC.

Membership of the Commission, its size and composition, shall be determined by the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

The establishment of the Commission and its functioning may require a rationalization of the work of the relevant Committees of the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

Secretariat

The functions of the Commission can only be undertaken on the basis of a strong and competent Secretariat.

The Secretariat will be staffed by a core of the present UNCED Secretariat, and it shall corroborate with or be linked to the Department for Economic and Social Development, while retaining a separate and identifiable character.

Coordinating Segment of ECOSOC

The coordinating segment of ECOSOC will deal with the coordination of all work associated with the implementation of UNCED Programme of Action, and will receive all inputs from the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The coordinating segment will provide a crucial interfacing of the work of various U.N. bodies associated with the implementation of UNCED Programme of Action together with the international financial and trade institutions including the World Bank, Regional Development Banks and GATT.

Given the relationship between ECOSOC and UNCTAD, a revitalized UNCTAD will be expected to provide important contributions towards the implementation of the UNCED Work Programme in the post-Rio institutional framework, and in this regard, the work of UNCTAD should be incorporated in the coordinating segment of ECOSOC.

High Level Segment of ECOSOC

To provide high level focus to the work of ECOSOC on the follow-up to the UNCED Programme of Action, activities of the U.N. system in the fields of environment and development can be the subject of review and discussion at the High Level Segment of ECOSOC.

UNEP

In the follow-up to UNCED there will be an enhanced and focussed role of UNEP. Priority areas on which UNEP should concentrate include the following:-

- environmental monitoring and assessment, both through improved contributions by U.N. system agencies in the Earthwatch Programme and expanded relations with private scientific and non-governmental research institutes; strengthening and making operational its early warning function;
- exchange of information for building support with the general public and with non-governmental entities, as well as inter-governmental institutions;
- development of international environmental law, conventions and guidelines, and in coordinating functions arising from an increasing number of international legal agreements;
- facilitation of information exchange on environmentally sound technologies, including the legal aspects, and provision of training;
- promotion of regional cooperation and further development of regional initiatives and programmes for environmental protection;

UNDP

UNDP, like UNEP, also has a crucial role in the follow-up to UNCED. It will be one of the main financing and operational agencies in the implementation of Agenda 21.

The role of UNDP in these efforts should include the following:-

- acting as lead agency in U.N. system efforts in capacity building at national level.
- mobilizing donor resources on behalf of governments for capacity building.
- strengthening its own programmes in support of Agenda 21.

Regional and National Implementation

Regional and national implementation of sustainable development will form an integral part of the UNCED outcome. The U.N. can assist in this process by:-

- a greater emphasis in relevant U.N. programmes on regional and national capacity building;

- the establishment of a system of national reporting on sustainable development which could be considered by the appropriate sustainable development body.

There must be active cooperation and collaboration amongst Regional Organizations and United Nations Regional Commissions and Agencies in the fields of environment and development as well as the Regional Development Banks in promoting the implementation of UNCED programme of action at the regional level. In this context, UNEP and UNDP, will also have a crucial role to play especially in providing the necessary assistance, with particular emphasis on building and strengthening the national capacity of Member States.

Governments also wish to see closer collaboration between UNEP and UNDP in the funding of projects to halt environmental degradation and to support training programmes in environmental planning and management for sustainable development at the national and regional levels. For these purposes, regional field offices of UNEP, UNDP and other agencies of the system should combine their skills and resources.

Policy decisions and activities at the national level tailored to support and implement the UNCED work programme should be encouraged and assisted by the United Nations system.

To be effective, national level efforts should be planned and carried out through a centralized governmental coordinating body, with monitoring and reporting ability to the United Nations system.

To ensure effective coordination between the two key U.N. functional bodies involved in the follow-up to UNCED programme of action, there is a need for a Joint UNEP and UNDP Working Committee at both regional and national levels.

Cooperation between U.N. Functional Bodies and the International Financial Organizations

The success of the follow-up on the UNCED programme of action is dependent upon an effective link between substantive action and financial support and this requires close and effective cooperation between U.N. functional bodies and the multilateral financial organizations. In this regard, the Secretary-General and Heads of U.N. functional bodies and the multilateral financial organizations have a special responsibility in forging such a cooperation, not only at the U.N. High Level Coordination Mechanism (Administrative Coordination Committee), but also at regional and national levels. In particular, representatives of the multilateral financial institutions should participate actively in the deliberations of the inter-governmental structure responsible for the follow-up of Agenda 21.

Legal Aspects

The outcome of UNCED will make it necessary in the future to relate legal instruments and their provisions to the U.N. system, particularly in the field of dispute settlement.

Non-governmental Organizations

Relevant non-governmental organizations committed to the promotion of the goals of the UNCED programme of action will be given opportunities to make their contributions and

establish appropriate relationship with the United Nations system in the context of the institutional arrangement on environment and development.

* * *

Proposals such as the Planet Earth Council, the proposal relating the safeguarding the rights of future generations, utilization of the Trusteeship Council and the establishment of Group of Eminent Persons have not been considered in the above structure. These may well be examined at Rio separately on the highest level.

New York,
March 23, 1992

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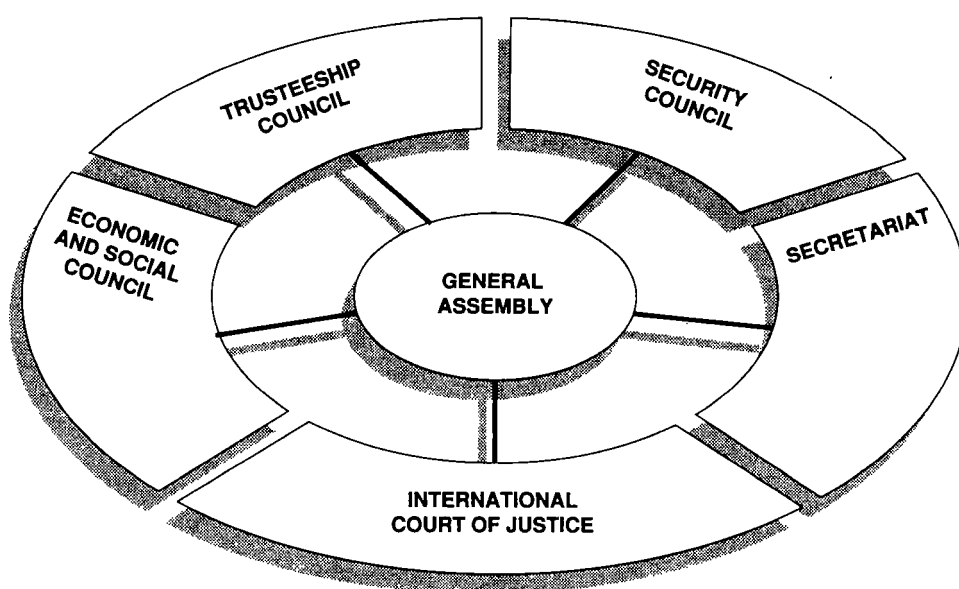
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THE UNITED NATIONS AT A GLANCE

UNA-USA
FACTSHEET



I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is composed of the U.N.'s 166 members, and each has one vote. It controls the U.N.'s finances, makes nonbinding recommendations on a variety of issues, and oversees and elects some members of other U.N. organs. By tradition, the Assembly meets in plenary session from the third Tuesday in September through mid-December, but with the growth of its agenda in recent years it has

tended to resume the plenary shortly after January 1 to extend the session for a few weeks. The Assembly can also meet in emergency session to address an immediate threat to international peace and security—as it has done on nine occasions (most recently in January 1982)—and in special sessions—as it has done on 18 occasions (most recently in April 1990 on International Economic Cooperation).

Major Committees of the General Assembly

President of the 46th General Assembly H.E. Samir S. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia)

Committees

First Committee (Political and Security) H.E. Robert Mroziewicz (Poland)

Special Political Committee (Other political issues, including

apartheid and Palestinian rights in the occupied territories) H.E. Nitya Pibulsonggram (Thailand)

Second Committee (Economic and Financial) H.E. John O. Burke (Ireland)

Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural) H.E. Mohammad Hussain Al-Shaali (United Arab Emirates)

Fourth Committee (Decolonization) H.E. Charles S. Flemming (Saint Lucia)

Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) H.E. Ali Sunni Muntasser (Libya)

Sixth Committee (Legal) H.E. Pedro Comissario Afonso (Mozambique)

Chairpersons