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WWF

Climate -
Correspondence

Kathryn S. Fuller
President

September 11, 2000

The Honorable Frank Loy
Undersecretary, Global Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Mr. Roger Ballentine
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Frank and Roger:

Thank you for coming to the WWF neighborhood for lunch yesterday and for the chance to discuss climate change policy and other issues. It should be an interesting fall on any number of fronts....

With regard to the upcoming climate talks in The Hague, I hope to follow events closely and appreciate hearing firsthand about the U.S. position and your perspectives. It is certainly a difficult and complex set of issues. We continue to think that the U.S. should do everything possible to press for progress beyond business-as-usual, and not to seek more latitude in the rules than absolutely necessary. I fully agree that strong environmental support in this country will be a key (one of several) to eventual ratification, but worry that without more explicit emphasis on true emissions cuts, the agreement will be open to charges that it was significantly weakened in the Hague process.

On whales, I understand from Richard Mott that we have already heard back from those closely engaged in the interagency process. Thank you for that. As you know, we feel that Japan's recent actions more than ever threaten a return to commercial whaling and that strong measures under Pelly are not only fully warranted but would withstand legal challenge in the WTO.

World Wildlife Fund

1250 Twenty-Fourth St., NW Washington, DC 20037-1132 USA
Tel: (202) 293-4800 Fax: (202) 293-9211
Affiliated with World Wide Fund for Nature

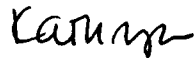


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The Honorable Frank Loy
Mr. Roger Ballentine
September 11, 2000
Page Two

On our ambitious Amazon effort, I am glad you share our excitement about the extraordinary opportunity there to make a difference to biodiversity on a genuinely global scale. I will come back to you soon and am grateful for your interest and for the prospect that the administration might lend its influence when the right moment arises.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kathryn S. Fuller



*Deputy Prime Minister
and
Secretary of State
for the Environment,
Transport and the Regions*

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The Hon William J Clinton
President of the United States of America

14 DEC 2000

I know that you and Vice President Al Gore have taken a close personal interest in climate change and indeed played a crucial role in the historic success at Kyoto.

We were very close to agreement at The Hague. You will know that there is a meeting of developed countries planned in Oslo next week. I believe we can reach an agreement there which could be endorsed when The Hague Conference reconvenes next year.

I have been talking extensively to Frank Loy. He will have told you that there are four issues on the table on which the European Union and the United States and most other OECD countries (the "umbrella group") differ:

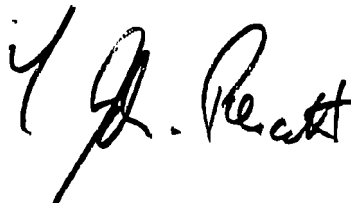
- the extent to which countries should achieve reductions in emissions at home as opposed to gaining credit for reductions achieved abroad;
- the cap which should apply to the credit countries can get for forestry and other land-use changes which absorb carbon dioxide (known as "sinks");
- whether countries should be able to gain credit for forestry and land-use changes ("sinks") that they carry out in developing countries, through what is known as the "clean development mechanism";

- the system which would govern compliance with the Kyoto Protocol and how to secure compliance.

Having discussed these with Frank I firmly believe that the gap between the European Union and the "umbrella group" is bridgeable. But like Kyoto it will require political will and some involvement from leaders. Tony Blair and I will talk to colleagues in Europe and emphasise the importance of a deal at Oslo and the need for flexibility to achieve it.

The most difficult of the outstanding issues is the question of sinks in the clean development mechanism. Some European countries believe that they are not allowed under the Kyoto Protocol, an interpretation which I know is unacceptable to the United States. I believe we need a compromise which at the very least excludes sinks from the clean development mechanism for the moment, even if it would allow a subsequent decision to bring them in once further work has been done on the scientific uncertainties surrounding them.

If we can find a way through this particular point then I am convinced we should press ahead with the Oslo meeting next week and grasp an opportunity for agreement that, if missed, might well prove impossible to retrieve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Prescott', with a stylized, cursive script.

JOHN PRESCOTT

EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA
WASHINGTON DC

14 December 2000

The Honorable
William J Clinton
President of the United
States of America
WASHINGTON DC

Dear Mr President

I have been asked to pass to you the following letter from the Honourable John Howard MP,
Prime Minister of Australia;

Text begins

Dear Bill

I was glad we had the opportunity to meet again at last month's APEC Leaders' meeting in Brunei. I am also pleased to note that our respective delegations subsequently collaborated closely at the COP 6 meeting on Climate Change held at The Hague from 13-24 November 2000. I am writing now with regard to the possibility of a further Ministerial meeting before Christmas to seek in-principle agreement between the Umbrella Group and the European Union on a number of issues outstanding from The Hague.

While such a meeting might present an opportunity to advance negotiations on climate change, something to which we are committed, there are risks for both our countries. Unless the European Union is willing to show significantly more flexibility, and I have seen no sign of this to date, such a meeting could fail to deliver our mutual objectives. There would also be a risk that a failure to reach agreement would be blamed on the Umbrella Group.

I understand the importance for the United States of being able to utilise additional sinks activities from forestry management and crop and grazing land management under Article 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol.

Australia has supported the United States approach to additional sinks activities. However I am concerned that European endorsement is not sought at any price, and that we also continue to focus hard on other crucial negotiating issues.

In particular, we both have an interest in keeping the cost of carbon as low as possible, and we would oppose quantitative restrictions on the use of the Kyoto flexibility mechanisms. In this regard, it will be essential that any reserve requirement not adversely affect the global price of carbon. At high levels a reserve could have the same effect as quantitative restrictions on the mechanisms. Like you, we also are concerned with suggestions to exclude sinks under the Clean Development Mechanism.

From an Australian perspective we obviously could not agree to a position that negates or dilutes the sinks provisions of the Kyoto Protocol, such as Article 3.7 in relation to land clearing. These give us a real opportunity to maximise our greenhouse gas reductions within the unique circumstances of Australia's land use. Similarly, revegetation being accepted as an additional sink under Article 3.4 would present Australia with another modest opportunity to contribute to better greenhouse outcomes. Also, accounting rules within Article 3.3 need to recognise the circumstances of those countries with short-rotation plantation forestry.

We also have an interest in keeping the cost of compliance at reasonable levels. We think that an obligation to make up any shortfall in meeting Kyoto targets, as a one-for-one reduction in tonnage of allowable emissions in the subsequent accounting period, would be sufficient to ensure that a benefit does not flow from non-compliance.

Further, we are convinced that pressure must be maintained to achieve real participation by major developing country emitters to avoid such countries displacing industry in the developed world without any net greenhouse benefit. In particular a link should be established between new funding support and a commitment by developing countries to climate change mitigation measures. As I understand it, this issue of 'carbon leakage' is as important to the United States as it is to Australia in consideration of possible ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

Finally, I want to emphasise that a poor agreement in Oslo would be a poor outcome for the world as well as for Australia and the United States. This would need to be weighed carefully in determining whether or not to support any particular package at Oslo.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the remaining weeks of your presidency. You have my Government's deep appreciation for your tremendous effort in support of the Middle East peace process, particularly the Camp David talks. I know that for you as for me the current violence will be all the more distressing in light of how close the sides came to agreement as a result of your mediation.

yours sincerely

(John Howard)

Text ends

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meg McDonald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meg McDonald
Deputy Head of Mission