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Climate Change International COP 6 [Conference of the Parties]: Agency Memos

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United States Department of State

Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520

FAX MESSAGE

TO: Roger Bullentine Date: 5-9-00Fax Number: 456-1736 No. of Pages: 3*****

Message:

Roger, The attached is a list outdated
(dates have slipped), but will give you
a good sense of pending policy issues.

- Susan

FROM:

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Draft Schedule of Issues for Discussion at the A/S Meetings

DATE	ISSUE
April 12, 2000	- Initial exploration of possible fallback on liability - Designation of lead USG agency for 3rd national communication
April 19, 2000	- What degree of Transparency and Public Participation in the CDM? - National registries: degree of transparency about private sector holdings and transactions? - Share of the proceeds: what level is appropriate for adaptation? - ODA: Can we support the EU "no diversion of ODA" approach?
Pew Center Dialog /CSD High-level Segment April 25 - 28	
May 3, 2000	- How to handle sinks in the CDM? - Do we want any linkage to 3.3/3.4? - Do we want to support a sustainable development criterion for CDM projects?
Umbrella Meeting/AIXG Group May 8 -11, 15- 19	
May 17, 2000	- What liability fallback, if any, should we adopt? - Should mechanisms users be required to have their performance under 5 & 7 reviewed prior to 1st period?
May 24, 2000	- Outstanding/critical policy issues for COP-6 baselines decision (stringency, etc). - What is appropriate body to undertake baseline activities following COP-6?
Glion Dialogue May 31 - June 2	
Subsidiary Body Meetings June 5 - 16	
June 21, 2000	- Do we want to support a voluntary compliance fund? In what form? - Developing country strategy: do we want to float something for COP6?
Climate Change Ministerial June 29 - 30	

July 5, 2000	• Preferred definitions of afforestation, deforestation and reforestation under 3.3 • Position on inclusion of sink activities under 3.4
UNFCCC Sinks Workshop/G-8 Ministerial July 10 – 13	
July 19, 2000	• EU Bubble: Continue to push for equivalent treatment of bubble and other mechanisms (e.g. Eligibility requirements, supplementarity) and to what end?
G-8 Summit July 21 – 24	
July 26, 2000	• Modifying Instrument: Do we support a modifying instrument? If so, how should this be raised?
August 2	• What technical issues can and must be decided at COP-6? What can be pushed off to later COP?
August 9	• Analytical aspects of supplementarity
August 16	• How to respond to developing country priorities: tech transfer, capacity building, compensation, share of proceeds, adaptation/vulnerability
August 23	• Analytical aspects of green fund
August 30	• What should the penalty rate be for noncompliance with the target?
Subsidiary Body Meetings September 4-15	
Informal Ministerial September 15 – 17	
September 20	•
September 27	•
Canadian Ministerial TBD	
October 4	
Climate Ministerial October 5-6	
Mechanisms Informals ? October 11 – 15	
October 18	
October 25	
November 1	
November 8	
COP6 November 13 – 24	

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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To <i>Rogee Ballentine</i>	From <i>Nigel Purvis</i>
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*Comments welcome*UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: Madeleine K. Albright

SUBJECT: Climate change message for Earth Day

Your Earth Day remarks offer an excellent opportunity to advance our diplomatic objectives in the climate change negotiations.

BACKGROUND

The United States risks isolation in the climate change negotiations. Many other governments appear willing to try to bring the Kyoto Protocol into effect without satisfying core U.S. objectives because they do not believe the United States will ratify the Protocol.

The Sixth Conference of Parties to the Climate Convention - to be held November 13-24, 2000 at The Hague - will be the highest-profile climate change meeting since Kyoto. Many governments see this meeting as the last chance to agree on rules that would pave the way for ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol.

Several European governments, including the U.K., France, Germany and the Netherlands, are now taking significant steps to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions. Most countries in the world believe that U.S. efforts, in comparison, are minor. In addition, strong congressional opposition to the Kyoto Protocol and your clean energy initiatives has led many governments to doubt that the United States is serious about addressing global warming.

As a result, our influence is waning at a key point in the climate change negotiations. By highlighting on Earth Day 2000 your continuing commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and domestic action against climate change, you would greatly enhance our negotiating posture at this crucial juncture.

THEMES

In particular, I recommend that you build on previous statements to stress the following four themes:

1. You remain strongly committed to completing the work begun at Kyoto, so that the United States can ratify the Protocol and the agreement can enter into force.
2. The United States is serious about reducing emissions here at home. Support for action is growing; more and more U.S. businesses want to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.
3. Climate change is a global problem requiring a global solution. We in the industrialized countries must do our part. At the same time, we need the meaningful participation of key developing countries if we are to succeed.
4. All countries can reduce emissions while promoting economic growth.

Kyoto Protocol
Talking Points

The United States risks isolation in the international climate change negotiations. Many other Parties appear willing to try to bring the Kyoto Protocol into effect without satisfying core U.S. objectives, which are:

- Ensuring that the cost of implementing the Protocol is reasonable
- Securing meaningful participation by key developing countries

We may face an unpleasant choice in November at the next Conference of Parties:

- Receiving worldwide criticism for blocking what we view as an unacceptable agreement; or
- Accepting a sub-optimal agreement.
 - The environmental community might hate it (not green enough)
 - The business community might hate it (cost too high)
- If we reach agreement in November, we then will face another unpleasant choice:
 - Ratifying an imperfect agreement, or
 - Watching as others either go ahead without us or blame us for the agreement never entering into force.

You can help in two ways

Firstly, and most importantly, we need greater clarity from the Senate before the November negotiations about how to fix the Kyoto Protocol.

- We may only have one chance to fix the treaty and we need to get it right.
- We recognize, of course, the difficulties of generating a bipartisan consensus on this issue this year.
- The Secretary of State and I, however, are prepared to initiate a quiet discussion with the Senate to help build support for a sensible way forward.
- We would be interested in your views on whether it is possible to forge a quiet bipartisan understanding of how to fix the Protocol.

Second, we need your public support for international action against climate change.

- A Senate resolution calling for a strong international agreement would improve U.S. credibility and enhance our ability to improve the text.
- At the same time, if an effort to provide this support would fail by a wide margin or attract an unstoppable anti-Kyoto poison pill amendment, we would prefer no public statement from the Senate on international climate change efforts.
- How do you think an effort to pass a climate change resolution with an international component would play out?