

ER40

RELEASED IN FULL

Climate Change: Possible U.S. Approach Towards Developing Countries

Background

Since the beginning of the AGBM process in August 1995, we have recognized the climate change issue as a "global problem" requiring a "global solution." In his June 26th address before the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, President Clinton indicated that the U.S. would propose significant steps at Kyoto, while emphasizing the important role which developing countries must play, as well.

Presently, developed country emissions (including those from the OECD, the former Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe) account for approximately 60 percent of the global total. However, developing country emissions are growing rapidly, and by 2035 will account for more than half of the world's emissions. China, currently the second largest emitter, will surpass the U.S. within 15 years.

Recognizing the importance of controlling global aggregate emissions in order to mitigate climate change, it is imperative that any next step we take include actions from both developed and developing countries and, especially, from those key developing countries that are responsible for a significant portion of global emissions or that have relatively high per capita incomes.

Talking Points

-- We have long recognized that the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations at safe levels will require reductions in global emissions over the next several decades. OECD or Annex I actions alone will clearly be inadequate.

-- Consequently, we believe that the Kyoto outcome must reflect a "two step" approach in order to make concrete progress in our efforts to address the critical problem of global warming:

- Consistent with the Berlin Mandate, we will agree that developed country Parties should agree first on the level of their commitment.
- At the same time, it is critical to focus on binding quantitative commitments for developing countries and particularly on those countries that are responsible for a significant portion of global emissions or whose rapid economic development gives them the capacity to help the international community in its quest for remedial action.

-- This latter step could take the form of a "Kyoto Mandate" and can be done without impeding the GDP growth in developing countries.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DAVID W COX
DATE/CASE ID: 20 FEB 2008 200600952

01D270,4

UNCLASSIFIED

- 2 -

-- To maximize environmental gains by incorporating a global dimension in the Kyoto outcome, we are now suggesting that the focus of our joint efforts should include principally those countries responsible for a significant portion of global emissions or which enjoy a relatively high per capita income level.

-- This step marks a further amplification of the "evolution" article which was contained in our January proposal regarding the possible text for a protocol. That article requires all developing countries, without reference to size, wealth, or greenhouse gas emissions, to negotiate quantified limitations by a specific date.

-- We will be providing additional details about this and related issues as our thinking evolves during the coming weeks.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- 3 -

Drafted:OES:MGHambley
9/18/97

Cleared:E:SEizenstat
OES:MKimble
CEQ:KMcGinty
NEC:GSperling/DTarullo
NSC:JSteinberg
WH:TStern

UNCLASSIFIED