

RESTRICTED
FM WASHINGTON
TO DESKBY D31700Z FCO
TELNO 621
OF D31540Z MARCH 89

OZONE CONFERENCE: US POLICY

1. THE WASHINGTON POST THIS MORNING CARRIED THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON ITS FRONT PAGE.
2. QUOTE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM K REILLY YESTERDAY URGED PRESIDENT BUSH TO JOIN US ALLIES IN EUROPE IN A MOVE TO PHASE OUT ALL OZONE-DEPLETING CHEMICALS BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY, ACCORDING TO ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS. REILLY'S RECOMMENDATION AT A WHITE HOUSE MEETING OF THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL (DPC) WAS MADE HOURS AFTER ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY VOTED TO ELIMINATE THE POPULAR CHEMICALS - CHLOROFUOROCARBONS (CFCS)- BY THE YEAR 2000. AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY THAT GOES INTO EFFECT IN JULY OBLIGATES THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIAL NATIONS ONLY TO HALVE PRODUCTION OF CFCS IN A DECADE. REILLY IS LEAVING TODAY FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CFCS HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER IN LONDON THAT IS DUE TO START ON SUNDAY. HE IS SEEKING TO PERSUADE THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE. BUT HE FAILED TO GET IMMEDIATE ENDORSEMENT FOR HIS PROPOSED PHASE-OUT FROM THE COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF CABINET MEMBERS INVOLVED IN DOMESTIC POLICY, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID. OFFICIALS SAID THE COUNCIL AGREED TO SEND SEVERAL OPTIONS, INCLUDING REILLY'S PROPOSAL, TO BUSH, WHO CALLED DURING HIS CAMPAIGN FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD A PHASE-OUT OF CFCS. IT COULD NOT BE LEARNED WHAT OTHER OPTIONS WERE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT. REILLY ISSUED A STATEMENT LAST NIGHT ENDORSING THE EUROPEAN INITIATIVE AS QUOTE VERY ENCOURAGING NEWS UNQUOTE AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL PUT NATIONS ON THE QUOTE BEST POSSIBLE COURSE FOR MEETING THE GOAL OF A SAFE AND EFFICIENT ELIMINATION OF THESE CHEMICALS UNQUOTE. AN EPA SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE ITS POSITION QUOTE SHORTLY UNQUOTE. A WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN HAD NO COMMENT. UNQUOTE
3. THE REPORT CONTINUED WITH BACKGROUND ON THE MONTREAL CONFERENCE AND OTHER POINTS WHICH WILL BE FAMILIAR TO YOU. WE ARE URGENTLY SEEKING COMMENT FROM OFFICIALS HERE AND HOPE TO REPORT FURTHER LATER TODAY.
4. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO PS NICHOLAS RIDLEY AND PS PRIME MINISTER AND FIONA MCCONNELL (DOE).

ACLAND

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

4

ADVANCE

PS/NO TEN DOWNING ST
PS/MR RIDLEY

HD/MAED
MISS MCCONNELL EPINT/DOE

NNNN

