

CHOGM SPEAKING NOTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Say at the outset: we owe considerable debt to our scientists: essentially through their scientific knowledge and research that we have realised the extent of our interdependence and the extent of the risks we run. We are learning the hard way. There is no doubt that this requires a radical rethinking of industrial practice, use of chemicals, power station emissions etc. All of us - without exception - will need to take account of this. No-one can be exempt from the need for environmental reform and everyone has an interest in it.

- We have to look beyond the immediate benefits of industrialisation, and we must look also to its long-term effects. First priority must be developments with global impact, of which the first and foremost is climate change resulting from a strengthening of the "greenhouse effect". Again, none of us is exempt. Some countries would be more dramatically affected than others. But if the very worst were to happen, we would all be very seriously affected. We cannot ignore these warnings.

- That is why the UK is putting so much effort into international work now under way. UK leading the science group of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC). We have to get a better understanding of the science before we can make more accurate predictions of the possible consequences of climate change.

- Earlier this year we called for the early negotiation of a framework convention on climate change. I am delighted that this received a wide measure of support. Work is now under way. Once the framework convention, setting out general principles, is ready - by 1992 at the latest - we can move on to the development of a series of protocols containing specific prescriptions for action.

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will make an interim report late next year. We hope it will provide a solid basis on which to consider the next stage.

- It was clear from our Chairman's opening remarks yesterday that he too was concerned about this issue. I welcome that, although I do not myself draw all the same conclusions he did. I see no need for a divergence between developed and developing countries on this issue. Dr Mahathir implied that the developed countries had reaped the benefits of industrialisation and were now seeking to deny those same benefits to developing countries -

- in fact I believe it is far more complex than that. We do need a more imaginative approach. But developed countries have paid a price for industrial development - for example the damaging emissions from power stations. Many developing countries can learn from industrialised countries' experiences and will have the opportunity to avoid the same mistakes, for example, in the case of power stations, through flue-gas desulphurisation.

- These days the advance of technology is increasingly allowing environmentally safe industrial practices. That means we can enjoy the benefits of industrialisation without the damaging side effects. Of course it can cost money but benefits are obvious in both the short and long-term. In any event, we are all custodians for future generations and cannot ignore the warnings before us.

- Knowledge of the importance of the environment is also changing our values. One example: President Moy of Kenya set a fine example when he destroyed massive ivory stocks probably worth millions of pounds. This was a vivid demonstration that long-term survival of Kenya's elephant population was much more important to Kenya's economy, culture and national pride than the short-term gain from ivory sales.

That ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{main} ~~reason~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{growing} ~~population~~ ^{pressure} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~allocate~~ ^{to} ~~money~~ ^{to} ~~business~~ ^{and} ~~not~~ ^{more} ~~important~~ ^{important}

- The truth we must all face is that environmental resources are finite. In many cases no amount of money will replace what is lost. That is why research into soil erosion is so important. That is also why conservation, for example of tropical forests is so vital. The loss of forest reserves has significant implications - they are the natural habitat for 50% of the world's species of plants and animals - themselves a resource that can be enjoyed profitably provided they are conserved.

- The destruction of rain forests is a major source of the greenhouse gases which appear to be bringing about global warming.

- Loss of the rain forests would damage the economies of timber rich countries as reserves are exhausted: it is vital that these resources are managed on a self-sustaining basis.

- The UK has a very practical approach. A significant proportion of our overseas aid programme is committed to forestry projects. We support the FAO Tropical Forestry Action Plan and have launched our own forestry initiative to encourage aid recipients to direct more of our aid resources towards the sustainable use of tropical rain forests. India has been offered a £40m environment grant: 20 other countries have been identified for particular attention.

- An even bigger source of greenhouse gases is energy generation. In all our countries, we must take steps to conserve energy and produce it more efficiently.

- We welcomed the report of the Commonwealth Expert Group on Climate Change. The Group was led by Dr Martin Holdgate, formerly the Chief Scientist at the UK Department of the Environment and now Director-General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. - We are glad the Group's report highlights the need actively to take part in existing international initiatives on climate change, particularly the work of the Intergovernmental Panel. The report should be offered to the Intergovernmental Panel as a contribution to its interim report due in late 1990. We should focus our work, in the Commonwealth, not on instigating separate work programmes but on expanding existing work.

- Hope this meeting will give a clear signal both of the Commonwealth's determination to take action and of our wish to support and contribute to existing work under UN auspices. This should be reflected in our declaration.

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LANGKAWI DECLARATION

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- We acknowledge developing countries do not have sufficient resources to solve their own local and regional environmental problems, let alone global problems.
- The international financial institutions and donor agencies will need to devote more resources to helping developing countries address these issues, especially climate change.
- Existing bilateral and multilateral channels need to be strengthened to cope. We feel strongly that it would be a positive mistake to create new institutions, which would require detailed and time-consuming negotiation, drain scarce administrative and professional resources and take much time to get off the ground.

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- ① Global environment. - Climate Change
- ② People - Waste
- ③ Resources - Great resources near to P.
- ④ People - Deal with chemicals - Specialized
- ⑤ Countries - Woodlands - Forest
- ⑥ ~~People~~ - Hydroelectricity
- ⑦ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑧ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑨ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑩ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑪ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑫ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑬ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑭ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑮ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑯ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑰ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑱ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑲ Green - Hydroelectricity
- ⑳ Green - Hydroelectricity

② Power - Polluted Power - Industry - Scientific research
 note - than balance of nature

Power can be made better - Don't dump in ocean

Chc.

THE LANGKAWI DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT

We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, representing a quarter of the world's population and a broad cross-section of global interests, are deeply concerned at the serious deterioration in the environment and the threat this poses to the well-being of present and future generations. Any delay in taking action to halt this progressive deterioration will result in permanent and irreversible damage.

2. The current threat to the environment, which is a common concern of all mankind, stems essentially from past neglect in managing the natural environment and resources. The environment has been degraded by decades of industrial and other forms of pollution, including unsafe disposal of toxic wastes, the burning of fossil fuels, nuclear testing and non-sustainable practices in agriculture, fishery and forestry.

3. The main environmental problems facing the world are the 'greenhouse effect' (which may lead to severe climatic changes that could induce floods, droughts and rising sea levels), the depletion of the ozone layer, acid rain, marine pollution, land degradation and the extinction of numerous animal and plant species. Some developing countries also face distinct environmental problems arising from poverty and population pressure. In addition, some islands and low-lying areas of other countries, are threatened by the prospect of rising sea level.

4. Many environmental problems transcend national boundaries and interests, necessitating a co-ordinated global effort. This is particularly true in areas outside national jurisdiction, and where there is transboundary pollution on land and in the oceans, atmosphere and outer space.

5. The need to protect the environment should be viewed in a balanced perspective and due emphasis be accorded to promoting economic growth and sustainable development, including eradication of poverty, meeting basic needs, and enhancing the quality of life. The responsibility for ensuring a better environment should be equitably shared and the ability of developing countries to respond be taken into account.

6. To achieve sustainable development, economic growth is a compelling necessity. Sustainable development implies the incorporation of environmental concerns into economic

planning and policies. Environmental concerns should not be used to introduce a new form of conditionality in aid and development financing, nor as a pretext for creating unjustified barriers to trade.

7. The success of global and national environmental programmes requires mutually reinforcing strategies and the participation and commitment of all levels of society - government, individuals and organisations, industry and the scientific community.

8. Recognising that our shared environment binds all countries to a common future, we, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, resolved to act collectively and individually, commit ourselves to the following programme of action:

- advance policies and programmes which help achieve sustainable development, including the development of new and better techniques in integrating the environmental dimension in economic decision-making;
- strengthen and support the development of international funding mechanisms and appropriate decision-making procedures to respond to environmental protection needs which will include assisting developing countries to obtain access to and transfer of needed environmental technologies and which should take account of proposals for an international environment fund/Planet Protection Fund;
- support the work of the UNEP/WMO Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
- call for the early conclusion of an international convention to protect and conserve the global climate and, in this context, applaud the efforts of member governments to advance the negotiation of a framework convention under UN auspices;
- support the findings and recommendations of the Commonwealth Expert Group's Report on Climate Change as a basis for achievable action to develop strategies for adapting to climate change and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as making an important contribution to the work of the IPCC;
- support measures to improve energy conservation and energy efficiency;

- promote the reduction and eventual phase-out of substances depleting the ozone layer;
- promote afforestation and agricultural practices in developed and developing countries to arrest the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide and halt the deterioration of land and water resources;
- strengthen efforts by developing countries in sustainable forest management and their manufacture and export of higher value-added forest products and, in this regard, support the activities of the International Tropical Timber Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Tropical Forestry Action Plan, as well as take note of the recommendations of the 13th Commonwealth Forestry Conference;
- support activities related to the conservation of biological diversity and genetic resources, including the the conservation of significant areas of virgin forest and other protected natural habitats;
- support low-lying and island countries in their efforts to protect themselves and their vulnerable natural marine ecosystems from the effects of sea level rise;
- discourage and restrict non-sustainable fishing practices and seek to ban tangle net and pelagic drift net fishing;
- support efforts to prevent marine pollution including curbing ocean dumping of toxic wastes;
- strengthen international action to ensure the safe management and disposal of hazardous wastes and to reduce transboundary movements, particularly to prevent dumping in developing countries;
- participate in relevant international agreements relating to the environment and promote new and innovative instruments which will attract widespread support for protecting the global environment; and
- strengthen national, regional and international institutions responsible for environmental protection as well as the promotion of active programmes on environmental education to heighten public awareness and support.

9. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, resolve to take immediate and positive actions on the basis of the above programme. In this regard, we pledge our full support for the convening of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.

10. We call on the international community to join us in the endeavour.

Issued by Commonwealth Heads of Government at Langkawi, Malaysia.

Langkawi
21 October 1989

LANGKAWI DECLARATION: ENVIRONMENT

FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONGST OFFICIALS AFTER YOU LEFT FOR LANGKAWI, THE DRAFT DECLARATION WAS AGREED FOR SUBMISSION TO HODS TOMORROW, SUBJECT TO A UK RESERVE ON THE CONTINUOUS "FUNDING MECHANISMS" PARAGRAPH.

2. THE FOUR SQUARE-BRACKETED PARAGRAPHS ON FUNDING IN THE EARLIER VERSION HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY ONE PARAGRAPH, DRAFTED BY THE MALAYSIANS IN AN ATTEMPT TO BRIDGE THE GAP WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

- STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL FUNDING MECHANISMS AND APPROPRIATE DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES TO RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NEEDS WHICH WILL INCLUDE ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO AND TRANSFER OF NEEDED ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES AND WHICH SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FUND/PLANET PROTECTION FUND.

I SAID THAT I COULD NOT GIVE UK APPROVAL. THE MALAYSIANS WILL THEREFORE MAKE CLEAR AT LANGKAWI THAT THE PARAGRAPH IS SUBJECT TO A BRITISH RESERVE.

3. THE PARAGRAPH IS SIMILAR TO THE DRAFT ON WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER COMMENTED YESTERDAY. IT GOES AN EXTRA INCH OR TWO IN OUR DIRECTION BY INCLUDING THE NOTION OF "STRENGTHENING" THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS WHICH STRONGLY IMPLIES EXISTING MECHANISMS, RATHER THAN DEVELOPING NEW ONES. IT RETAINS THE PHRASE "TAKING ACCOUNT OF" PROPOSALS FOR AN ENVIRONMENT FUND.

4. THE SENSE OF THE DRAFT PARAGRAPH IS NOT FAR REMOVED FROM THE TEXT AGREED IN THE HELSINKI MEETING ON THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL IN MAY OF THIS YEAR (A PROTOCOL TO THE 1985 VIENNA CONVENTION

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ON THE OZONE LAYER CALLING FOR THE PHASING OUT OF CFCs. You HAVE A COPY. WE SUBSCRIBED TO THAT TEXT AND ARE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP WHICH WAS ASKED TO CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS OF FINANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES TO CFCs. THE GROUP HAS HELD ONE MEETING IN NAIROBI, BUT HAS NOT SO FAR PRODUCED ANY RECOMMENDATIONS. BRITISH OFFICIALS HAVE TAKEN THE LINE THAT THERE IS NO CASE FOR CREATING NEW INSTITUTIONS, AND THAT THE PRIORITY IS TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING MECHANISMS. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHERS FOR AN ENVIRONMENT FUND NEED NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DISCUSSION.

5. I HAVE DISCUSSED THE DRAFT AT SOME LENGTH BOTH WITH THE MALAYSIANS AND THE INDIANS. THE LATTER HAVE EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE TO THEM, POLITICALLY, OF THE DECLARATION CONTINUING AT LEAST A PASSING REFERENCE TO AN ENVIRONMENT FUND, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO EMPHASISED THAT THEY ARE NOT AT ALL COMMITTED TO THE CREATION OF A NEW ORGANISATION. THEY BELIEVE THAT A NEW FUND MIGHT WELL BE OPERATED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE WORLD BANK OR THE UN; THEY CLAIM THAT THAT IS WHAT RAJIV GANDHI WANTS. BUT THEY DO NOT WISH, AT THIS STAGE, TO BE SEEN TO BE RULING OUT OTHER OPTIONS.

I TRIED TO GET THE BETTER COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT PARAGRAPH ON THE TASK, BUT THE INDIANS BLOCKED THIS.

6. THE DRAFT PARAGRAPH IS IMPERFECT, IT DOES NOT COMMIT US TO ANYTHING AND IT IS NOT OUT OF STEP WITH WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING ELSEWHERE. IF ANYTHING, THE REFERENCE TO "TAKING ACCOUNT OF" IS WEAKER, AND PROBABLY BETTER FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THAN THE FORMULA IN THE HELSINKI TEXT.

7. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, MY ADVICE IS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD RELUCTANTLY SIGN UP. THE MALAYSIANS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO REACHING AGREEMENT, AND THEY HAVE DISPLAYED PATIENCE AND SKILL IN PREPARING A DRAFT WHICH, ON THE WHOLE, CONTAINS SOME GOOD MATERIAL.

9. I EXPECT DR. MATHATIR (AND POSSIBLY OTHERS) WILL LOBBY THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE THE SET-PIECE SESSION.

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Revised Draft 4 (20.10.89)THE LANGKAWI DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT

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countries to obtain access to and transfer of needed environmental technologies and which should take account of proposals for an international environment fund/Planet Protection Fund.

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- support low-lying and island countries in their efforts to protect vulnerable natural marine ecosystems;

*Save the
Maldives*

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- discourage and restrict non-sustainable fishing practices and seek to ban pelagic drift net fishing;
and long net
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