UN Conference on the Human Environment

Folder Citation: Collection: Records of the 1976 Campaign Committee to Elect Jimmy Carter; Series: Noel Sterrett Subject File; Folder: UN Conference on the Human Environment; Container 96

To See Complete Finding Aid:

http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/findingaids/Carter-Mondale%20Campaign_1976.pdf

Nat Res - Env

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

UN CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Round-up of Actions Taken

This paper presents highlights of actions taken by the Conference in Stockholm June 5 - 16, 1972. It also indicates the U.S. position on and evaluation of these Conference actions. The opening "highlights" section indicates twelve Conference actions considered by the U.S. to be of major importance.

Included is a list of Members of the U.S. Delegation together with technical advisers and the text of the Declaration on the Human Environment. Following this are separate sections on each of the six subject areas. The text of the resolution recommending the establishment of a new organizational structure in the UN to co-ordinate UN environmental activities is included under Subject Area VI.

Numbers beginning with roman numerals are those given to recommendations in the Conference documents as amended at the Conference; for example, "I-136" refers to the recommendation in paragraph 136 of the Conference document on Subject Area I. "Planning and Management of Human Settlements for Environmental Quality" (A/CONF.48/6). Some numbers refer to new paragraphs developed anew at the Conference.

Bureau of International
Scientific & Technological Affs.
Office of Environmental Affairs
June 21, 1972

HIGHLIGHTS OF STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ACHIEVEMENTS

SUBJECT AREA		
VI	1.	Recommended unanimously the creation in the UN of a permanent high level environmental unit to coordinate UN environmental activities, and a UN Environment Fund expected to be funded at $100 million over the first 5 years. (The U.S. has pledged*up to $40 million on a matching basis.)
III	2.	Urged completion in 1972 of a global convention to restrict ocean dumping.
III	3.	Recommended steps to minimize release of such dangerous pollutants as heavy metals and organochlorines into the environment.
III	4.	Recommended a global "Earthwatch" program to be coordinated by the UN, to monitor and assess environmental trade in atmosphere, oceans, land and human health.
IV	5.	Called for early completion of conservation conventions, including the World Heritage Trust for natural and cultural treasures and a convention restricting international trade in endangered species.
II	6.	Called for world programs to collect and safeguard the world's immense variety of plant and animal genetic resources on which stability of ecosystems and future breeding stocks depend.
II	7.	Urged strengthening of the International Whaling Convention and a 10-year moratorium on commercial whaling.
IV	8.	Recommended creation of an Environmental Referral Service to speed exchange of environmental know-how among all countries.
V	9.	Urged steps to prevent national environmental actions from creating trade barriers against exports of developing countries.

*Subject to Congressional action.

V 10. Recommended higher priority for environmental values in international development assistance, e.g. more emphasis on conservation, land use planning, and quality of human settlements.

I 11. Urged greater emphasis on population policy and accelerated aid to family planning in countries where population growth threatens environment and development goals.

12. Issued a Declaration on the Human Environment containing important new principles to guide international environmental action, including Principle 21 that states are responsible to avoid damaging the environment of other states or of the international realm.

John Rollins
President, Rollins Leasing Corporation

William Ruckelshaus
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

William Scott
Attorney General, State of Illinois

Elvis A. Stahr
President, National Audubon Society

John W. Tukey
Professor of Mathematics, Princeton University

Ross Vincent
Member, Advisory Committee on the UN
Conference on the Human Environment;
Vice President, Ecology Center,
New Orleans, La.

John Whitaker
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

Robert White
Administrator, National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Harrison A. Williams
U.S. Senator (D., N.J.)

Technical Advisers:

Henry Brodie
Deputy Director for Multilateral Programs
Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of State

Theodore C. Byerly
Assistant Director
Science and Education
Department of Agriculture

Melvin S. Day, Head
Office of Science Information Service
National Science Foundation

Alden L. Doud, Assistant Legal Adviser
Department of State

Slator C. Blackiston, Jr.
Executive Secretary
Secretary's Advisory Committee

Simon Bourgin
Science Adviser, USIA

James R. Fowler
Special Assistant
Office of the Administrator
Agency for International Development

Stuart P. French
Principal Assistant to the
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for International Security Affairs

Fitzhugh Green
Associate Administrator
International Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency

Richard S. Green
Assistant Surgeon General and Chief Engineer
U.S.Public Health Service
Department of Health, Education & Welfare

Stanley M. Greenfield
Assistant Administrator for Research & Monitoring
Environmental Protection Agency

William A. Hayne
Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President

Wallace Irwin, Jr. Sr. Adviser
Environmental Affairs
U.S.Mission to the UN
New York, N.Y.

Clayton E. Jensen, Chief,
Environmental Monitoring
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce

Donald R. King
Science Adviser
Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of State

Saul Levine
Assistant Director
Division of Environmental Affairs
Atomic Energy Commission

Robert Porter
Science Adviser
Environmental Protection Agency

John W. McDonald, Jr.
Coordinator, Multilateral Development Programs
Bureau of International Organization Affairs
Department of State

Charles J. Orlebeke
Deputy Under Secretary for Policy
Analysis & Program Evaluation
Department of Housing & Urban Development

Robert B. Rosenstock
Adviser for Legal Affairs
U.S.Mission to the UN
New York, N.Y.

Logan H. Sallada
Deputy Director of the Executive Secretariat
Department of Health, Education & Welfare

Francis J. Seidner
Deputy Director
Office of International Conferences
Department of State

Harry Shooshan, Director
Office of International Activities
Department of the Interior

John Stuart
Press Adviser
U.S. Information Agency

Lee Talbot
Sr. Scientist
Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President

John P. Trevithick, Director
Science & Technology
Bureau of International Organization Affs., Dept of State

Sidney A. Wallace, Captain, USCG
Chief, Marine Environment Protection Division
U.S. Coast Guard
Department of Transportation

Richard Wilbur
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Health & Environment)

THE DECLARATION ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

In its closing meeting the Conference adopted without objection the Declaration on the Human Environment, consisting of a Preamble and 26 Principles. This document is the result of a negotiating process which began in a 27-nation working group in New York early in 1971, in which all members of the United Nations were invited to participate. It culminated in a new Working Group created by the Stockholm Conference itself on June 8, open to all participating states. This group met night and day until the final day of the Conference. It used as the basis of its negotiations the Draft Declaration forwarded by the Preparatory Committee as a result of the working group sessions in New York.

Although in the opinion of the United States Delegation the text submitted by the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.48/4) was more balanced and more clearly focussed on environmental concerns, it is understandable that in the final stage of Conference consideration many members who had not earlier availed themselves of the opportunity to contribute to the text should wish to do so and should press for inclusion of material expressing their main concerns.

The final text, although uneven in the view of the United States Delegation, preserves a number of extremely important principles of conduct for states in dealing with environmental problems of international significance. Chief among these is Principle 21, which declares that States have "the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction." Also of notable importance are such provisions as Principle 2 declaring that the earth's living and non-living resources, and representative samples of natural ecosystems, must be safeguarded for present and future generations; Principle 6 stating that excessive discharge of toxic substances and heat into the environment must be halted to prevent "serious or irreversible damage" to ecosystems; Principle 16 calling for application of appropriate demographic policies where growth rates or concentration of population are likely to have adverse effects on the environment or on development; and Principle 25 declaring the obligation of States to "ensure that international organizations play a coordinated, efficient and dynamic role for the protection and improvement of the environment."

Principle 26, dealing with the effects of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction, met inflexible opposition from China but was adopted following a statement by the Conference President "noting the statement expressed (by China) regarding these principles".

Agreement could not be reached on Principle 20 of the text contained in A/CONF.48/4, (not principle 20 of the enclosed text) owing largely to strong opposition of Brazil, and it has been referred to the UN General Assembly for action. This principle read: "Relevant information must be supplied by States on activities or developments within their jurisdiction or under their control whenever they believe, or have reason to believe, that such information is needed to avoid the risk of significant adverse effects on the environment in areas beyond their national jurisdiction."

The record of the Conference will include the following U.S. statement of interpretation regarding four of the 26 principles of the declaration.

"Principle 2. The U.S. places emphasis on the word "representative" which, in our view, ensures that the phrase means retention of a complete system with all of the complex interrelationships intact not a portion thereof. Moreover, the size of the sample must be sufficient to represent the size of the whole.

"Principle 12. The U.S. does not regard the text of this principle, or any other language contained in the Declaration, as requiring it to change its aid policies or increase the amounts thereof. The U.S accepts the idea that added costs in specific national projects or activities for environmental protection reasons should be taken into account.

"Principle 21. The U.S. considers it obvious that nothing contained in this principle, or elsewhere in the Declaration, diminishes in any way the obligation of states to prevent environmental damage or gives rise to any right on the part of states to take actions in derogation of the rights of other states or of the community of nations. The statement of the responsibility of states for damage caused to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction is not in any way a limitation on the above obligation, but an affirmation of existing rules concerning liability in the event of default on the obligation.

"Principle 26. The U.S. fully supports the purpose, aspirations, and ultimate goals contained in this paragraph. We are constantly striving to meet such goals in all relevant fora including for example SALT which has recently achieved such success. We regard our commitment under this principle as identical to the treaty obligation we have assumed in connection with the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, specifically Article VI including the requirement of 'strict and effective international control.' We believe it obvious that agreements called for in the principle must be adequately verifiable or they will not be soundly enough based to achieve the purposes of this principle."

TEXT

Declaration on the Human Environment

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment having met at Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, and having considered the need for a common outlook and for common principles to inspire and guide the peoples of the world in the preservation and enhancement of the human environment, proclaims:

1. Man is both creature and moulder of his environment which gives him physical sustenance and affords him the opportunity for intellectual, moral social and spiritual growth. In the long and tortuous evolution of the human race on this planet a stage has been reached when through the rapid acceleration of science and technology, man has acquired the power to transform his environment in countless ways and on an unprecedented scale. Both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights - even the right to life itself.

2. The protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world; it is the urgent desire of the peoples of the whole world and the duty of all governments.

3. Man has constantly to sum up experience and go on discovering, inventing, creating and advancing. In our time man's capability to transform his surroundings, if used wisely, can bring to all peoples the benefits of development and the opportunity to enhance the quality of life, Wrongly or heedlessly applied, the same power can do incalculable harm to human beings and the human environment. We see around us growing evidence of man-made harm in many regions of the earth: dangerous levels of pollution in water, air, earth and living beings; major and undesirable disturbances to the ecological balance of the biosphere; destruction and depletion of irreplaceable resources; and gross deficiencies harmful to the physical, mental and social health of man, in the man-made environment; particularly in the living and working environment.

4. In the developing countries most of the environmental problems are caused by under-development. Millions continue to live far below the minimum levels required for a decent human existence, deprived of adequate food and clothing, shelter

and education, health and sanitation. Therefore, the developing countries must direct their efforts to development, bearing in mind their priorities and the need to safeguard and improve the environment. For the same purpose, the industrialized countries should make efforts to reduce the gap between themselves and the developing countries. In the industrialized countries, environmental problems are generally related to industrialization and technological development.

5. The natural growth of population continuously presents problems on the preservation of the environment, and adequate policies measures should be adopted as appropriate to face these problems. Of all things in the world, people are the most precious. It is the people that propel social progress, create social wealth, develop science and technology and through their hard work, continuously transform the human environment. Along with social progress and the advance of production, science and technology the capability of man to improve the environment increases with each passing day.

6. A point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthly environment on which our life and well being depend. Conversely, through fuller knowledge and wiser action, we can achieve for ourselves and our posterity a better life in an environment more in keeping with human needs and hopes. There are broad vistas for the enhancement of environmental quality and the creation of a good life. What is needed is an enthusiastic but calm state of mind and intense but orderly work. For the purpose of attaining freedom in the world of nature, man must use knowledge to build in collaboration with nature a better environment. To defend and improve the human environment for present and future generations has become an imperative goal for mankind - a goal to be pursued together with, and in harmony with, the established and fundamental goals of peace and of worldwide economic and social development.

7. To achieve this environmental goal will demand the acceptance of responsibility by citizens and communities and by enterprises and institutions at every level, all sharing equitably in common efforts. Individuals in all walks of life as well as organizations in many fields, but their values and the sum of their actions will shape the world environment of the future. Local and national governments will bear the greatest

burden for large scale environmental policy and action within their jurisdictions. International cooperation is also needed in order to raise resources to support the developing countries in carrying out their responsibilities in this field. A growing class of environmental problems, because they are regional or global in extent or because they affect the common international realm, will require extensive cooperation among nations and action by international organizations in the common interest. The conference calls upon the governments and peoples to exert common efforts for the preservation and improvement of the human environment, for the benefit of all the people and for their posterity.

Principles

States the common conviction that --

1. Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality which permits a life of dignity and well being, and bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations. (In this respect, policies promoting or perpetuating apartheid, racial segregation, discrimination, colonial and other forms of oppression and foreign domination stand condemned and must be eliminated.)

2. The natural resources of the earth including the air, water, land, flora and fauna and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management as appropriate.

3. The capacity of the earth to produce vital renewable resources must be maintained and wherever practicable restored or improved.

4. Man has a special responsibility to safeguard and wisely manage the heritage of wildlife and its habitat which are now gravely imperilled by a combination of adverse factors. Nature conservation including wildlife must therefore receive importance in planning for economic development.

5. The non-renewable resources of the earth must be employed in such a way as to guard against the danger of their future exhaustion and to ensure that benefits from such employment are shared by all mankind.

6. The discharge of toxic substances or of other substances and the release of heat, in such quantities or concentrations as to exceed the capacity of the environment to render them harmless, must be halted in order to ensure that serious or irreversible damage is not inflicted upon ecosystems. (The just struggle of the peoples of all countries against pollution should be supported.)

7. States shall take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas by substances that are liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea.

8. Economic and social development is essential for ensuring a favorable living and working environment for man and for conditions on earth that are necessary for the improvement of the quality of life.

9. Environmental deficiencies generated by the conditions of underdevelopment and natural disasters pose grave problems and can best be remedied by accelerated development through the transfer of substantial quantities of financial and technological assistance, as a supplement to the domestic effort of the developing countries (and such timely assistance as may be required).

10. For the developing countries, stability of prices and adequate earnings for primary commodities and raw material are essential to environmental management since economic factors as well as ecological processes must be taken into account.

11. The environmental policies of all states should enhance and not adversely affect the present or future development potential of developing countries, nor should they hamper the attainment of better living conditions for all, and appropriate steps should be taken by states and international organizations with a view to reaching agreement on meeting the possible national and international economic consequences resulting from the application of environmental measures.

12. Resources should be made available to preserve and improve the environment, taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries and any costs which may emanate from their incorporating environmental safeguards into their development planning and the need for making available to them, upon their request, additional international technical and financial assistance for this purpose.

13. In order to achieve a more rational management of resources and thus to improve the environment, states should adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to their development planning so as to ensure that development is compatible with the need to protect and improve the human environment for the benefit of their population.

14. Rational planning constitutes an essential tool for reconciling any conflict between the needs of development and the need to protect and improve the environment.

15. Planning must be applied to human settlements and urbanization with a view to avoiding adverse effect on the environment and obtaining maximum social, economic and environmental benefits for all. In this respect projects which are designed for colonialist and racist domination must be abandoned.

16. Demographic policies which are without prejudice to basic human rights and which are deemed appropriate by governments concerned, should be applied in those regions where the rate of population growth or excessive population concentrations are likely to have adverse effects on the environment or development, or where low population density may prevent improvement of the human environment and impede development.

17. Appropriate national institutions must be entrusted with the task of planning, managing or controlling the environmental resources of states with the view to enhancing environmental quality.

18. Science and technology, as part of their contribution to economic and social development, must be applied to the identification, avoidance and control of environmental risks and the solution of environmental problems and for the common good of mankind.

19. Education in environmental matters, for the younger generation as well as adults, giving due consideration for the underprivileged, is essential in order to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in protecting and improving the environment in its full human dimension. It is also essential that mass media of communications avoid contributing to the deterioration of the environment, but, on the contrary, disseminate information of an educational nature on the need to protect and improve the environment in order to educate man to develop in every respect.

20. Scientific research and development in the context of environmental problems, both national and multinational must be promoted in all countries, especially the developing countries. In this connection, the free flow of up to date scientific information and experience must be supported and assisted, to facilitate the solution of environmental problems; environmental technologies should be made available to developing countries on terms which would encourage their wide dissemination without constituting an economic burden on the developing countries.

21. States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

22. States shall cooperate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of such states to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

23. Without prejudice to such general principles as may be agreed upon by the international community, or to the criteria and minimum levels which will have to be determined nationally, it will be essential in all cases to consider the systems of values prevailing in each country, and the extent of the applicability of standards which are valid for the most advanced countries but which may be inappropriate and of unwarranted social cost for the developing countries.

24. International matters concerning the protection and improvement of the environment should be handled in a cooperative spirit by all countries, big or small, on an equal footing. Cooperation through multilateral or bilateral arrangements or other appropriate means is essential to prevent, eliminate or reduce and effectively control adverse environmental effects resulting from activities conducted in all spheres, in such a way that due account is taken of the sovereignty and interests of all states.

25. States shall ensure that international organizations play a coordinated, efficient and dynamic role for the protection and improvement of the environment.

26. Man and his environment must be spared the effects of nuclear weapons and all other means of mass destruction. States must strive to reach prompt agreement, in the relevant international organs, on the elimination and destruction of such weapons.

SUBJECT AREA I

Planning and Management of Human Settlements for Environmental Quality

Discussed in Committee I
See Report of Committee I A/CONF. 48/6 for most paragraph references below

I-136. Development Aid

This paragraph supported by the U.S., contains two recommendations. The first calls for all development assistance agencies (international, regional, and national) to give high priority to human settlement problems such as housing, transport, water supply, and sewerage. This is a significant action in that past development assistance has been oriented heavily toward the industrial and agricultural sectors. The second recommendation calls for the assistance agencies to help developing countries recruit environmental staff to advise them on environmental aspects of development projects.

I-137. Environmental Improvement Areas

This paragraph, supported by the U.S., recommends a new international program of "Environmental Improvement Areas." Governments are urged to designate areas, varying in size from a region to a city block, in which they are prepared to carry on long-term environmental improvement, emphasizing international cooperation and sharing information on their problems and solutions. This program offers the possibility of important breakthroughs in community environmental progress.

I-138. Consultation Across Boundaries

This recommendation, supported by the U.S., calls for bilateral or regional consultation where human settlement problems have repercussions across national boundaries.

I-140. Research

This paragraph, supported by the U.S., deals with research in environmental problems of human settlements. It recommends that such research be coordinated at the international level by the anticipated new UN environmental unit (see Subject Area VI) and identifies certain priority research topics such as water supply and sewage disposal in tropical areas; rural-urban migration and squatter settlements; urban transport; and psycho-social stresses of city life. Companion recommendations, also supported by the U.S., were in paragraph 141 (regional research cooperation) and 144 (sharing of research results).

I-146, 148, 149. Training

These recommendations, supported by the U.S. all deal with the need for greatly expanded training, both sectoral and interdisciplinary, in all aspects of the environment of human settlements. They call on all countries and the Secretary-General to step up training activities so that the necessary personnel are available to apply sound environmental principles and practices.

I-150. Natural Disasters

A new paper on this subject was written in Committee I, in view of general dissatisfaction with the Secretariat document on this subject. The recommendation calls for, among other things, greater recognition of the need for disaster warning and prediction systems against a wide range of disasters (earthquakes, typhoons, tsunamis, drought, etc.). More research data are called for; also better communication systems to bring immediate warning of a coming disaster to the threatened area--such as might have saved countless lives in the Bay of Bengal hurricane of 1970. Also stressed was the need for public perception of the vulnerability of certain areas to disasters. The entire recommendation is referred to the recently appointed UN Disaster Relief Coordinator for further action.

The United States delegation took an active part in drafting this recommendation and strongly supported it.

I-152, 153. Water supply, Sewerage

These recommendations, supported by the United States, call on WHO and the UN development assistance agencies to give higher priority to supporting governments' efforts to improve water supply, sewerage services, and waste disposal. These recommendations address some of the most critical problems faced, particularly by developing nations which are rapidly urbanizing.

The United States supported these recommendations.

I-154. Population

Recommendation that the Secretary-General ensure that population concerns bearing on the environment of human settlement be given special attention at the 1974 World Population Conference.

The United States delegate to the committee, Mr. Rockefeller, made a statement underscoring United States support for the recommendation, and it was passed without dissent.

I-155. Family Planning

This was a new recommendation submitted as an amendment by Norway, which called for WHO and other UN agencies to increase family planning assistance to governments "without delay" and intensify research in this area.

The United States supported this recommendation (upheld in Plenary vote, 55-18 with 4 abstentions after long debate) because of our conviction that the world population problem, with its great environmental implications, should be faced in this conference, even though a World Population Conference is to be held two years hence.

I-156. Malnutrition

This new recommendation, proposed as an amendment by Pakistan, calls on UN agencies to focus special attention on the need to combat "the menace of human malnutrition rampant in many parts of the world." This significant problem had not been included in the committee's original agenda.

The United States joined in supporting the amendment.

I-157. Noise

This recommendation, sponsored by Sweden, called for the UN body to be created to work toward creating international noise emission standards which would apply internationally to the production of "motor vehicles and certain kinds of working equipment."

Although the recommendation was passed, the United States abstained, regarding it as a far too limited and fragmented approach to the problem of noise pollution in human settlements.

I-158. International Programs for Human Settlements

A new recommendation that the Secretary-General in consultation with UN bodies formulate programs to assist countries to meet growth requirements of human settlements and to improve the quality of life in existing settlements, particularly squatter areas. This recommendation was adopted without objection.

I-159. Regional Centers

This was also a new recommendation calling for the creation of regional centers to provide assistance in human settlements problems through research, training, information exchange, and financial, technical,

and materials assistance. The United States voted against this recommendation on the grounds that it was impractical.

I (no number) Human Settlements Fund

This recommendation proposed by India and Libya had strong support from many less developed countries. It called for a financial institution whose primary objective would be to strengthen national programs in the human settlements field by providing seed capital and technical assistance. The United States and most developed countries voted against it. The United States shared the views of Sweden, the UK, and Canada who spoke against the recommendation in Plenary noting that existing financial institutions were logical sources for human settlements funding.

SUBJECT AREA II

Environmental Aspects of Natural Resources Management
Discussed in Committee II;
see A/CON. 48/7 for most paragraph references

AND

Conservation Conventions
from Subject Area IV
(A/CONF. 48/9, paragraphs 121-126)

Agriculture and Soils

II-46. Recommends that FAO, in cooperation with other international agencies concerned, strengthen the machinery for international acquisition of knowledge and transfer of experience on soil capabilities, degradation and conservation.

The U.S. strongly supported this recommendation. It will help to develop and apply the technology necessary for increased production of food and fiber.

An amendment was adopted recommending action to give value and stability to prices of agricultural raw materials in international trade, on the ground that this would provide funds for soil improvement.

The U.S. opposed this amendment, pointing out that its intent was far afield and soil improvement and could in any case not be achieved by this means.

II-47. Recommends that Governments, in cooperation with UN specialized agencies, strengthen and coordinate international programs to control pests and reduce harmful effects of agrochemicals.

The recommendation, amended to note that national and ecological variations must be taken into account in developing guidelines and standards, was accepted with U.S. support.

II-48. Recommends recycling of agricultural and agro-industrial and municipal wastes through the soil.

Accepted with U.S. support.

Livestock

II-(no number). A new recommendation, proposed by Nigeria, was added on rapid development of livestock in areas of low productivity.

Rural Development

II-(no number). A new recommendation, proposed by France, was added calling for increased attention to rural development.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

Forests

II-66a. Recommends that the Secretary-General take steps to ensure that UN bodies cooperate to meet needs for new knowledge on forest management. Accepted after explanations by "Man and Biosphere" Program (UNESCO) that that program would support ecosystem research on forests to complement FAO studies in forest management, economics, legislation, land tenure, and the like.

The U.S. supported the recommendation.

II-66b. Recommends monitoring of the world's forest cover through various techniques including remote sensing by satellite.

The U.S. supported the recommendation.

II-67a. Recommends that FAO coordinate an international program for research and exchange of information on forest fires, pests and diseases.

Accepted with U.E. support.

II-67b. Recommends that FAO facilitate transfer of information on forests and forest management in different climate zones and forest types.

Accepted with U.S. support

It should be noted that II-66a (and b) and 67 (a and b) can contribute greatly to environmental quality,especially in tropical forest ecosystems where current exploitation endangers productive capacity and stability in many areas.

Wildlife (Including Whales)

II-81. Recommends that the Secretary-General insure that effects of pollutants on wildlife are considered within environmental monitoring systems.

The U.S. supported the recommendation.

Wild species serve as particularly sensitive indicators of the levels of various types of pollutants, such as heavy metals, pesticides, and plasticizers (PCBs); and in a broader sense, are indicators of environmental health and stability. They can thus play a valuable part in global monitoring systems.

II-82. Recommends an international program to assess the total economic value of wildlife resources.

The U.S. supported this recommendation. Wildlife has often been overlooked as a valuable economic resource. This assessment program can help to chart future conservation policies.

II-83. UN agencies to cooperate with governments of developing countries to develop wildlife management training courses.

The U.S. supported. Trained personnel in this field are in very short supply in developing countries.

II-84. Recommends that governments consider enacting international conventions and treaties to protect species inhabiting international waters or those which migrate from one country to another, and that a working group be established without delay to develop a broadly based convention on game regulations, etc., to avoid overexploitation of wildlife resources.

The U.S. supported this recommendation. No single nation can protect such species adequately, nor should any single nation have the right to exploit them; consequently, international action is required.

II-86. Recommends that governments agrqe to strengthen the International Whaling Commission (IWC), increase international whale research efforts, and as a matter of urgency, calls for an international agreement for a ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling.

The U.S. initiated this recommendation and strongly supported it against vigorous opposition by Japan. It was strengthened by U.S. amendment (passed 51-3) which called for direct recommendation for moratorium under the IWC, but also including other interested governments (since not all whaling nations are IWC members). The U.S. amendment also called for increased international research efforts.

Despite regulation by the IWC, world whale populations have drastically dropped, to where all exploited whale species are immediately or potentially endangered or greatly depleted. Present trends under the IWC would not allow rebuilding of depleted stocks and probably would result in further reduction. This recommendation reflects worldwide recognition that whales, inhabiting the international seas, are the concern of mankind as a whole -- not solely for economic reasons but also for their role in marine ecosystems and for their distinction as the largest and possibly the most awe-inspiring members of the animal kingdom.

Parks

II-95, 96, and 97. Recommends (1) special attention to training requirements for park planning and management; (2) a mechanism for international transfer of information on park planning and management techniques; (3) that UN agencies assist developing countries to plan for visitor use of protected areas in such a way as to reconcile revenue and environmental considerations.

The U.S. supported these recommendations.

II-98. International protection for ecosystems. Recommends governments (1) cooperate in managing neighboring protected areas; (2) set aside areas representing ecosystems of international significance for protection under international agreement.

The U.S. supported this recommendation, noting that such agreements should be consistent with international law.

Genetic Resources

II-107-120. A major set of recommendations for global cooperation program to preserve the world's immense variety of genetic resources, including domestic and wild plants and animals, insects and microorganisms. Includes a 5-year crash program of plant exploration and collection where species are endangered (110); national and regional genetic resource conservation centers (112); a network of protected areas containing samples of the world's ecosystems with their component wild plant and animal species (113); steps to preserve germ plasm of animals (115); microorganisms (116); insects (117); a global cooperative network embracing all these and and other activities.

The need for such an ambitious new program arises from two concurrent trends: man's increasing dependence on a few genetic stocks of crop planst and livestock, all vulnerable

to pests and disease; and his increasing impact on the biosphere which puts in jeopardy countless living species, thus threatening to reduce at an accelerating rate the variety of life forms, the stability of ecosystems, and the genetic resources on which man can craw in the future for food, fiber, aesthetic and other purposes.

This program is likely to be one of the major contributions of the Conference. It was a U.S. initiative in substantial part, and was adopted by consensus in its entirety.

Fisheries

II-131-135. These recommendations call on governments and the Secretary-General, in cooperation with FAO and other UN organizations, to: (1) support information exchange, monitoring and assessment of fishery resources, more efficient international management of fish stocks; (2) ensure an adequate role for fishery agencies in preparing for the coming UN Law of the Sea Conference; (3) help prevent national resource utilization from harming international fishery resources; (4) strengthen (and in some areas create) international machinery for developing and managing fisheries.

The U.S. supported this set of recommendations. Their importance can be gauged from such facts as these: In 1970, world fish catches came to 57 million tons; proteins from the sea are being harvested at a rate that is increasing 6 per cent a year; but potential resources are jeopardized by overfishing, pollution of coasts and inland seas, coastal land reclamation, dredging, offshore oil operations, etc. To protect these living resources which so largely inhabit the international realm, improved international cooperation is increasingly urgent. In the U.S. view, better knowledge acquisition is especially important; to this end, a fisheries data center, in which all nations using fishery resources would cooperate in research and furnish data on their catches, would be most desirable.

Water

II-159. Recommends that governments consider creating new machinery, such as multinational river basin commissions, for study and management of water resources common to more than one jurisdiction, settlement of disputes over their use, etc.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

Despite regulation by the IWC, world whale populations have drastically dropped, to where all exploited whale species are immediately or potentially endangered or greatly depleted. Present trends under the IWC would not allow rebuilding of depleted stocks and probably would result in further reduction. This recommendation reflects worldwide recognition that whales, inhabiting the international seas, are the concern of mankind as a whole -- not solely for economic reasons but also for their role in marine ecosystems and for their distinction as the largest and possibly the most awe-inspiring members of the animal kingdom.

Parks

II-95, 96, and 97. Recommends (1) special attention to training requirements for park planning and management; (2) a mechanism for international transfer of information on park planning and management techniques; (3) that UN agencies assist developing countries to plan for visitor use of protected areas in such a way as to reconcile revenue and environmental considerations.

The U.S. supported these recommendations.

II-98. International protection for ecosystems. Recommends governments (1) cooperate in managing neighboring protected areas; (2) set aside areas representing ecosystems of international significance for protection under international agreement.

The U.S. supported this recommendation, noting that such agreements should be consistent with international law.

Genetic Resources

II-107-120. A major set of recommendations for global cooperation program to preserve the world's immense variety of genetic resources, including domestic and wild plants and animals, insects and microorganisms. Includes a 5-year crash program of plant exploration and collection where species are endangered (110); national and regional genetic resource conservation centers (112); a network of protected areas containing samples of the world's ecosystems with their component wild plant and animal species (113); steps to preserve germ plasm of animals (115); microorganisms (116); insects (117); a global cooperative network embracing all these and and other activities.

The need for such an ambitious new program arises from two concurrent trends: man's increasing dependence on a few genetic stocks of crop planst and livestock, all vulnerable

to pests and disease; and his increasing impact on the biosphere which puts in jeopardy countless living species, thus threatening to reduce at an accelerating rate the variety of life forms, the stability of ecosystems, and the genetic resources on which man can craw in the future for food, fiber, aesthetic and other purposes.

This program is likely to be one of the major contributions of the Conference. It was a U.S. initiative in substantial part, and was adopted by consensus in its entirety.

Fisheries

II-131-135. These recommendations call on governments and the Secretary-General, in cooperation with FAO and other UN organizations, to: (1) support information exchange, monitoring and assessment of fishery resources, more efficient international management of fish stocks; (2) ensure an adequate role for fishery agencies in preparing for the coming UN Law of the Sea Conference; (3) help prevent national resource utilization from harming international fishery resources; (4) strengthen (and in some areas create) international machinery for developing and managing fisheries.

The U.S. supported this set of recommendations. Their importance can be gauged from such facts as these: In 1970, world fish catches came to 57 million tons; proteins from the sea are being harvested at a rate that is increasing 6 per cent a year; but potential resources are jeopardized by overfishing, pollution of coasts and inland seas, coastal land reclamation, dredging, offshore oil operations, etc. To protect these living resources which so largely inhabit the international realm, improved international cooperation is increasingly urgent. In the U.S. view, better knowledge acquisition is especially important; to this end, a fisheries data center, in which all nations using fishery resources would cooperate in research and furnish data on their catches, would be most desirable.

Water

II-159. Recommends that governments consider creating new machinery, such as multinational river basin commissions, for study and management of water resources common to more than one jurisdiction, settlement of disputes over their use, etc.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

II-160 (a), (b), (c), (d). Recommends steps by the UN system to: (1) establish regional centers for training and information exchange on water resources management problems; (2) provide technical and financial assistance to governments and create a roster of experts to advise them in this field; (3) assess the environmental effects of man's continental water management on the oceans, which are the ultimate repository of water runoff and water-borne wastes from the land.

The U.S. supported these recommendations.

Minerals

II-175. Recommends an appropriate vehicle be provided to exchange information on mining and primary mineral processing and to provide information to developing nations on technology for preventing adverse health, safety and environmental effects associated with the mineral industry.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

Energy

II-196 (a), (b), (c). Recommends steps to develop data and exchange information, as part of the world monitoring effort, on environmental effects of present and future production and use of energy. These data are to be developed in the framework of studies drawing on the expertise of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, and are to take account of new technology. The first report would be made in 1975

The U.S. supported this recommendation

Resource Development: Environmental Assessment

II-201. Recommends (1) environmental audits (pre-audits where feasible) of resource development projects in representative ecosystems of international significance; and (2) steps to assess the environmental impact of alternative approaches to the survey, planning, and development of resource projects.

The U.S. supported this recommendation with the interpretation that rights under international law would be guaranteed.

Environmental Impact of Development Assistance

II-203 (b). Recommends that development assistance agencies, in cooperation with recipinet governments, broaden the criteria of development project analysis to incorporate environmental impact considerations.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

Synthetic Versus Natural Products

II-203 (c). Recommends the appropriate UN agencies undertake studies on the relative costs and benefits of synthetic versus natural products serving identical uses.

The US.. supported this recommendation.

Biosphere Research

II-203 (d). Recommends that the international program of biosphere research be vigorously pursued. This was construed to refer to the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" Program.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

Development and Climate

II-204. Recommends that the World Meteorological Organization initiate or intensify studies on the inter-relationship of resource development and meteorology.

The U.S. supported this recommendation

Remote Sensing

II-207. Recommends further development of remote sensing technology in resource surveys and appropriate sharing of the use of these devices.

The U.S. supported this recommendation

Marginal Lands

II-227 (b). Recommends that the Food and Agriculture Organization expand its present program on stabilization of marginal lands.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

Conservation Conventions:

IV-124. World Heritage

Recommends that governments, with assistance of UN, specialized agencies, and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, continue preparation of present and future conventions required for conservation of world's natural resources and cultural heritage. Consideration to be given to possible technical and financial assistance to governments for protection of elements of national heritage of universal value.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

IV-125 (a, b). World Heritage Trust Convention

Endorses the World Heritage Trust draft convention as a significant step towards the protection, on an international scale, of the environment and proposes that all governments be invited to examine the convention draft, "with a view to its adoption at the next General Conference of UNESCO" (autumn 1972).

The U.S. initiated and strongly supported this recommendation. The World Heritage Trust, proposed by President Nixon in February 1971, calls for international recognition and protection to areas of natural or cultural heritage of universal significance. Experts meeting at UNESCO in April drafted and call on governments to adopt it at the UNESCO General Conference this fall.

IV-125 (c). Wetlands

The Conference invites all interested Governments to sign the Convention on Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance, approved at the Conference of RAMSAR (Iran).

The Convention is not entirely satisfactory to the U.S., since we do not believe it goes far enough in the protection of wetlands, an objective which we strongly support.

The U.S. nevertheless supported the recommendation as a step in the right direction.

IV-125 (d). Islands for Science

Recommends that the Secretary-General make arrangements, in consultation with the competent agencies of the United Nations system and the non-governmental organizations concerned, for a detailed study of all possible procedures for protecting certain islands for science.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

IV-125 (e). Endangered Species

Recommends that a plenipotentiary conference be convened as soon as possible to prepare and adopt a convention on export, import and transit of certain species of wild animals and plants in order to protect them from over-exploitation or extinction.

The U.S. supported this recommendation. Under the terms of the Endangered Species Act of 1969, the U.S. is to hold such a conference and has been working with IUCN and interested governments to develop a draft convention.

SUBJECT AREA III

Identification and Control of Pollutants of Broad International Significance

Discussed in Committee III;
see A/CONF.48/8 for most paragraph references
below.

III-218. Climate

Recommends governments be mindful of activities in which there is an appreciable risk of effects on climate, and evaluate the potential for resulting climate changes. The long-range effects of increases in particulate matter and carbon dioxide, for example, are uncertain and the need for further study is obvious.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-219. Dangerous Substances.

Recommends governments use the best practicable means to minimize environmental release of toxic or persistent substances (particularly heavy metals and organochlorine compounds) if their release otherwise would produce unacceptable risks. Although the language is unclear, it is our interpretation that such substances would not be exempt merely because their use is considered essential to human health and food production; in such cases benefits should be weighed carefully against risks. However, the wording of the recommendation is unclear in this respect.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-220. Pollutant Standards.

Recommends that national standards for pollutants of international significance take account of internationally accepted standards and act in concert with competent international organizations and other concerned governments. This approach by governments would represent considerable savings in manpower, time, and funds.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-222. Knowledge.

Recommends governments join in international programs to acquire knowledge for the assessment of pollutant sources, pathways, exposures and risks; and also assist developing countries to participate.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-223. Pollutant Warning.

Recommends that the UN system and all competent bodies provide warning of deleterious effects of manmade pollutants on human health and well being, both short-term and long-term. To accomplish this an inter-calibration program for sampling and analytical techniques to provide meaningful comparisons of data is essential. Although we do not object to a registry of data on chemicals, the U.S. noted that requiring hard-to-get data on pathways from factory to ultimate disposal would unduly hamper the effort.

The U.S. supported this recommendation which we consider basic. However, we voted against an additional paragraph which was adopted in committee, calling for creation of an international registry of data on chemicals in the environment; although we favor the idea of such a registry, we regarded the inclusion of a provision for data on pathways from factory to ultimate disposal as unworkable.

III-223 (a). Radioactivity registry.

Recommends establishing an international registry of significant radioactivity releases from the growing nuclear power industry. This implements a 1970 proposal by the U.S. Government. The U.S. supported this recommendation and stated its readiness to continue working with IAEA on registry of such releases expected to go beyond national boundaries.

III-224. Pollutants and Health.

Recommends a major effort to obtain data on agents to which man is exposed. WHO is recommended as the agency most competent to coordinate an international collection and

dissemination system to correlate medical, environmental, and family-history data.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-225. National Air and Fresh Water Monitoring.

Recommends that WHO further assist Governments, especially in developing countries, in monitoring their air and fresh water sources, particularly in areas where there may be a risk to health from pollution. Although WHO has performed this function for many years, the U.S. agrees that there is urgent need for increased support in some areas.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-226. Food Contaminants.

Recommends an FAO-WHO program of research and monitoring to help prevent food contamination by chemical and biological agents and provide early warnings.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-227. Atmospheric monitoring.

Recommends a network of 10 "baseline" stations remote from pollution sources, and over 100 regional-level stations, to provide data needed to determine the nature and extent of atmospheric pollution and direction and rate of change, so as to predict long-term effects on climate.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-228. Terrestrial Ecology.

Recommends coordinated research in terrestrial ecology through appropriate international agencies and the "man and biosphere" program, and surveillance of the effects of pollutants on ecosystems. It should be noted that recommendations 203(d), 227 and 234 together with 228 are all essential to the development and implementation

of a global environmental monitoring program.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-228 (a). Air, Water, and Food Standards.

A recommendation that WHO, together with competent international organizations, continue to study and establish primary standards for the protection of human organisms, especially from pollutants that are common to air, water, and food, as the basis for establishment of working limits. Recommendation was approved without objection.

III-229. Food Contaminant Control.

Recommends steps to increase the capabilities of FAO and WHO to assist the Codex Alimentarius Commission in developing international standards for pollutants in food, and to guide developing countries in the field of food control.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-230. Pollutant Limits.

Recommends that UN agencies develop procedures for setting derived working limits for concentrations of pollutants in ambient air and water, based on internationally agreed criteria.

Although mention of WHO was deleted, over U.S. opposition as the key agency for this action, the U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-231. Information Exchange of Pollution Research and Control

This recommendation to utilize the proposed international referral service to make available information which may be requested by governments on pollution research and pollution control activities including legislation. Approved without objection.

III-232. Activities of Proposed UN Environmental Body

Recommended tasks of Environmental Body to include:

Development of internationally accepted procedures for identification of pollutants; appointment of inter-governmental bodies to assess exposures, risks, pathways, and sources of pollutants of international significance; examination of needs for technical assistance from member states; review of international cooperation for pollution control. Adopted without objection.

III-233. Marine pollution. General.

Recommends that governments

(1) accept and carry out existing international instruments on control of maritime sources of marine pollution (e.g. from oil tankers);

(2) control ocean dumping and continue work on ocean dumping conventions;

(3) refer the draft ocean dumping convention to the Seabeds Committee for its comments and to a conference to be held in the United Kingdom for final consideration, if possible, before end of 1972;

(4) participate in the approaching Law of the Sea Conference and the 1973 IMCO Marine Pollution Conference with objective of bringing all significant sources of pollution in marine environment, including radioactive pollution from nuclear vessels, under appropriate control and eliminating completely by middle of present decade all intentional discharge of oil from ships.

(5) strengthen national controls over land-based sources of marine pollution.

The U.S. strongly supported paragraph (3) of this recommendation as offering the best possible opportunity for prompt conclusion of the work on the ocean dumping convention first proposed by U.S. in June 1971. The U.S. also supported the entire recommendation as it urges states to take legal measures nationally, regionally,

and internationally to bring major sources of marine pollution under control. The U.S. has misgivings about carte-blanche endorsement of all available instruments and believes case-by-case review is necessary, especially of non-binding instruments in form of resolutions, etc., of international organizations. The U.S. does not accept that references in paragraphs (2) and (3) constitute endorsement of jurisdiction other than that widely accepted in international law. It believes appropriate controls on nuclear defense vessels should be national controls taking into account recommendations of the IAEA and other competent agencies, which governments should undertake to follow as closely as possible.

III-234. Knowledge.

Recommends that governments support national research and monitoring efforts that contribute to international programs; provide data to the UN, FAO, and UNCTAD; and make the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) a more effective coordinator.

The U.S. strongly supported this recommendation as essential to an efficient scientific approach to marine pollution control and as a key part of "Earthwatch."

III-235. GESAMP.

Recommends IOC's Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP) reexamine annually its "Review of Harmful Chemical Substances" and provide advice on scientific aspects of marine pollution.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

III-236. Research.

Recommends -

(1) methods be developed to combine world statistics on the mining, production, processing, transport and use of potential marine pollutants;

(2) GESAMP propose guidelines to evaluate the toxicity of these substances;

(3) FAO, WHO, IOC and IAEA encourage study of the effects of high priority pollutants on man and other organisms; and

(4) IOC, with FAO and WHO, explore creating an institute for tropical marine studies.

The U.S. supported these recommendations.

III-237. Monitoring.

Recommends that IOC, with WMO and other bodies, promote monitoring of marine pollution, preferably within the Integrated Global Ocean Station System (IGOSS).

The U.S. supported this recommendation as aid to Earthwatch and as a scientific approach to marine pollution control.

III-238. Information exchange.

Recommends steps to assure that information from marine research and monitoring be made available in a form usable by governments; also possible expansion of data centers and referral systems to meet new needs.

The U.S. supported this recommendation. See under IV-137.

III-239. Control of Marine Pollution.

Recommends that governments (1) endorse the marine pollution principles and statement of objectives reported from the Ottawa meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Marine Pollution (November 1971); (2) control land-based sources of marine pollution and concert thereon regionally and internationally. Also recommends the Secretary General and appropriate organizations provide guidelines to governments for this purpose.

The U.S. opposed this recommendation, stating that although there is much we approve of in the Ottawa principles and objectives, these have wide-ranging implications for law of the sea problems and vessel operation outside purview of this conference. The U.S. therefore believes the proper fora for examining these subjects are the LOS Conference and the 1973 IMCO conference.

III-240. UN Support.

Recommends that the anticipated new UN environmental mechanism should provide needed advice to Governments on marine pollution.

The U.S. supported this recommendation since the magnitude of controling marine pollution makes early dissemination of such advice to all governments desirable and economical.

III-241. Developing country role in pollution work.

Recommends additional financial support to enable developing countries to participate in international programs of research, monitoring and control of pollutants.

The U.S. supported this recommendation. We believe it essential that the widest possible participation in international pollution control work be achieved.

SUBJECT AREA IV

Educational, Informational, Social and Cultural Aspects; also Conservation Conventions
Discussed in Committee I;
see A/CONF. 48/9 for paragraph references

IV-111. Continuous Social Diagnosis

Recommends arrangements for continuous diagnosis to measure social and cultural impacts of environmental developments. This would include UN financial and technical assistance to governments for: (a) preparing national reports on the environment; (b) developing social and cultural indicators for the environment with a view to a common methodology for assessing environmental quality in this area; and (c) organizing the exchange of information on methods for continuous social diagnosis

The U.S. supported this recommendation. It will help foster needed data collection and assessment methods in the area of social monitoring. A great deal more study is required before meaningful international reports on socio-cultural environmental quality can be envisioned.

IV-114. Education

Recommends that the Secretary-General and the organizations of the UN system especially UNESCO, establish an international environmental education program. The program is to be interdisciplinary and experimental in approach and to be directed towards all levels of the education contiuum, including preschool, primary, secondary, and adult education.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

This program would include technical and financial support for an inventory of existing systems of education which deal with environment; exchange of information on such systems; environmental training and retraining of teachers and other professionals; expert groups to exchange experience between countries with similar environmental conditions; new materials and methods for environmental education.

IV-115. Training

Recommends UNESCO, under the Man and the Biosphere Program,

WHO, FAO, UNIDO, WMO, the scientific unions, etc. should develop innovations in environmental training of specialists and technicians, and foster environmental training at the regional and international levels.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

IV-116. Volunteers

Recommends that international organizations for voluntary service and, in particular, the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service, in consultations with the United Nations Volunteer Program of UNDP, include environmental skills among the services they provide.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

IV-119. Public Information

Recommends an information program to create public awareness on environmental issues and elicit contributions from non-governmental organizations; an annual "international environment day"; translation and circulation of Conference documents; integration of environmental information into public information work of the United Nations system; and cooperation on environmental information among United Nations regional economic commissions.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

IV-120. Environmental Information in Development Programs

Recommends that certain international development programs be adapted to disseminate environmental information and strengthen community action on environmental problems.
U.S. supported this recommendation.
IV-126. Duties of Secretary-General

A recommendation that the Secretary-General make arrangements to be kept informed of national pilot schemes for environmental management; assist countries, on request, with experiments and research; and organize international exchange of information adopted by consensus.

IV-137. Exchange of Information: Referral Service

Recommends Secretary-General to establishment of an international Referral Service for efficient international exchange of information on environmental problems and solutions.

This U.S.-introduced Recommendation was approved unanimously.

Hundreds of environmental information services and data are in operation but, except to relatively small user constituencies, are relatively unknown and unused. The Referral Service would be a modest and practical tool to tell what information services exist, where they are, and how to gain access to them. It would, in effect, place countries requesting information of all types in contact with appropriate information resources in support of local, national, or international environmental programs.

SUBJECT AREA V

Environment and Development

Discussed in Committee II;
see A/CONF.48/10 for paragraph references

Of 8 recommendations on Environment and Development, the U.S. supported 5 and abstained on 3.

V-31. Role of regional organizations.

Recommends active participation by regional organizations in developing areas, including those of the UN as well as others, in environmental work including: attention to environmental problems common to the region, especially those of the least developed countries and countries exposed to marine pollution; exchange of information and experience between regional organizations on environmental problems common to developing countries worldwide; training development personnel in environmental skills; research, education, health, human settlements and soil problems.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

V-32. International trade.

Recommends five principles of which the U.S. supported three and opposed two (later seeking unsuccessfully to have them amended); abstaining on the whole paragraph. Specifics:
(1) Endorsing key principle that participating countries not use environmental actions as a pretext for discriminatory trade practices:

U.S. supported.

(2) Calling for "compensation" to exporting countries (especially developing countries) when environmental actions hamper their exports:

U.S. opposed, pointing out that many forces affect export earnings and to single out any of these, such as environmental actions, for compensatory treatment would be wrong in principle and a disincentive to environmental responsibility, but stated readiness to deal with any complaint that its environmental actions violate GATT obligations.

(3) That existing machinery of GATT be used to examine trade and environment question:

U.S. supported.

(4) Calling for advance consultation on planned environmental actions affecting trade, and assistance aimed at removing obstacles to trade which these actions create:

U.S. opposed, because the recommendation is too vague and general to permit effective implementation.

(5) Stating a principle that environmental standards in given products or processes need not be uniform in all countries where environmental disruption to other countries is not involved; and that the purpose of these standards is to protect the environment, not to gain trading advantages:

U.S. supported this principle.

V-33. Action by UN system.

Recommends UN agencies identify environment and export problems and remedies; also help governments negotiate international standards on traded products.

U.S. supported this important recommendation which will help reduce arbitrary and discriminatory trade actions.

V-34. Action by GATT and UNCTAD.

Recommends these agencies monitor and report on trade barriers arising from environmental policies.
U.S. supported this recommendation.
V-36. World distribution of industry.

Recommends (A) that developing countries consider establishing industries in which their environmental situation may confer comparative advantages, but avoid creating the environmental pollution problems in the process; and (B) that the UN review the implications of environmental concerns for future world distribution of industry, especially in developing countries.

The U.S. abstained on this recommendation, noting that the study called for in (B) would be meaningless generalities if made on a global basis since relevant factors vary so widely from country to country.

V-38. International Financing.

Recommends a UN study of appropriate mechanisms for financing international environmental action.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

V-39. Environmental technologies.

Recommends studies of means to make environmental technologies widely available to developing countries.

The U.S. supported this recommendation.

V-40. Development strategy and aid flows.

Following adoption of Indian amendment in Committee, recommends (A) that the UN review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy (Second Development Decade, 1971-80) take into account environment considerations; and (B) that developed countries' environmental preoccupations not affect aid flows to developing countries, which should be "adequate to meet the additional environmental requirements of such countries."

U.S. abstained on this recommendation, pointing out that the resolution on Institutional Arrangements (see Subject Area VI) contains in paragraph 10 a good formulation on this subject which the U.S. supports, and that the Conference should avoid varying recommendations on this important matter.

SUBJECT AREA VI

International Organizational Implications of Action Proposals Discussed in Committee III; text of draft resolution attached

The Conference action on this subject consists of a single recommendation, in the form of a Conference resolution recommending a new organizational structure in the United Nations with the following elements:

1. A Governing Council for Environmental Programs, to consist of 54 member states elected for three-year terms on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, and to have among its functions (a) the promotion of international environmental cooperation; (b) general policy guidance for direction and coordination of environmental programs in the UN system; (c) review of reports on implementation of these programs; and (d) review and approval of programs financed by the Environment Fund (see below). The Council is to report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, the latter to comment on coordination and on relation to other economic and social matters under its jurisdiction.

2. A small Environment Secretariat, headed by an Executive Director, to be established as the focal point for cooperation, coordination and effective management of environmental activities in the UN system. (The location of the Secretariat will be decided by the General Assembly this fall. At least ten sites have been offered by various countries.)

3. An Environment Fund, administered by the Executive Director under the guidance of the Governing Council. The Fund will finance the new environmental initiatives coming out of the Stockholm Conference.

4. An Environmental Coordinating Board, chaired by the Executive Director and designed to ensure cooperation and coordination among all of the UN agencies involved in environmental programs.

This will be considered by the General Assembly at its 27th session in New York this fall.

The Delegation worked long and hard to develop the consensus which enabled the Conference to adopt this resolution unanimously. We are pleased with the results and believe an effec-

RESOLUTION ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment convinced of the need for prompt and effective implementation by governments and the international community of measures designed to safeguard and enhance the human environment for the benefit of present and future generations of mankind, recognizing that responsibility for action to protect and enhance the human environment rests primarily with governments and, in the first instance, can be exercised more effectively at the national and regional levels, recognizing that environmental problems of broad international significance fall within the competence of the United Nations system, bearing in mind that international cooperative programmes in the environment field must be undertaken with due respect to the sovereign rights of states and in conformity with the United Nations charter and principles of international law, mindful of the sectoral responsibilities of the organizations of the United Nations system.

Conscious of the significance of regional and subregional cooperation in the field of the Human Environment and of the important role of the Regional Economic Commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations, emphasizing that problems of the human environment constitute a new and important area for international cooperation and that the complex interdependence of such problems requires new approaches, recognizing that the relevant international scientific and other professional communities can make an important contribution to international cooperation in the field of the human environment, conscious of the need for processes within the United Nations system which would effectively assist developing countries to implement environmental policies and programmes compatible with their development plans and to participate meaningfully in international environmental programmes, convinced that, in order to be effective, international cooperation in the field of the human environment requires additional financial and technical resources, aware of the urgent need for a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations for the protection and improvement of the human environment, and governing council for environmental programmes.

1. Recommends that the General Assembly establish the governing council for environmental programmes composed of fifty-four members, elected for three-year terms on the basis of equitable geographical distribution:

2. Recommends further that the governing council have the following main functions and responsibilities:

A. To promote international cooperation in the environment field and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end.

B. To provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system.

C. To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system.

D. To keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance should receive appropriate and adequate consideration by governments.

E. To promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment of exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system.

F. To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that might be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, to ensure that such programmes and projects are compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries.

G. To review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the environment fund.

3. Recommends further that the governing council report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which would transmit to the Assembly such comments on the report as it may deem necessary, particularly with regard to questions of coordination and to the relationship of environment policies and programmes within the United Nations system to overall economic and social policies and priorities.

Environment Secretariat

4. Recommends that a small Secretariat be established in the United Nations, with headquarters in (.....), to serve as a focal point for environmental actions and coordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management.

5. Recommends further that the Environment Secretariat be headed by the Executive Director, who shall be elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General, and who shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

(a) To provide substantive support to the governing council.

(b) Under the guidance of the governing council, to coordinate environmental programmes within the United Nations system, to keep under review their implementation and assess their effectiveness.

(c) To advise, as appropriate and under the guidance of the governing council, intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system on the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes.

(d) To secure the effective cooperation of, and contribution from, the relevant scientific and other professional communities from all parts of the world.

(e) To provide, at the request of all parties concerned, advisory services for the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the environment.

(f) To submit to the governing council, on his own initiative or upon request, proposals embodying medium-and-long-range planning for United Nations programmes in the environment field.

(g) To bring to the attention of the governing council any matter which he deems to require consideration by it.

(h) To administer, under the authority and policy guidance of the governing council, the environment fund.

(i) To report on environment matters to the governing council.

(j) To perform such other functions as may be entrusted to him by the governing council.

The Environment Fund

6. Recommends that, in order to provide for additional financing for environmental programmes, a voluntary fund be established in accordance with existing United Nations financial procedures.

7. Recommends further that, in order to enable the governing council to fulfill its policy guidance role for the direction and coordination of environmental activities, the fund finance wholly or partly the costs of the new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system. These will include the initiatives envisaged in the action plan adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, with particular attention to integrated projects, and such other environmental activities as may be decided upon by the governing council. The governing council shall review these initiatives with a view to taking appropriate decisions as to their continued financing.

8. Recommends further that the fund be used for financing such programmes of general interest as regional and global monitoring, assessment and data-collecting systems, including, as appropriate, costs for national counterparts, improvement of environmental quality management, environmental research, information exchange and dissemination, public education and training, assistance for national, regional and global environmental institutions; promotion of environmental research and studies for the development of industrial and other technologies best suited to a policy of economic growth compatible with adequate environmental safeguards; and such other programmes as the governing council may decide upon. In the implementation of such programmes due account should be taken of the special needs of the developing countries.

9. Recommends that the costs of servicing the governing council and providing the small core Secretariat be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations, operational programme costs, programme support and administrative costs of the fund shall be borne by the fund.

10. Recommends further that, in order to ensure that the development priorities of developing countries are not adversely affected, adequate measures be taken to provide additional financial resources on terms compatible with the economic situation of the recipient developing country. To this end, the Executive Director, in co-operation with competent organizations will keep this problem under continuing review.

11. Recommends that the fund, in pursuance of the objectives stated in paragraphs 7 and 8, be directed to the need for effective coordination in the implementation of international environmental programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations.

12. Recommends that, in the implementation of programmes to be financed by the fund, organizations outside the United Nations system, particularly those in the countries and regions concerned, also be utilized as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures established by the governing council; such organizations are invited to support the United Nations environment programs by complementary initiatives and contributions.

13. Recommends that the governing council formulate such general procedures as are necessary to govern the operations of the fund.

Coordination

14. Recommends that in order to provide for the maximum efficient coordination of United Nations environmental programmes, and environmental coordinating board, chaired by the Executive Director, be established under the auspices and within the framework of the administrative committee on coordination.

15. Recommends further that the environmental coordinating board meet periodically for the purpose of ensuring cooperation and coordination among all bodies concerned in the implementation of environmental programmes and that it report annually to the governing council.

16. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system to adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and coordinated programmes with regard to international environmental problems, taking into account existing procedures for prior consultation, particularly on programme and budgetary matters.

17. Invites the regional economic commissions and the economic and social office in Beirut, in cooperation, where necessary, with other appropriate regional bodies, to further intensify their efforts aimed at contributing to the implementation of environmental programmes in view of the particular need for rapid development of regional cooperation in this field.

18. Invites also other intergovernmental and those non-governmental organizations which have interest in the field of the environment to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of cooperation and coordination.

19. Calls upon governments to ensure that appropriate national institutions shall be entrusted with the task of coordination of environmental action, both national and international.

20. Recommends that the General Assembly review, as appropriate, at its Thirty-first Session, the institutional arrangements which it may decide upon in pursuance of this recommendation, bearing in mind, inter alia, the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council under the charter.