

# UNFCCC The 6th Conference of the Parties

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**From The Hague, 2000**

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# Kyoto Freezing in The Hague

*By Henry Lamb*  
(November 17 2000)

Den Haag (The Hague) could use a heavy dose of "global warming." As the steady drizzle here approaches the threshold to snow, the rhetoric heats up at the Conference Center, where thousands of delegates, and twice as many NGO observers, argue over every detail of the Kyoto Protocol.

Meanwhile, in Nepal, television cameras captured the spectacle of 26 world religions joining with environmental extremist organizations to pledge "sacred gifts" to the earth. Christians "pledged" to put land under environmental management, according to the report. Another group pledged to stop hunting the snow leopard. Among the dignitaries participating in the event, was England's Prince Phillip. The religious leaders and eco-zealots barely had time to recover from jet-lag from their last gathering in New York last September. That event was led by Mikhail Gorbachev and Maurice Strong, designed to bring the world's religions together to wage a sacred campaign to save the earth.

Simultaneously, in England, another group of environmental extremists launched a major demonstration denouncing "GM" - not the car company, Genetically Modified food. It's hard to comprehend the planning and coordination - to say nothing of the

funding - necessary to bring about this global outpouring for mother earth.

What each of these events has in common is their relationship to the United Nations' agenda to dictate the terms by which the earth will be saved. The NGO observers-protesters-advocates-agitators, get a significant portion of their funding through United Nations agencies or programs. Of course, at least 25% of all U.N. money comes from the United States.

The propaganda surrounding the Hague conference is broad, deep, and pervasive. To participants arriving at the Conference, a World Wildlife Fund operative, dressed in a polar bear costume, distributes a card which says "don't sink the Protocol!" A pamphlet which explains how participants must purchase coupons to exchange for food, advises that all foods are prepared with "ecologically beneficial" ingredients. A hundred or more NGO exhibits distribute tons of literature. An attendee package prepared by the U.N., contains a book of photos and poetry describing the tragic condition of mother earth - caused by man's greedy exploitation. Throughout the conference facility, large posters repeat the theme "Work it out!"

The theme refers to the hundreds of questions left unanswered in Kyoto where the Protocol was formally adopted in 1997. For nearly three years, now, these same conferees have been meeting in various cities around the world several times each year, negotiating answers to these unanswered questions. For example, the European Union and New Zealand want the word

"reforestation" to include natural regeneration of forests that have been logged. China, Malaysia, and other nations say absolutely not. This is an example of the mountain of minutia that the conferees are climbing. Incidentally, they have not yet agreed on what a forest is, either.

The larger questions, such as what the term "legally binding" means, have not yet been answered. This session in the Hague is supposed to provide answers to all these questions so the Protocol can be fully implemented by 2002. It is a very high mountain to climb.

The really, really big questions - [is human activity actually causing climate change](#); will the Protocol make any difference if fully implemented; will the burden of implementation be equally shared? - have been answered to the satisfaction of the United Nations functionaries, most of the delegates, a handful of outspoken scientist-advocates, and an army of NGO observers.

Their answers: human activity may have an influence on global climate; full implementation of the Protocol will make no difference on the global climate; and the burden will be equally shared among 38 developed nations. This is sufficient justification for full and immediate implementation of the Protocol, and for the theme "work it out" to all differences that hinder implementation.

A part of the pressure to act quickly, if irrationally, is to establish the global structure for implementation so the failure to reach phase-one targets can be measured - and penalized - and so that the delegates can get on to the important work of setting the targets for phase two.

Phase one targets are to be met by 2008-2012. Since it has taken nearly nine years to negotiate the Protocol and the rules for implementation, the delegates know full well that they must soon begin negotiating the targets and terms of the next phase.

The delegates, and most of the observers here, seem to have little or no concern that the Protocol may be rejected. The arguments center around how strong the Protocol will be, not around the validity of the effort. Only thirty nations have ratified the Protocol since it was adopted; none of them are bound by the Protocol.

According to the Protocol's ratification provisions, it cannot go into force unless it is ratified by the United States, even if ratified by all the 150 nations that are not bound by it.

In the corridors, between sessions, there is talk of putting off some decisions until COP 7 next year, which will meet in Morocco. U.N. officials continue to press for decisions now, to "work it out," realizing that the possibility of unraveling the entire process is quite real.

Outside the global warming industry - and it has become a multi-billion dollar industry - people are growing weary of hearing the doom-and-gloom

predictions. There is a growing "fatigue" about the whole idea. The demonization of dissenters is looking more like the propaganda it is, to a growing number of journalists and citizens, especially in the United States. The U.S. Congress appears to continue under the leadership of Republicans - a reality that strikes fear in the hearts of global warming advocates.

This fear is not openly discussed at the Hague. It is more felt than heard. It is real, nonetheless. Each day, the delegates arise with the sun, proceed to the Conference hall, and stick their heads deep into the sand to continue discussing the meaning of such lofty terms as regeneration, forests, mechanisms, and compliance.

# Unwelcome and Unwanted at the Hague

*By Henry Lamb*  
(November 18 2000)

John Gummer is a former Minister of the Environment for the United Kingdom. He is a member of Parliament, and in Kyoto, he was a delegate representing the European Union in the development of the Kyoto Protocol. In an interview, he told me that "American sovereignty is of no account." He said "Don't talk to me about your sovereignty; your pollution is changing my climate."

Sovereignty International, the organization I represent at these U.N. meetings, is vitally concerned about the erosion of national sovereignty that occurs through international agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol. I was shocked by Mr. Gummer's disdain for the concept of national sovereignty.

In the United States, there is no brighter light, nor is there a more articulate spokesman for the virtues of national sovereignty than Dr. Alan Keyes. How valuable would it be to have the delegates at the Hague hear a debate between Dr. Keyes and Mr. Gummer, focusing precisely on the point of national sovereignty in relation to the Kyoto Protocol?

Sovereignty International, as an accredited NGO, requested the U.N. to schedule time during the Hague

conference for this debate. Mr. Gummer agreed. Dr. Keyes agreed. The U.N. said no.

Events sponsored by NGOs at these meetings are quite common. At the last climate change conference, there were more than 150 of these NGO-sponsored side events. At this conference in the Hague, there are at least 100 of these NGO events. Why, then, was Sovereignty International not allowed to stage the Gummer-Keyes debate?

The official answer was "We have more requests than we can fill." Our request was made within days of the publication of the request form, more than 90 days before the conference. At the time our request was denied, 30 days before the conference, ours was 69 of 110 requests received.

At the same time we requested the special event, we also requested space for an exhibit. This request was granted. When we arrived at the Hague, we found more than 100 NGO exhibits, virtually all of which promote the Kyoto Protocol in one form or another. All of the exhibits are arranged in the halls around the primary meeting rooms - all, that is, except Sovereignty International's. Our space is down a long hall, beyond the meeting rooms, down a flight of stairs, out of sight.

Our display features a segment from the Republican Platform which says, essentially, that the Kyoto Protocol should not be implemented, surrounded by the names of dozens of organizations which concur with the statement. It is the only exhibit which expressly opposes

the Kyoto Protocol. Was our display assigned to this no-traffic zone deliberately? Or was the assignment just the luck of the draw?

At COP 5, in Bonn last year, our display space was up a flight of stairs on a balcony overlooking the primary exhibit area where most of the displays were located. At COP 4, in Buenos Aires, we had no assignment at all when we arrived, and it took four days for the U.N. to produce a table for our display, and then it was situated completely away from the other exhibitors, in a corner near the restrooms. As it turned out, this proved to be a pretty good location since everyone had to pass the display at one time or another.

The point of this sad saga is more than sour grapes. Dissenting information is not welcome at U.N. conferences. In fact, at the time a request is made for display space, the U.N. wants to see a complete set of the material that will be displayed. Material that supports the U.N. agenda is welcome; anything else is not.

Control over the flow of information is fundamental to socialist philosophy. It is a common practice within the United Nations system - to the maximum extent possible. While there is little we can do to change procedures at the U.N., we can, at the very least, tell the American people what is, and is not, happening at these U.N. meetings.

Had the delegates at the Hague been allowed to listen to Dr. Alan Keyes explain the virtues of national

sovereignty, and how the decisions the delegates are taking this week may diminish freedom for every nation for all time - who know what impact his words might have had. We will never know. The U.N. had more requests than they could fill, and the Keyes-Gummer debate just happened to be one of the events that didn't occur. [an error occurred while processing this directive]

# What the World Really Needs...

*By Henry Lamb*  
(November 19 2000)

More than anything else, the world needs an abundant supply of affordable energy. Energy transforms life from hard, brutish, and short, to easy, prosperous, and long. The millions of dollars being spent by the thousands of delegates assembled at the Hague this week, might be better spent discussing ways to get energy to more people, rather than discussing ways to deny people the energy they need.

The Climate Action Network (CAN), consisting of the world's most powerful environmental organizations, has declared that the use of fossil fuel, nuclear energy, and hydro electric dams, are not sustainable. Therefore, these energy sources are not to be used in the future.

If the environmental extremists get their way, not only will the developing world be denied the use of affordable energy, the developed nations would have to curtail their use of energy from these sources.

Casual observers might scoff at the idea of reducing the energy supply in America. Better take another look. The dams on the Columbia river produce electricity for much of the Northwest; they are under severe attack by environmental extremists - to protect the salmon. The world's largest supply of low-sulphur coal lies under the Escalante National Monument, which can never be converted to affordable energy - to protect the

environment. These same environmental extremists have prevented any expansion of nuclear energy for nearly two decades.

Whether or not the casual observer has noticed, the environmental extremists represented at the Hague by CAN, are curtailing the use of affordable energy, and they are trying to write into international law, a prohibition of its use for all time.

More than 95% of the world's energy comes from the sources on CAN's hit list. If this energy is not sustainable, and therefore, not available, what is left?

Solar panels, and windmills, are all that is available at the moment, and promises of future technology that could transform the world without pollution. Environmental extremists believe that a supreme government (the U.N.) must ban the use of unsustainable energy sources, and use whatever money it takes to force the development of new, clean energy sources. There is not a whisper of concern about the economic and social implications of such a policy between the time it is adopted, and the time the fantasy technology is developed.

The world needs energy now, without a reduction in its availability or a substantial increase in its cost.

What the world doesn't need is a supreme government (the U.N.) dictating what the people of the world must, or must not, do - even if those dictates are informed by

the supreme wisdom of the environmental extremist elite such as CAN.

The world didn't need a government mandate to teach horses how to pull more than a man can pull. The world didn't need a government to outlaw the use of whale oil in order to develop the internal combustion engine. Free people, using their own ingenuity, do whatever needs to be done. They do it at their own risk, for their own benefit, and the rest of the world is the better for their efforts.

The pursuit of personal profit is by far a better motivator than is a government mandate. The reason the fantasy technology for energy has not been developed yet, is the absence of profit. Exotic energy - solar, wind, whatever - costs more than the energy readily available from traditional sources. There is no valid need to use costly exotic energy sources - yet.

The global warming hype, generated by these same environmental extremists, is supposed to be the need that justifies the policy actions they recommend. Even if their claims of death and destruction were fully supported by scientific evidence, their top-down, government-mandated solutions are the wrong way to solve the problem. Free markets can do it better, faster, more efficiently, and with less cost, than any government program.

If there is a role for the United Nations in this global warming scenario, it should be limited to collecting and disseminating the best possible independent scientific

research - without prejudice or political comment - so that nations, and individuals can act on that information in their own best interest.

If there is a market for new technology, free people will find a way to supply the market demand - unless government stands in the way. The discussions now underway at the Hague, appear to be constructing an enormous roadblock to affordable energy, which, if successful, will condemn the world to unnecessary hardship. [an error occurred while processing this directive]

# Global Governance Erupts at the Hague

*By Henry Lamb*  
(November 20 2000)

Jacques Chirac, President of France, told (*English Real Audio available: [Pt. 1](#) [Pt. 2](#) [Pt. 3](#)*) the delegates negotiating the Kyoto Protocol in The Hague, that the Protocol is an important step toward "[authentic global governance.](#)" Most of the 8,000 delegates and observers enthusiastically embrace the idea of a United Nations agency mandating energy policy for 38 developed nations. There are a few notable exceptions.

The U.S. Congressional delegation was on hand today, to hear the French President link the Protocol to the U.N.'s global governance agenda. In private conversations after the day's business was concluded, Senator Chuck Hagel had sharp words of disapproval of attempts to transform the U.N. into a world government.

The Protocol, as conceived, though not yet fully negotiated, would give the U.N. body a double-whammy club to beat up on 38 developed nations. First, by setting emissions targets, the U.N. body would be able to effectively dictate the fossil fuel energy that a developed nation might use.

Second, the U.N. would have the authority to "enforce" compliance, using procedures, sanctions, and penalties that have not yet been defined.

Americans would not likely stand for an international law that openly gives the U.N. the power to set energy use limits. So instead of attacking the input end of the energy pipe, the politically astute U.N. machinery is attacking the output end of the energy pipe. "Controlling emissions" is said to be the goal, and is presented as necessary to save the planet. Controlling energy use is the actual goal, and is necessary for the redistribution of wealth, with little or no impact on the planet.

The penalty for non-compliance has presented a particularly thorny problem, because most of the 38 developed nations will be unable to meet their agreed targets. This means that most of the affected nations will have to pay the costs - whatever they are - once the decision is taken. Consequently, compliance negotiations go on behind closed doors, with periodic reports that "some progress has been made." These negotiations have been on-going for three years - since the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997.

Chirac's global governance announcement could be the straw that breaks the back of the entire Protocol. After eight days of intense negotiations, there has been little movement on three major issues that must be resolved: emissions trading; carbon sinks; and penalties for non-compliance.

Add to these unresolved issues, the implications of global governance, and the entire process could easily unravel.

Perhaps this would be the best possible outcome of COP 6: admission by the delegates that the Protocol they pieced together in Kyoto is simply unworkable.

One of the many problems with this fatally flawed Protocol is that it attempts to do two things at once: (1) reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere, and (2) empower the United Nations to enforce those reductions. Either of these two objectives is a formidable undertaking.

As the delegates have struggled over the last six years, it has become increasingly apparent that empowering the U.N. has become more important than reducing emissions.

Having heard Jacques Chirac say, not once, but twice, during his presentation, that global governance is the larger objective, the Congressional delegations will have a new dimension to report to their colleagues when they return to Washington.

Regardless of the decisions that are taken - or not taken - during this two-week session, the delegates will find some way to save face. One scenario being discussed in the halls is the "Kyoto scenario." This is a situation - as occurred in Kyoto - in which no agreement was reached until the last day, several hours after the scheduled adjournment. Delegates could again go into closed session late in the week, and stay in session until the last minute, and then simply announce that agreement has been reached on some of the important issues.

Credence was attached to this scenario when rumors spread through the halls that the U.S. would cave-in on up to 60% of the outstanding questions about carbon sinks. The European Union and the U.S. have been at odds on this issue since Kyoto. Environmental extremists have been lobbying heavily for the delegates to reject the U.S. position.

Adding to the uncertainty here, is the uncertainty in the U.S. Presidential race. Some speculation has emerged that should George Bush be declared the winner, the U.S. delegation might withdraw resistance to all outstanding issues in order to advance the Protocol as far as possible before a new slate of delegates is appointed by a new administration.

Publicly, the U.S. delegation says that the present administration will be in place until January 20, and the elections struggle has no effect on their negotiating positions. Traditionally, the rumors in the halls tend to be very accurate.

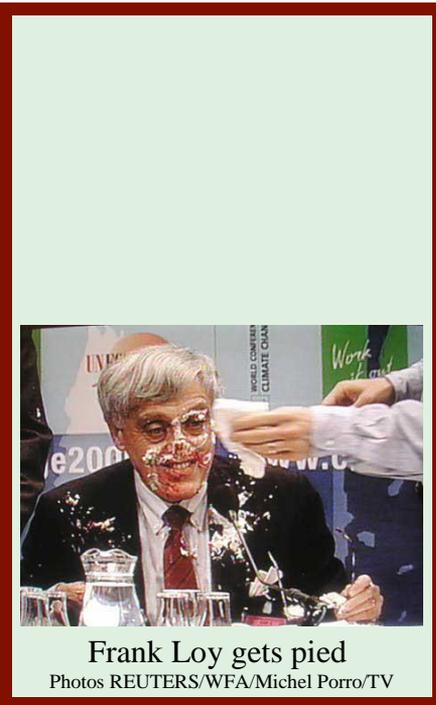
By the end of the week, the delegates will prove or disprove the rumors, and some kind of face-saving document will be applauded as progress. It will not likely repeat Jacques Chirac's reference to global governance. But like a stone once thrown, his words cannot be recalled, and his words will have an impact wherever they land. His words will land in the U.S. Congress, and they will land across America.

Those skeptics who have been unwilling to believe that the U.N. is, indeed, contriving a world government need only to listen to the President of France.

# U.S. Gets a Pie in the Face

*By Henry Lamb*  
(November 23 2000)

Frank Loy, chief negotiator for the U.S. delegation at the Hague climate change talks, was hit in the face with a cream pie today, in a protest demonstration staged by environmental extremist NGO observers.



The protestors disrupted negotiations throughout the conference center by charging into closed sessions, climbing to the rafters, strewing litter around the meeting rooms, and running through the halls shouting "people, not profits," and other slogans that have become the mantra of the extreme green machine.

Conference President, Jan Pronk, suspended the conference and asked that all NGOs assemble in a meeting room. "O.K.," he said, "you wanted to say something, now is your opportunity." Silence. No one admitted staging the demonstration. Finally, a young man stood to say that he knew some of the demonstrators and would go try to persuade them to

come into the room. He returned with about fifty students, one of whom walked to the microphone.

She said simply, that the meeting was a scam, staged by "big oil," and was nothing more than a scheme to advance profits over people. With that, she said "we're out of here." Pronk asked the group to stay and discuss their views, to listen to a rebuttal. The students departed, shouting their usual mantra as they left.

A spokesman for the World Wildlife Fund then took the microphone, denouncing the methods used by the students, but said they represented the views held by the WWF. A spokesman for Greenpeace took the microphone, and agreed, saying that the longer the negotiations were prolonged, the weaker the Protocol became. None of the NGOs took responsibility for the student demonstration.

A quick review of the participants list reveals that Greenpeace registered 260 participants, many of whom are students. In Berlin in 1995, Greenpeace chain-locked the doors of the meeting room for several hours - with the negotiators inside. These demonstrations have become a strategic part of the U.N. process.

It is a world unto its own - this world of international negotiations. It is a world defined, not by geography, not by language, not by culture, but by process. It matters little whether the meeting is in Geneva, Bonn, Kyoto, Buenos Aires, or the Hague, the process is the same - an enormous pep rally for the objectives of the meeting.

NGO observers outnumber the official delegates by at least three-to-one. The representatives of so-called "civil society" travel from meeting to meeting to coordinate a series of demonstrations designed to convince the delegates that their point of view reflects the demands of normal people from around the world.

Each day at the Hague, delegates are greeted by costumed "volunteers" who hand out elaborately printed posters, brochures and placards, all demanding immediate action on the Protocol. Across the street, more members of "civil society," dressed alternately as skeletons or ghouls, shout "save the planet" platitudes.

Inside the conference halls, stilt-walking clowns hand out more literature, and advertisements for special theater events. Before the pie-throwing tantrum, Greenpeace staged a "Climate change dance and song routine." The Climate Action Network performed a mock "carbon audit" throughout the conference center to illustrate how energy is being wasted. KIKO, a green extremist group from Japan staged a "symbolic suicide," to demonstrate how the earth is killing itself.

Another big theater event was the construction of a sandbag dike around a reflection pool at the conference center. The dike, about 150 yards long and five feet tall, took a day to build, by thousands



of people who were symbolically doing their part to build a dike to block out global warming.

Where does the money come from to pay for all these people to travel around the world to engage in this foolishness? We know for sure that five of these NGOs, (including Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund) are identified in the financial reports of the Global Environment Facility, as "collaborators" in projects funded to the tune of more than \$750 million per year. The purpose of many of those projects is described as "to elevate public awareness."

These NGOs are the activist army of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the granddaddy of all extremist NGOs. The IUCN develops the policy proposals which the United Nations legitimizes through international treaties. The NGOs drum up public support through extravagant propaganda so the treaties are adopted at international conferences and implemented by participating governments.

The uncivil acts of the so-called "civil society" attract the attention of the press. The siege in Seattle surrounding the WTO meeting is a recent example. The press amplifies the claims of the extremists and public opinion is influenced - without the benefit of factual information.

Here at the Hague, there is a steady drumbeat of misinformed accusations that the "luxury emissions" from the United States are causing the flooding in England and Australia. We heard the same accusations

in Buenos Aires, shortly after Hurricane Mitch devastated Central America. Countless scientific studies have failed to reveal any connection at all to extreme weather events caused by rising concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Facts do not matter. As the founder of Greenpeace said in a Forbes magazine article, "It doesn't matter what is true; what matters is what people think is true." This is certainly the philosophy that drives the strategy and tactics of the green machine here at the Hague.

What do the extremists want? For starters, they want to ban the use of fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and hydro-electric dams. They want to force Americans in particular, to transform their "patterns of production and consumption" according to the principles of sustainable development.

In plain English, this means choking our industrial capacity, forcing industry, and jobs, to the developing world, which is not bound by the Kyoto Protocol. It means forcing American citizens off private property, into sustainable communities, where they must travel on foot, on bicycles, or on public light-rail people-movers. It means forcing Americans to live in common-wall, low-rise, high-density housing, built and managed in public-private partnerships with NGOs and selected businesses. It means abandoning the free-market, and moving to a managed economy, in which the government decides which products are "sustainable," and which are not - regardless of the price.

In plain English, "sustainable development" is a euphemism for a managed society. Management of the new globally sustainable village, of course, is vested in the United Nations, and administered by national agencies which we once recognized to be sovereign nations.

The Kyoto Protocol, now in the final stages of negotiation here in the Hague, is, as French President, Jacques Chirac told the delegates, "the first component of an authentic global governance."

Despite this admission, the Clinton/Gore administration continues to push for full implementation of the Protocol. A cadre of liberal Senators and Congressmen are also pushing for final approval. The year 2000 has been targeted by the United Nations as the turning point in history - the point beyond which there is no turning back for the long-held dream of global governance.

This is the year. The Kyoto Protocol is the first "authentic component." For all practical purposes, the success of the U.N. will be determined by who moves into the White House next January. Should Al Gore continue the current administration, global governance will surely advance. Should there be a change, there is still a chance that it can be slowed, if not stopped completely.

# Shades of Kyoto at the Hague

*By Henry Lamb*

(November 24 2000)

Sometime after midnight, Jan Pronk, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, and President of the Hague climate change conference, released his own draft of the proposed agreements delegates from 180 nations must adopt in order to move the Kyoto Protocol further toward implementation. For two weeks, the delegates have been gridlocked over major issues left unanswered when the Protocol was adopted in Kyoto in 1997.

In Kyoto, no agreement had been reached by the final day. The delegates went into a closed session, and emerged near daylight with an agreement in hand.

Once again, the delegates have failed to reach agreement during the regular negotiating sessions. Once again, the conference leaders have produced a draft in the middle of the night. Once again, selected negotiators will go behind closed doors and will likely negotiate until some kind of agreement is reached.

This is the what the United Nations calls an open, transparent, democratic process.

All week, Pronk has warned the negotiators to "remove the brackets," which refers to clauses in the draft on which there is disagreement. He promised that if the negotiators failed to compromise, he would write his own draft. He did.

Friday morning of the second week is supposed to be dedicated to celebrating the agreements reached during the two-week negotiating session. Friday afternoon is supposed to be devoted to packing up, preparing to leave on Saturday.

Many of the delegates will have to pack up on Friday and leave on Saturday too, because their travel arrangements require it. If an agreement is reached late Friday night or Saturday morning, it will be without the review of observers, and without the participation of many of the delegates.

Pronk has said that his draft will force all nations to bear the pain equally. What that really means is that only the developed nations will bear the pain - 150 developing nations are not bound by the Protocol. Should the U. S. delegates sign such an agreement, they would be deliberately ignoring a unanimous Senate Resolution that says the Senate will not ratify a treaty that fails to bind all nations.

Delegates are confronted with only two choices: accept some version of Pronk's draft, and pretend that it represents a great victory for diplomacy, or to reject the agreement, admit failure, and watch years of effort unravel. Smart money is on some kind of agreement.

Failure to reach real agreement, after five years of negotiations, should send a pretty strong signal that there may be some fundamental flaws in the basic document. The most basic flaw was incorporated in the original Berlin Mandate at the first Conference of the

Parties in 1995 - the decision to exclude 150 developing nations. The second basic flaw was also included - the decision to make the Protocol legally binding, with absolutely no idea how to make it legally binding, or what the penalty might be for non-compliance. A third fatal flaw was the decision to set a firm time line for implementation.

The time line began in 1995 in Berlin, by declaring that a Protocol would be adopted in Kyoto in 1997. In Kyoto, the delegates declared that the rules for implementation would be agreed at the Hague in 2000, in order to achieve full implementation by 2002 - to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development where the original Climate Change Treaty was adopted.

The Kyoto document was premature, incomplete, ill-conceived, and adopted anyway. The vacuous deficiencies of the Kyoto document have been compounded by efforts to shape rules for implementation of unclear or undefined objectives.

Any agreement adopted under the circumstances that prevail at the Hague is bound to do more harm than good. The unintended consequence of such an agreement will be nothing more than the empowerment of a U.N. body to do what the representatives of 180 nations could not do - write the procedures through which the United Nations can dictate the energy policies of 38 developed nations.

This is precisely what 150 developing nations want, and it is precisely what the United Nations wants. The primary objective of the United Nations is to force what it calls "equity" on all nations. The United Nations intends to be the equalizer, the manager of the earth's resources - to ensure that all people enjoy the benefits of the earth's bounty equally.

This is the classic, utopian dream of socialism. It fails to recognize a fundamental principle in nature: benefit from the earth's resources must be earned. Benefits acquired by any other method are either a gift, or theft. Forced equity is not a gift.

# Climate talks end in colossal collapse

*By Henry Lamb*

(November 27, 2000)

Just before dawn Saturday morning, John Prescott stormed out of the climate change negotiations at the Hague, signaling dismal failure for the two-week negotiating session, which puts the future of the entire Kyoto Protocol in great jeopardy.

Prescott, Britain's Deputy Prime Minister, and Frank Loy, U.S. chief negotiator, reached agreement on the major outstanding issues sometime after 3:am. "We physically shook hands," Loy said. "Are we in now in full agreement, is this a deal?" Loy said that Prescott, and representatives from two other European countries in the room said "yes."

The deal fell apart when Prescott could not sell it to the rest of the European Union.

Jurgen Trittin, Germany's environmental minister led the resistance to Prescott's deal, and, in the end, it was rejected, causing a collapse in the negotiations that stunned veteran observers.

Jan Pronk, President of the Conference, had issued his own set of proposed agreements on Friday, in an effort to avoid a negotiating stalemate. By late afternoon on Friday, Pronk said in a public statement that agreement on the details may not be possible, and the effort shifted

to the development of a "broad statement of principles" on which the delegates could agree.

This maneuver is called "saving face." It frequently occurs to avoid the appearance of failure while setting the stage for further negotiations at a later date.

The undecided U.S. Presidential race, and the possibility of a new slate of U.S. negotiators, undoubtedly provided motivation for the U.S. negotiators to surrender even more ground to the European Union in an effort to achieve agreement before the Hague conference ended. Thus, the near-dawn session between the U.S. and the U.K.

When the deal was rejected by the European Union, it revealed a breach that has heretofore hovered just beneath the surface, and threw the entire Kyoto process into an unprecedented diplomatic typhoon.

Until now, the friction within the European Union has not erupted in the climate change talks. The German environmental minister represents the Green Party, a near-militant extremist group. With support from Dominique Voynet, France's environmental minister, who is also a Green Party member, and four Nordic countries, the environmental purists flexed their muscles and derailed five years of tough, expensive negotiations.

"We came so close," Prescott said. A spokesman for the U.S.'s National Environmental Trust, said this was the European Union's "best opportunity to achieve a strong climate treaty, and they decided to pass it up."

In an effort to make the failure appear to be something other than the disaster it is, the U.N. spin doctors decided not to "adjourn" the conference, but to "suspend" the negotiations, until COP 6 - Part II, to be convened in May or June, 2001. This unprecedented invention throws the negotiating schedule into a cocked hat. COP 7 is already scheduled for Morocco in the fall of 2001, with several inter-sessional meetings required before then.

In practical terms, the failure in the Hague has left the Kyoto Protocol in diplomatic limbo. Add the growing likelihood that a new slate of negotiators will bring a Bush philosophy to the table, and the emergence of Green Party Power in the European Union, and the startling declaration of the French President that the Kyoto Protocol is the first "component of an authentic global governance," then all the ingredients are present for a big bang that may well disintegrate the entire global warming industry, and possibly thwart the U.N.'s global governance agenda.

The heart of the matter is the U.N.'s effort to reconcile an immovable object with an irresistible force. On the one hand, the United States negotiators are limited by the reality of Senate ratification, based on the principle that government is empowered by the consent of the governed. On the other hand, the Green Party extremists have no such concept, nor patience with a government that cannot simply impose its will upon the people.

"It's extremely difficult to negotiate between groups where political cultures are so different," laments

Dominique Voynet. Jergen Trittin says his people think the U.S. position is "ridiculous."

This fundamental philosophical difference on the source of political power is the baseline conflict that cannot be reconciled. It is the same conflict that spawned two world wars. In recent times, this conflict has been camouflaged by propaganda that promotes "global" problems that can be met only by "global" action, directed by a central body of power wielders. Much progress has been made by the proponents of centralized government power. The Millennium Declaration, adopted by most of the world's heads of state, and the U.N. General Assembly, attest to that progress.

The failure of the climate change talks lays bare this fundamental conflict. It is an unexpected development that gives American citizens an opportunity to reexamine the role the United States is playing in the world, and the role it should play. Were it not for the necessity of Senate ratification, the current U.S. negotiators would have given away the store. Frank Loy repeatedly told his European colleagues that he had to negotiate abroad what was possible at home.

A new slate of delegates may insist that global agreements be based on the American principle that requires the consent of the governed before empowerment. Were this principle to replace the Green Party mentality that "government knows best," we could see a whole new era of international negotiations. We could see a whole new era of national development, based on voluntary agreements among nations, without

the approval and enforcement of a "big brother" United Nations machine.

The failure of the climate change talks may be the collapse of the house of cards built with U.N. propaganda over the last two decades. The United States now has the opportunity to exert its influence, rather than acquiesce to the influence of the Green Party extremists that drive the U.N. global governance agenda. The collapse of the climate change negotiations may be the best possible outcome of the Kyoto experience.

## **Section 2 By Cathie Adams**

# Reports from the Hague

*By Cathie Adams*

President, Texas Eagle Forum

**Monday, November 13, 2000**

When Americans voted on November 7, most did not realize the impact of their decision on their standard of living unless they had read Al Gore's book, *Earth in the Balance*. His book was prophetic of a United Nations' (UN) document called the Kyoto Protocol, which will force Americans to scale back our standard of living if it is implemented by the UN's goal of 2002.

The UN begins a two-week conference today in The Hague, Netherlands to discuss the Kyoto Protocol's rulebook for implementation and penalties for non-compliance (sanctions against sovereign nations). The only UN entity with the authority to do these dirty deeds is the World Trade Organization (WTO), the monster created when Congress approved the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT/WTO) treaty.

Under VP Al Gore's leadership in Kyoto, Japan in 1997, the U.S. agreed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (mostly carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>) that supposedly cause global warming) by seven percent below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. That is the first phase only; a second phase is already being considered: elimination altogether of the use of fossil fuels, which would fulfill Al Gore's dream to eliminate the internal combustion engine. The Protocol's advocates prescribe extreme measures even

though science has yet to prove that the globe is warming or that burning fossil fuels could cause it.

To understand the devastating impact, one must consider the fact that America's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown by 10-12% since 1990, which means that we would be forced to reduce our industrial output by at least 25% by 2008. The UN-Gore goal is to force American industries to move to developing nations where the Kyoto Protocol will NOT bind them since only 38 developed nations are bound by it. The bottom line is that industries and jobs will move to one of the 150 nations, such as Mexico and China, NOT bound by the Protocol in order to redistribute wealth around the globe.

With the American presidential elections in the balance, the Clinton-Gore appointees here in The Hague, could agree to eliminate the two U.S. Senate resolution-imposed considerations that the Kyoto Protocol NOT negatively impact the U.S. economy and that in fairness it be imposed on ALL nations. Considering the extent that they are going to to retain control of the White House, everything is on the table and nothing is beyond belief.

If Americans need another reason to DEMAND free and fair elections, rather than third world rigged political showdowns, this UN conference is it. We must rise above anger and arrogance, and instead seek God's favor upon our nation in elections and in treaties. [an error occurred while processing this directive]



**November 14, 2000**

**European conferee:** Too many Europeans want to live the American lifestyle; they even are clogging our highways with those awful SUVs (sport utility vehicles). They don't seem to care that they're dirtying the air. It's just awful. They're also buying bigger refrigerators because of those ads they see on TV.

**American conferee:** Gee, I thought it was better here. That's too bad.

**European conferee:** Let's take a cab to the conference center; I don't want to have to carry this bag that distance.

This is a typical conversation being repeated all over The Hague during this United Nations (UN) meeting dealing with global warming. Let me help you understand the hypocrisy of this conversation and the questionable global warming theory.

While environmental extremists grouse about those awful cars, especially SUVs, they demand them for themselves, and then expect us (a.k.a. state resources) to walk, ride bicycles or use public transportation. We are to scale back our standard of living while they reap the benefits of our labor and tax us into poverty.

There is absolutely NO discussion about the validity of the claims of environmental disaster being promoted by the UN's own political science committee known as the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Yesterday, I asked its chairman, Robert T. Watson, why he thought the Kyoto Protocol that VP Al Gore committed our nation to in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, was so important since worldwide it would only reduce greenhouse gases (the gases emitted by burning fossil fuels that purportedly cause global warming) by 5% when he claims that it would require a reduction of 50-70% of those gases to impact real change in the climate.

With a smirk he responded that Kyoto indeed would have a "very marginal impact" on the environment, but that this "will be the first step of a very long journey" toward the needed "sharp reduction over the next 50-70 years." He assured us that the climate is changing and that man's industrial activities are causing the changes. He claims temperatures have risen by .4 to .8 degrees centigrade in the last century, the arctic ice sheet is thinning and man's activities are causing an increase of CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas emitted when you breathe out and when fossil fuels are burned). And he predicted that the earth would warm another 1.5 to 6 degrees centigrade over the next century creating more deserts, causing forest fires, heat stress mortalities and diseases carried by mosquitoes.

The only "proof" for his claims is in computer models, while science has not concluded that the earth is warming OR than man's activities could cause it.

The Clinton-Gore appointees in The Hague, regardless, agree with Watson's claims. Highlights of a statement by American David Sandalow, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment and Science

yesterday: *Human beings are changing the atmosphere.*  
"The U.S. is committed to making real progress here and now and to shaping a treaty that can be ratified. President Clinton forcibly articulated our commitment to an international agreement to address global warming. The U.S. will work with all Parties to craft sound decisions that include: strong, market-based rules [and] binding legal consequences for failure to meet targets."

The two goals of this conference are to write a rulebook for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and to establish penalties for non-compliance. The American delegation is in locked step with these goals even though they will have a tremendous negative impact on our American lifestyle. I plan to keep you informed as the outcome unfolds. [an error occurred while processing this directive]

## **November 17, 2000**

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for "radical changes in the world economy, and in the way we all live" in his opening statement via video to delegates from 160 countries meeting in The Hague, Netherlands for a two-week conference concerning the Kyoto Protocol that deals with the issue of climate change. He also reminded delegates that "world leaders resolved to adopt a new ethic of conservation and stewardship, and, as a first step, to make every effort to bring the Kyoto Protocol into force by 2002" at last September's Millennium Summit in New York. The conference goals are to create a rulebook for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and legally binding penalties for non-compliance.

The Clinton-Gore appointees in The Hague strongly support implementation of the Protocol and the legally binding penalties. In 1997, VP Al Gore flew to Kyoto, Japan to insure that America, one of only 38 nations bound by the treaty, would agree to the UN agenda even though it would devastate our economy by forcing jobs and industries to leave our shores and move to one of the 150 nations not bound by the treaty, such as Mexico and China. The Kyoto Protocol would cost American families between \$3,684 and \$6,400 per year for a family of four. And a recent study by the National Black Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce entitled, "Refusing to Repeat Past Mistakes," estimated that implementing Kyoto could cost up to 3.2 million jobs, about half of them the jobs

of blacks and Hispanics. Gore's well-known call for the elimination of the internal combustion engine is also in keeping with the Kyoto Protocol because radical environmentalists believe that more than 92% of environmental nuisances (cost of accidents, pollution, climatic change, congestion-related noise) are ascribable to the road, with only 2% caused by rail.

This call for "radical changes in the world economy and in the way we all live" should interest every American, especially since science has yet to conclude the premise of the Kyoto Protocol: that the earth is warming due to an increase in greenhouse gases emitted when fossil fuels are burned and when people breathe out. On one hand, radical environmentalists claim that rising sea levels will cause island nations to sink as glaciers and ice sheets melt, while on the other hand, they claim that the earth will become a desert. Both cannot be true, yet scientific evidence is not even being discussed in The Hague. In reality, the UN is using the climate change issue that affects people in every nation to consolidate its power over them.

During the first week of negotiations, "political" scientists met mostly behind closed doors to hammer out a rulebook for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol's three schemes:

- trade emissions with developed countries whose emissions are lower than their targets;
- investment in emissions reduction projects in developing countries; and

- use of carbon "sinks," forests and farmlands, to absorb carbon dioxide.

The main contentions at the end of the first week regard the uses of carbon "sinks" and nuclear energy.

Environmental radicals claim that the Americans want to avoid the necessity of reducing greenhouse gases by claiming that "sinks" offset their production, thereby enabling them to increase emissions by 18% from 1990 levels, while claiming that we have met our reduction target of 7% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. Further, they claim "[i]f developing countries do not reject these blatant U.S. attempt at cheating, it will be they who will be the losers." Regarding nuclear energy, the Americans hope they can break an impasse with the European Union (EU) who opposes the U.S. position on the carbon "sinks" by being "flexible" with nuclear energy since that is how France, a member of the EU, produces most of its energy.

It is difficult to believe that the rulebook and legally binding penalties will be produced by the end of next week. And it is unethical, yet typical, for lame duck President Clinton to force such drastic economic and lifestyle changes on Americans.

**November 20, 2000**

*SOS - Save our Steak - SOS*

Work It Out! That is the theme of the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference in The Hague, Netherlands. Essentially it is a call for the United States to drop its resistance to the Kyoto Protocol, the treaty founded upon the global warming theory. Even though science about the theory is inconclusive, developing nations here are convinced that this treaty is their way out of poverty since it forces American industries and jobs to leave our shores and settle within their borders.

Global warming enthusiasts are doing their best to heat The Hague with verbal hot air, but it is just not working. The weather here is cold and rainy mixed with sleet, and there is no sign of rising sea levels even though this entire nation is below sea level to begin with. Scientific facts are frivolous to adherents of "Work It Out."

If the UN's global warming theory had a scientific leg to stand on, this conference would have been held in a desert-like country in order to at least try to substantiate their claims that the world will burn to a crisp unless the big bad Americans quit burning fossil fuels to drive cars and run industrial plants and, well, quit breathing out.

The Hague is anything but a desert. If you have ever heard the melodic Dutch language, you have heard the double vowels, and after spending one week in The Hague, I think I know how the language came to be.

When you have been cold and wet for prolonged periods of time, you start adding "ooh" and "aah" to a lot of your words. It is hard to believe, but trust me, it happens.

Maybe the UN hopes the soggy weather will make the brains of the delegates soggy too, since there is no logical reason to attack the American lifestyle. There is no logical reason to MEASURE the amount of carbon dioxide people breathe out, or methane gas produced by farm animals and growing rice; or to LIMIT the gases which would inevitably lead to the ELIMINATION of people and farm animals; or to determine whether it would truly improve the climate if people and farm animals are ELIMINATED.

The truth is that a handful of power-hungry social and economic planners are intent on redistributing American wealth around the world using a climate stock exchange. Key planners include former Soviet Dictator Mikhail Gorbachev and his good friend Maurice Strong. While Gorbachev needs no introduction, Strong was the UN Secretary-General at the 1972 and 1992 confabs dealing with climate change, and is largely responsible for convincing people that rather than entering a new ice age, the globe is supposedly warming. Today he sits at the right hand of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in charge of "restructuring" the UN, using the global warming issue to bring nations and their economies under UN control.

The U.S. fell for the ruse when VP Al Gore flew to Kyoto, Japan in 1997 to insure the creation and

America's embrace of the Kyoto Protocol that forces 38 industrialized nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, mostly carbon dioxide that is released when fossil fuels are burned by industries and cars, and when humans breathe out, by 7% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. Farm animals and rice fields emit methane gas, another greenhouse gas. The Protocol also calls on the 150 developing nations, including Mexico and China, to build their capacities to absorb our industries and jobs.

In The Hague, global planners are developing a rulebook and penalties for non-compliance of the Kyoto Protocol. Regardless the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections, the Clinton-Gore delegation says it must answer to only Mr. Clinton. Chances are good that by the end of this final week, while most Americans are enjoying Thanksgiving leftovers, the UN will be eating cake after completing the rulebook and penalties that proposes to reduce the number of humans who breathe out CO<sub>2</sub>, and intends to take away your methane gas-producing steak.

As a carbon dioxide-expelling, steak-eating Texan, I plan to express a lot of that greenhouse gas in order to expose the Kyoto Protocol ruse and retain my right to T-bone steak. Ooh-I mean--Oh, how I wish Americans knew about this scheme before the November 7 elections, because if they had known, the outcome of the election would not have even been close. [an error occurred while processing this directive]

## **Section 3 By Floy Lilley**

# Global Warming Treaty Goes Begging

Monday, November 13, 2000

*By Floy Lilley, J.D.*

Not a single developed country has ratified the Kyoto Protocol in the three years since it was cobbled together. The legally binding treaty on global warming has gone begging.

Lack of endorsement is because issues are broad and complex. Perhaps climate change issues are too broad and too complex for treaties. Goals are unclear. Science is uncertain, despite rhetoric to the contrary.

This treaty is not just about technology. As with most treaties, it is about politics. Americans, especially, are keenly aware this week of just how uncertain politics can be.

However, fewer and fewer people around the globe seek dependence upon politicians as the core to their existences, anyway. More and more seek the creativity and dignity of responsibility and self-governance. This trend reflects a position, not of apathy, but of empowerment as information is horizontally available in a truly equitable age based upon knowledge-capital. Perhaps what is seen as indecision about the Treaty is actually a decision to reject a centrally controlled planned economy.

The burdens of the Treaty appear greater than its benefits. Developed countries would be politically committing themselves to reducing their collective emissions of six key greenhouse gases by at least 5%, within the period 2008-2012. However, none believe that such efforts will accomplish purported environmental goals. Most suggest that this initial

effort represents only 1/30th of the required behavioral changes in man's production/consumption habits.

Nevertheless, delegations and non-governmental organizations continue to meet, and to meet, and to meet. Hundreds of groups write up agendas. Thousands of participants attend closed or open meetings throughout the sprawling Congress Center. Attention is focused on minutiae that push the Protocol somewhere, anywhere.

On many agendas, protocol-related issues present the most difficulties. Needing resolution at COP6 are:

- Rules for Joint Implementation (JI)
- Rules for emissions trading
- Rules for obtaining credit for improving "sinks" (e.g. Planting new trees to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Regimes for monitoring compliance with commitments
- Accounting methods for national emissions and emissions reductions

These are contentious items. No one has all the facts. Unintended consequences from premature or faulty steps threaten all actions that might be taken. In that light, treaty indecision is a good thing.

Indecision on the climate change treaty seems perfectly matched by indecision reflected in The Hague environment. Unable to settle upon being sea or land, this piece of Europe challenges both attitudes and wardrobes of the five to ten thousand accredited participants at this 6th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP6 – UNFCCC). Rain is not drizzling or pattering here. It is sloshing. It is invading. Bleakness pervades.

Bleakness verging on desperation is also reflected in the Convention documents this first morning of the two-week meeting. “Work it out!” is the conference theme. An earth globe is the dot in the exclamation point.

*The Earth Times* morning headline is “Critical two weeks in history of Earth.” Few participants question that man-made greenhouse gases are threatening Earth with catastrophic rising temperatures, droughts and more destructive storms. Few participants question much. Feeling alone rules.

As if appointed Ministry of Propaganda, BBC TV inundates viewers in hotel rooms with films of scarcity and finite resources. No film finds mention of a single positive contribution of humankind. Man everywhere is destructive. But, is man everywhere only destruction upon Earth?

Each participant received a COP6 briefcase. Within was a hardback book titled, The straw that breaks the camel’s back...? Commissioned by the government of The Netherlands, the author captures in poetry and photos an apocalyptic-only perspective of man. But, is the only possible perspective of man one of apocalypse?

It is completely possible that the Kyoto Protocol would not be in its foundering position if it were based upon unassailable scientific integrity coupled with a view toward the abundance possible through institutions of free societies.

Countries are embracing economic and political freedom globally. It is noteworthy today that those freedoms are not going begging like this Treaty is. [an error occurred while processing this directive]

# Is Success Just Saving face?

Tuesday, November 14, 2000

COP6 is a "success" if the outcome of COP6 "makes the Kyoto Protocol ratifiable." Is this definition of success an early attempt to lower expectations at The Hague? Participants have heard this euphemistic phrase at every meeting, although prior usage did include the tag phrase "by 2002." The year has now been dropped.

Is the current push to ratify the Protocol really just an effort to save face?

Is it possible that this big ball of wax is so utterly unacceptable to business, environmentalists, the rest of civil society and diplomats alike that they would prefer to drop it?

So much ego, money and meeting time have gone into this global plan to ration energy. Political, activist and business careers depend upon creating this new bureaucratic layer of rules and regulations. All accumulated forward motion will be lost if it is acknowledged that controlling the energy of the whole world is neither doable nor desirable.

What sane business will leap into an interim project when business is told directly that there will be no legal basis for them to be able to depend on the project actually counting for something?

Such vagueness places business in the untenable position that their financial investments will be held hostage to some capricious future ruling. This uncomfortable situation is not

unlike our perverse anti-trust law in which, after the fact, business conduct is declared criminal.

Some hold utopian beliefs that agreement can emerge by the weekend when the diplomats begin to arrive. Is there anyone so naive as to believe that negotiating could be reduced to selecting choices like entrees off a buffet?

This situation is anything but a buffet. There are so many crosscutting issues in the texts they are not separable. Diplomats cannot possibly appreciate the complexities represented by the pages before them that delegates have agonized over. Consider the sheer numbers. The European Union delegation alone here is two hundred fifty people. Most have added their two cents to the wordsmith of documents.

Is part of saving face a numbers match up? When the United Kingdom heard yesterday that the United States Congress has a large group of observers coming in this weekend, the UK Parliament scurried to send a force, also.

Environmental NGOs (Non-governmental Organizations), who have steadfastly been hostile to most US positions, celebrated yesterday what they called "Bill's Online Bonanza." Seizing upon the rare positive push for the Protocol that came last Saturday in a web address, the NGO newsletter heaped praise upon the quacking of our lame duck President. Clinton appears to have taken the inclusion of nuclear options off the CDM table.

Such cavalier positions, if true, are the reasons this global warming treaty is undoable and undesirable. Are Americans going to endorse policies that promise to destroy jobs, slow economic growth and hurt low-income groups?

Success may not be just around the corner. Few Americans have ever been that bothered about some tradition of "saving face."

# Rich Countries Forced to Create New Technology?

Wednesday, November 15, 2000

Some bit of twisted logic surfaced today.

There have always been arguments by environmental groups against much use of flexible mechanisms for developed countries like the US. We are too rich. We consume too much. Our per capita emissions are too high.

And our lawyers are too likely to find loopholes in any protocol.

We Americans oh so cleverly will find ways to paper-comply with emissions reductions targets while not really changing a thing about the way we live. Or, so the story has gone.

The familiar admonition has been "If the use of these flexible mechanisms to meet targets is not capped, then rich countries will never change they way they use energy and consume resources."

After all, making the US "change its evil ways" and undergo "a wrenching transformation of society" have always been stated goals of environmental NGOs and the Vice President.

Are there two additional stated goals now?

Today's conference rag reads, "By forcing the rich to make their reductions domestically, they will be forced to become innovative in developing new renewable energy technologies. Keeping action [domestic] forces the pace of that development. Merely planting trees or upgrading coal-fired power stations in developing countries does nothing to help it."

So, we rich countries are to be confined to our rooms until we have created a boatload of brilliant new patents for the good of the planet?

That's new goal number one.

What is the second?

It is like a demand for sound money.

The worry is that projects taking place under mechanisms are really projects that would have happened anyway. These "anyway" emissions reductions are devalued reductions. They are cheap CERs.

Will bad CERs drive out good like bad money drives out good?

Cheap CERs appear to be worrisome. Why? Apparently, because "cheap CERs will mean that the more ambitious cutting-edge technology projects that truly contribute to sustainable development are unlikely to be financed."

The paper made it clear that our trying to get out of this forced domestic inventiveness would be a "blatant US attempt at cheating."

Shouldn't someone tell these global planners that man's creative genius has never responded positively to force?

Rich countries forced to create new technology?

I don't think so.

# **Pronk Hopes His Positive Leadership Will Prevail**

Thursday, November 16, 2000

Jan Pronk is well suited to be leading this Netherlands gathering. As the consummate diplomat, Pronk calls upon his negotiating skills to aid his work as host.

His responses to questions are refreshing in their candor. When asked about sanctions or penalties for non-compliance, his response, delivered with a smile, was, "Here in the Netherlands we just tell people to do it voluntarily or we will increase taxes."

He makes no attempt to hide the fact that he likes emissions trading as a mechanism. He confides that he finds himself having to educate environmental groups when they meet with him. Their opposition to emissions trading is understandable. A country with money, like the US, might buy its way into compliance by purchase of hot air from a country that is de-industrializing, like Russia. Pronk, however, sees beyond this loophole possibility to an economic truth.

Pronk says his lecture stresses that one cannot value a public good like air without a market. Only markets, he argues, furnish prices that signal information about those values.

He, however, agrees with environmental NGOs that no compliance ought to be accomplished without true domestic reductions.

Why?

Pronk is persuaded that domestic reductions are needed for psychological and political reasons. That view is supported by

the present push to make recycling prevalent and ubiquitous. Doing so allows everyone to feel part of the process. There is a buying in and an ownership of the issue.

When asked about the status of sinks, his raised eyebrows answered before his words. He categorizes the current status as a "vicious circle." He stresses that sinks need a "cautious approach." Pronk favors sinks in adaptation, not in the CDM mechanism. He does not think that agreement on the sinks issue will be reached by the end of COP6 because it has been a bottom-up solution that is too time-consuming.

However, Pronk acknowledged that a top-down temporary approach is being considered which might be credible. A meeting tonight may answer questions. Columbia's proposal about forest sinks' projects in CDM does address permanence. Of course, permanence is iffy with forests that at some point in time must release their stored carbon dioxide.

Within the Columbian proposal, credits for forests would be granted with something like an expiration date. Upon this so-called expiration date, a renewal period could extend the timeframe and the credits as long as the project credibly was still sequestering carbon dioxide.

Thus, seemingly indefatigable, Jan Pronk engages all groups and leads the negotiating process along.

If COP6 does produce a text that makes the Kyoto Protocol ratifiable, it will be in large part due to Minister Pronk.

# Two Worlds Collide Over Coal

Friday, November 17, 2000

Outside the conference, Greenpeace blocks a huge coal carrier in Rotterdam Harbor. This strong statement intended for the climate change conference is in keeping with the activists' usual dramatic theatrics.

Theatrics generally come with a price tag and this action is no exception. Greenpeace's illegal blocking of the ship could cost companies millions of dollars.

At the same time, inside the conference center, in a sidebar event, South Africa well argues their essential need for coal. Desperately needing affordable and available energy sources, South Africa is dependent upon coal. Not only does coal offer the only electrical way out of poverty for half of the country's population, but also, coal is the critical feedstock for South Africa's chemical industry.

"Energy and oil are South Africa's second highest sector in attracting foreign direct investment," the packed room was told in the presentation today. It was stressed that investment was needed immediately for waste management projects, since half of the population is totally without any waste management facilities.

Waste management facilities, like urban centers and manufacturing require greater electricity generation than made possible, so far, by renewable technologies.

South Africa is not alone in finding electricity from coal to be essential. We might imagine that two hundred years from now we will not be using fossil fuels, just as there was little use two hundred years ago. But, in the meantime, reality dictates that

world populations want substantial electricity now. Only coal, gas, oil, nuclear and large hydro deliver substantial electricity now.

South Africa is not alone in her electricity generation concern. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, electricity consumption in the US more than doubled between 1970 and 1988, and is projected to grow an additional 34 percent by 2020. Cyberspace, far from being "resource-free" is already using 14 percent of that electricity.

Coal currently provides more than half of the electricity consumed nationwide. As our reliance on electricity grows, so will the need for electricity from coal. Fortunately, U.S. coal reserves are plentiful, with enough coal to last for the next 250 years at current usage rates. On average, electricity from coal is less expensive than power generated from natural gas and renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

Restricting the use of coal to generate electricity would mean greater reliance on more expensive or, in some cases, imported sources of power. Studies predict that consumers could end up paying twice as much for electricity if we are forced to find other sources of generation to replace the electricity we currently get from coal.

Importantly, electricity from coal is increasingly clean. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, overall emissions of pollutants defined by the Clean Air Act as being harmful to human health have *decreased* 31 percent nationally since 1970. During this time the use of coal to generate electricity *nearly tripled*.

Those, like Greenpeace, who seek to eliminate coal as a source of energy in South Africa, in Europe, in the U.S., or anywhere seem reluctant to acknowledge these improvements. They seem

equally intent on perpetuating old and outdated stereotypes of coal-based electric utilities.

Theirs is not a rational position for the NOW.