

~~Missed fax~~
Montreal Protocol

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Date: _____ Number of Pages (including cover sheet) 3

TO: Todd Stern Attn: Adashek

FROM: Brent Blackwelder

Message: Ozone Montreal Protocol

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APRIL 26, 1996

International NGO Alliance to Protect the Ozone Layer

MEDIA RELEASE

11 September 1997

163 NATIONS GATHER IN MONTREAL TO PROTECT OZONE LAYER But Global Citizen Coalition Decries Lack of Action On Methyl Bromide

Montreal -- Representatives from 163 nations have gathered this week in Montreal for the 10th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol (an international ozone protection treaty) to set a global phase-out schedule for the toxic, ozone depleting pesticide, methyl bromide. Yet, infighting between nations on two critical issues has thus far prevented any new agreement to save the ozone layer. Today, representatives from environmental, agriculture and health organizations from 25 nations gathered to protest the lack of progress and urge countries to take aggressive action to protect the global environment and public health.

Beatrice Olivastri, CEO of Friends of the Earth Canada, said: "At this meeting, we have heard many delegates complain of the costs involved in a ban of methyl bromide. But the reality is that as a global community, we cannot afford the costs of its continued use, the costs of increased skin cancer, cataracts, poisonings of farm workers and those exposed to methyl bromide drift, and crop loss from increased UV radiation."

Ozone depletion continues to be a serious global environmental problem. In 1995, 226 of the world's leading atmospheric scientists reported that eliminating methyl bromide use is the most significant way to reduce future ozone loss. Ozone depletion is linked to rising rates of skin cancers, eye cataracts and damage to key ecosystems.

Representatives from other environmental organizations noted that alternatives are available for 90% of current methyl bromide uses. Elsa Nivia, from Colombia, held up Colombia's recent decision to ban the pesticide in agricultural uses as a model for other developing nations. Colombia is the world's second largest exporter of cut flowers and has protected this highly profitable industry while phasing out its use of methyl bromide. Similarly, Gianluca Ciampi, an agronomist from Italy, works with a cooperative of farmers to end their use of methyl bromide in the production of tomatoes and other crops.

Christine Coke, a strawberry farmer from California said, "Although some agribusiness representatives are fighting to keep methyl bromide, I have grown delicious strawberries without this toxic pesticide for many years. I know we can farm successfully without this hazardous chemical...." California strawberries are one of the largest single-crop users of this pesticide worldwide, accounting for approximately 3% of global methyl bromide use.

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But Global Citizen Coalition Decries Lack of Action On Methyl Bromide ..12

Although the United States has identified the pesticide as a Class I acute toxin, the most deadly category of substances, the United States is one of a handful of countries impeding a rapid ban. Despite publicly supporting a rapid phase-out, behind the scenes the United States is compromising its leadership position. Other countries obstructing progress include China, Kenya, Australia, Italy, Spain and Mexico. Canada supports a phase-out in industrialized countries in 2001 and in developing countries in 2011.

Anne Schonfield, from Pesticide Action Network, said, "Methyl bromide is also deadly to farm workers and communities near fumigated fields or buildings. How many more people have to die before world leaders act to ban this dangerous chemical?"

25 Non-governmental organizations from Canada, the United States, Kenya, Italy, Ghana, Spain, the United Kingdom, Togo, Benin, Australia, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Japan and other countries are attending the meeting. They are calling for a ban of most uses methyl bromide in industrialized countries in 1999 with a complete ban in 2001 and a ban in developing countries by 2006.

- 30 -

For more information please contact:
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FAX COVER SHEET

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IT'S A FAX FROM THE PRESIDENT !

DATE: 9/11/97

PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

TO: Todd Stern

FR: BRENT BLACKWELDER

RECIPIENT'S PHONE: _____ RECIPIENT'S FAX: 456-2215

contact Sherri Owens on ext. 222 for transmission errors.

MESSAGE:

J-CL to
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September 11, 1997

Memo to: Todd Stern

From: Brent Blackwelder

Re: Ozone Protocol Meeting in Montreal and Climate Change

White House intervention is urgently needed to change the direction of the Montreal Protocol meeting which I have been attending. This matter directly links to our ability to deal with climate change.

The US and the EU are taking opposite positions on two key issues: phasing out methyl bromide and phasing out HCFCs, with the US proposing a strong position on the former and opposing a strong EU proposal on the latter. The EU is exactly the reverse.

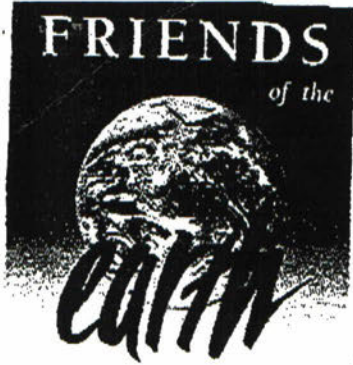
With the EU and the US arguing against each other's phase-out proposals we are headed toward the lowest common denominator. Furthermore, the US appears ready to concede to the EU position for a 2005 phase-out of methyl bromide.

How are we going to deal with climate change matters in December in Japan where all of modern industrial civilization is involved when we can't get rid of a dangerous pesticide, where three quarters of the world's supply is made by just three industries--Great Lakes Chemical, Dead Sea Bromine, and Albemarle (a spinoff of Ethyl).

The attached release explains the concerns in more detail.

BB





EU-US TANGLE AT TENTH ANNIVERSARY OZONE TALKS 10 September, 1997

Background

The Tenth Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol meeting is underway starting September 9 to 12 in its preparatory work with the high level meetings of Ministers taking place September 15 to 17. There are 162 signatories to the Protocol which was set up to protect the ozone layer from destruction by ozone depleting chemicals like CFCs used in refrigeration and air-conditioning and halons, used in fire-fighting equipment. Methyl bromide, the chemical most recently identified as an ozone depleter is a pesticide and fumigant and now the focus of hot debate after the first day of the opening meeting.

EU-US Tangle Opening Day Threatens To Derail Progress

The European Union and the United States grappled over two key phase-out dates - those of HCFCs and methyl bromide. The European Union calls for a faster phase-out of HCFCs and a slower date for methyl bromide, while the US opposes faster phase-out of HCFCs while pushing for a 2001 early phase out for methyl bromide. This disagreement is likely to result in a position that satisfies no one and fails to provide the necessary protection for the ozone layer. By setting up this face-off, the most likely outcome will prove to be the lowest common denominator on both decisions, especially since a large number of developing countries made statements that clearly showed their desire to dodge the decision entirely and have no phase-out date set for methyl bromide in their countries.

The US spoke out strongly against accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs, arguing that manufacturers and users who chose these transitional chemicals to replace CFCs require time to recoup their investment. The European Union points out that HCFCs are ozone-depleters coming into stronger use at the very time the ozone layer is at its most vulnerable. In the European Union, hydrocarbon technology is the selected substitute for CFCs in refrigeration, a choice that receives strong support by environmentalists.

On methyl bromide, the US is supporting an accelerated phase-out date of 2001 rather than 2010 for industrialized countries - a date which mirrors its domestic commitment under the Clean Air Act. The European Union is sticking with 2005 as the earliest date they can accommodate with Italy and Spain opposing anything more rapid. Seventy-five percent of the world's methyl bromide is manufactured by three companies - Great Lakes Chemicals, Dead Sea Bromine and Albemarle, a spin-off of Ethyl Corporation.

Friends of the Earth calls for a 2001 phase-out date for methyl bromide use and production in industrialized countries along with 2006 for developing countries. For HCFCs, Friends of the Earth calls for 2010 accelerated phase-out with a five year delay for developing countries.

For more information: Angela Vincelli, Friends of the Earth,
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