

August 13, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN

This would be my idea of about what the President should lay down as law with respect to international environmental activities. I think it is balanced and realistic. But you had best test it out on yourself and perhaps John Whitaker also.

Daniel P. Moynihan

Attachment - proposed memo for Sec'y of State for President's signature, re international environmental problems

DPM/crm

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

At this time, when international environmental problems are growing more serious and with an increase in international activities in this field, there is need to strengthen our efforts and to allocate wisely our priorities among the key organizations working in this vitally important area. We should concentrate our major efforts within each of the three major organizations, namely NATO, the United Nations, and the OECD.

Each of these organizations merits our strong support in those areas where they can most competently function. The United States benefits by continued substantial participation in the work being done in all three of these organizations in those areas where they have developed special experience. The United States has the opportunity in each organization to provide significant assistance and advice in making technology available to deal with specific environmental problems. Equally, we have much to learn from other nations on subjects where this country does not have so great an expertise, e.g., regional land use planning, population distribution and urban planning.

I believe the following emphasis should be given to each of the main organizations in this field:

NATO/CCMS: Established in 1969 as a result of our initiative, the CCMS has shown that the "pilot country" concept, applied to environmental problems is an effective managerial device to cut through international bureaucracy. The NATO capacity to gain access to authoritative political levels and its orientation toward action have given, through CCMS, a new kind of impetus to work on the environment. Because of this unique capability and background, the CCMS is ideally suited to act among our Allies as a

catalyst and initiator of innovative programs and policies in the environmental field. As it remains in a sensitive formative stage, it is imperative that special emphasis be placed on CCMS projects, particularly as they relate to obtaining the cooperation and support of our Allies. Every effort should be made to see that the CCMS program is given priority support by ourselves and our Allies and that its programs are successful and gain wide support throughout the North Atlantic Alliance.

The United Nations: The United States should strongly support the forthcoming 1972 Stockholm Conference. This forum is of great importance for mobilizing all nations of the world to deal effectively with certain environmental problems as intrinsically international problems.

It is the only conference of this kind in which the less developed countries will participate, and it is of utmost importance that those countries take part in a substantive way which would reflect their role, although still largely unacknowledged, self-interest in joint action to improve the environment.

The U.N. Conference can lead to one or more conventions treating international environmental problems and may establish an international organization of a new kind to handle these problems.

Within the U.N. system, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has planned a conference of industrialized nations from the East and West for May 1971 in Prague. ECE is a principal forum in which East/West relations can be improved. Environmental problems common to East/West industrialized nations can often transcend political differences and ECE provides a setting in which continuous contacts with Eastern Europe and the USSR can be maintained.

Further, the United Nations Specialized Agencies have by and large compiled impressive records of achievement, on a sound technical and non-political basis. We should continue to take an active part in the work of these agencies and in addition should

consider ways in which their individual fields of specialization can be more effectively related one to the other and placed in the broader context of world environmental quality.

The OECD brings together all the major non-Communist industrial powers in a forum dedicated to developing international economic cooperation. It has been engaged for a number of years in work on environmental problems, and has developed the particular experience and professional competence needed for analyzing the economic aspects of environmental control.

The newly-established Environment Committee of OECD should study a wide range of economic questions related to environmental problems. Specifically, the Committee should appraise the possible effects of environmental measures on international trade, develop and improve indicators of economic and social well-being, and analyze how the diversion of resources to combating environmental degradation might affect economic growth and production.

In summary, the United States should encourage the fullest and the most practical development of the special attributes within each organization, having due regard for political and economic realities and for actual performance. Recognizing the important role of all these organizations, special attention necessarily should be given to the CCMS program as a Presidential initiative for its environmental and foreign policy implications. Without downplaying any of the organizations, we should endeavor to identify the areas of strength and growth within each, and we should give appropriate support for these developments which promise to have a genuine impact in solving environmental issues.

RN/DPM/HB/crm