THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 29, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR KEN DUBERSTEIN
TOM GRISCOM
KEN CRIBB
MARLIN FITZWATER

FROM: NANCY RISQUE

SUBJECT: Ozone Hole FYI only

Tomorrow, a group of scientists headed by a team from NASA will hold a press conference to announce their findings on research to determine the nature of the ozone hole in Antarctica.

The group will announce that the hole was due to both meteorological and chemical factors. The chemical causing the most damage was chlorine. The scientists will emphasize that their findings are preliminary; consequently, more analysis must be done before it is clear how major a factor chlorine was in creating the hole and what policy steps should be taken to address the problem.

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September 29, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR NANCY J. RISQUE

FROM: ROBERT E. JOHNSON Robert E Johnson

SUBJECT: Press Conference on the Findings of the Recent Ozone Expedition in Antartica

Background: On September 16, 1987 the United States and twenty-one other nations signed an international protocol aimed at protecting the stratospheric ozone layer. The outline of the protocol is contained in the attached fact sheet. Representatives of the NASA-NSF-NOAA expedition which tested the ozone layer in Antartica will present their findings at a press conference tomorrow. Their major findings are summarized below.

Discussion: The over 150 scientists who participated in the expedition have written a consensus document which will be made public at the press conference. The major research findings and conclusions of the document are:

- The ozone hole identified over Antartica is fifteen percent larger than the largest previously measured hole of 1985.

- Available evidence indicates that the reduction of the ozone levels measured during the experiments resulted from both meteorological and chemical conditions. A dehydrated air mass depleted nitrogen from the atmosphere which set the stage for chlorine oxides to break down the ozone. (Although the science which supports this scenario is not definitive, these findings strongly suggest that CFCs and Halons are a major cause of ozone depletion.)

- The expedition's report strongly discourages speculation over an assessment of the global implications of these findings. The data from the experiments has not been completely analyzed and data concerning the likelihood of similar meteorological conditions occuring elsewhere does not exist.

United States scientists have taken the lead in developing the science on ozone depletion. They will continue to play a leadership role in the rigorous scientific review of this data - predicted to last until 1990, the year the protocol is scheduled to come into force.

These science findings demonstrate the President's leadership and wisdom in instructing the United States delegation to obtain a

protocol keeping in mind "that the U.S. position...is protecting the ozone layer by eventual elimination of realistic threats from man-made chemicals, and that we support actions determined to be necessary based on regularly scheduled scientific assessments."

Attachment

September 16, 1987

FACT SHEET

PROTOCOL TO CONTROL OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES

On September 16, 1987 the U.S. signed in Montreal a protocol to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer that provides specific mechanisms to control emissions of ozone-depleting substances.

Most major producing and consuming countries, including the EC and Japan, joined in signing the protocol. These countries represent about seventy percent of global consumption and eighty percent of global production of ozone-depleting substances.

Two principal features of the protocol are an obligation relating to the control of emissions of ozone-depleting substances (Article 2) and the restriction of trade in controlled substances with States not party to the protocol (Article 4). On control measures, the text provides for:

- A freeze at 1986 levels on consumption of chlorofluorocarbons 11, 12, 113, 114, and 115 in the second year after entry into force, and of halons 1211, 1301 and 2402 in the fourth year after entry into force.

- Long-term scheduled reductions (of twenty percent by 1994, then an additional thirty percent by 1999) of chlorofluorocarbon consumption.

- Periodic assessments of the control provisions, based upon scientific, environmental, technical and economic information, which could result in addition or removal of chemicals from the list of controlled substances or a change in the reduction schedule or the emission reduction target.

With respect to trade with non-parties, the protocol includes

- A ban on imports from non-parties of the controlled substances within one year of the protocol's entry into force.

- o A ban or restrictions on imports of products containing controlled substances from non-parties within four years of entry into force.

- o Consideration within five years of entry into force of restriction on imports of products produced with controlled substances from non-parties.

- o A prohibition against concluding new agreements which provide non-parties with financial assistance for producing the controlled substances.

The decision to reduce consumption by a total of fifty percent can only be rescinded or amended by two-thirds of the parties representing at least two-thirds of total consumption, allowing us in effect a veto. To ensure that the economic burden of these controls is equitably shared, the protocol will only enter into force when 11 countries representing sixty-seven percent of global consumption have ratified the agreement.

The protocol provides a limited grace period from compliance with the control measures for low-consuming countries who adhere to the protocol. The protocol contains a mechanism to add new substances to the controlled list or delete substances. It also requires an annual report by each party of its production, imports and exports of controlled substances, and measures for treatment of parties that are not in compliance with obligations under the protocol.

In tandem with the negotiations, the Administration engaged in an extensive domestic regulatory review process, including a thorough assessment of the risks and risk management options. Industries which produce and use ozone-depleting substances have actively participated in assessing risk and policy options. We have consulted closely as well with other interested groups as we have developed our negotiating positions -- including discussion with members of the Congress and their staffs.