

GLOBAL LEGISLATORS OFFER TOUGH NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROPOSALS

- **Senator Al Gore elected President of GLOBE International**
- **Multi-partisan legislators agree stronger international efforts are needed.**
- **Action taken on rainforests, oceans, global warming, toxic dumping, GATT.**

WASHINGTON D.C. — Legislators from the United States, Europe and Japan unveiled tough environmental legislation today that will be simultaneously introduced in the U.S. Congress, the Japanese Diet and the European Parliament early next year. This is a new effort by legislators pushing hard for international environmental laws through GLOBE — Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment.

Following a three day conference on Capitol Hill the GLOBE members agreed to take coordinated action in their respective parliaments to:

- **Enact Forest Protection legislation** to immediately commence international negotiations on a Tropical Timber Commodity Agreement to drastically reduce timber cutting and rainforest destruction, enhance economic returns to producer countries, and encourage sustainable agro-forestry. GLOBE members also agreed to promote the negotiation of an all-inclusive World Forest Convention to protect biodiversity and native peoples in temperate and tropical forests.

- **Enact Legislation to protect the Bering Sea**, calling on the governments of the United States, Japan, Soviet Union, and Canada to initiate a Global Convention for the North Pacific Convention for Protection of the Ecosystem where seals, sea birds and turtles are threatened by, among other things, intensive fishing operations.

- **Enact Climate Change legislation** that will reduce energy consumption through conservation, alternative technology, and reduction of fossil fuels.

Immediate action was taken by the members in the following areas:

- ∞ A letter to Maurice Strong, Director General of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil, 1992 — urging that population growth be addressed at the conference.
- ∞ Contact U. S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, GATT Secretary General Arthur Dunkel and key trade ministers from the European Community and Japan -- expressing concern that the proposed GATT agreement does not include measures that protect the environment. GLOBE members also called on the GATT negotiators to convene the Working Party on the Environment -- a group that was formed in 1971 but has never been convened.
- ∞ Contact the International Tropical Timber Organization, now meeting in Yokohama, urging a 80% reduction of logging in Malaysia's Sarawak rainforest. GLOBE member also endorsed a ban on the importation of logs from Sarawak.

Representative James Scheuer (D-NY) who has completed a two-year term as the first President to GLOBE has played a key role organizing the legislators from fourteen nations to form GLOBE, and the group honored Scheuer's leadership by naming him Founding President of the organization. Senator Al Gore (D-TN) was elected new GLOBE International President to succeed Rep. James H. Scheuer. Senator John Heinz (R-PA) was re-elected President of GLOBE USA. Other GLOBE participants from the U.S. Congress include Sen. George Mitchell, Sen. John Heinz, Sen. John Chafee and Rep. Connie Morella, Rep. Gerry Sikorski, Rep. Tom Foley, Rep. Richard Gephardt and other key U.S. legislators.

Members of the Japanese Diet include representatives from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party Takashi Kosugi, the former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Senator Bunbei Hara and members of opposition parties; Senator Wakako Hironaka and Senator Akiko Doumoto.

Members of the European Parliament who participate in GLOBE include Siegbert Alber, Vice President of the European Parliament; former President of the European Parliament Simone Veil, MEP-France; Hemmo Muntingh, MEP-Netherlands, Carlos Pimenta, MEP-Portugal, Jan Bertens, MEP- Netherlands and Jacques Vernier, MEP-France.

The next meeting of GLOBE International will be in Tokyo, Japan in July 1991. There will a mission to the Soviet Union in February to help form GLOBE USSR.

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