



City of Cambridge

7.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 23, 1992

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

WHEREAS: In recent weeks scientists and environmentalists have verified that the ozone layer is being weakened, not only above Antarctica, but also over the densely populated Northern Hemisphere (see attached New York Times article); and

WHEREAS: The depletion of the ozone layer will release higher doses of radiation which can increase skin cancer, cause cataracts, impair the immune system and disrupt agriculture and natural ecosystems; and

WHEREAS: European governments have enacted strict laws regulating chlorofluorocarbons and other chlorine - and bromine-based chemicals, have signed tough international treaties with similar objectives, have proposed even stricter new regulation, and have called on the United States to join the rest of the international community in this effort; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge, like many other communities and states, has enacted a law to protect the stratospheric ozone layer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct that the Commissioner of Health and Hospitals report to the City Council his progress in implementing the provisions of the Cambridge ordinance enacted two years ago.

In City Council March 23, 1992.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph E. Connarton".

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

Europeans Worry About Ozone-Eating Chemicals

By MARLISE SIMONS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, March 2 — Concern over a possible depletion of the protective ozone layer over the Northern Hemisphere as early as this spring has jolted politicians and commentators from Britain to Russia and prompted calls for more stringent environmental laws.

In recent weeks scientists and environmentalists have debated the startling message that a weakening ozone shield is no longer just a problem in far-off Antarctica: it could be about to occur overhead, above densely populated zones.

American and European research-

ers said in early February that they had detected alarming concentrations over the North Pole of the same synthetics that are believed to be depleting the ozone shield over Antarctica.

With the chemical stage now set, they said, they expect to see similar damage around the Arctic Circle, reaching as far south as 50 degrees north latitude. Such damage, they said, would mean that more ultraviolet radi-

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Higher doses of radiation can increase skin cancer, cause cataracts, impair the immune system and disrupt agriculture and natural ecosystems.

The news has come as a shock to Northern Europe's environmentally aware public.

In France, the weekly L'Express declared a "Threat Over Europe." The German weekly Der Spiegel asked: "The devouring of Ozone: Is this the

European Pledge at U.N.

European nations said they would offer money to help poor countries protect the environment. They urged Washington to do the same. Page A11.

Continued on Page A11, Column 1



The New York Times

last act?" In Denmark, Government officials went on television to calm people and urged them to use sunscreens and hats when spending a lot of time outdoors.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment commissioner of the European Community, last week put on bright green sunglasses and called for more laws to protect the environment. "European cities, for example, London, Amsterdam and Moscow, appear to have a very-high-risk future," he said.

Official reaction has been quick. Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands immediately announced new deadlines for banning the chemicals that are widely blamed for destroying ozone. Setting the toughest deadlines anywhere, the three governments said they would halt production and use of such chemicals by the end of 1994. The United States had already decided to phase out the chemicals by 1996.

Moving Up a Ban

The 12-nation European Community, which normally has a more cumbersome gait, also acted swiftly. Environment ministers last week agreed to press for new cut-off dates for the

A danger once limited to the South Pole moves north.

harmful chemicals throughout the community. This month, a community decision is expected to bring forward the current ban two years, to 1995.

Such new deadlines will put enormous pressure on Europe's chemical industries, which will be expected to step up production of the substitutes needed for equipment such as freezers and industrial refrigerators.

This will also mean that hundreds of makers of foam upholstery, fire extinguishers, insulation materials, solvents and many other items will have to move much faster to redesign their products. Allowing for some exceptions, such as medical products like asthma relievers, the ban will apply to chlorofluorocarbons and other chlorine- and bromine-based chemicals, which are believed to be the main agents attacking the ozone.

The End of CFC's?

If the European Community adopts an earlier ban on chlorofluorocarbons, which is likely, this would remove 30 percent of the world's production by 1995. The United States manufactures close to 25 percent. The remainder is made in other industrial countries,

many of which have signed a treaty to ban the chemicals by 2000, and in developing nations, including China, India and former Soviet republics.

But European officials say that if countries elsewhere continue to use the chemicals, the products will be barred from the European Community.

Scientists, both European and American, have been reluctant to predict whether the ozone depletion around the North Pole will be as dramatic as that found over the last five years around Antarctica.

French and British researchers who worked in a team based in Kiruna, Sweden, say that new factors have recently appeared that may affect the less stable conditions around the North Pole conditions.

Good Cyclone, Bad Volcano

An anticyclone last month may alleviate the situation by bringing in extra ozone from other regions. However, some scientists say that harmful chemical reactions could be speeded up by the vast clouds of sulfurous droplets left in the stratosphere after last year's volcanic eruptions in the Philippines.

But American and European researchers all agreed that they had found exceptionally high levels of chlorine monoxide, which destroys ozone, and that this could lead to significant ozone loss as early as this spring. They warned that the chemicals have long life spans so that even if damage does not appear immediately, all the ingredients are there for this to happen in the next few years.

The European Community is expected to approve more funds for the 250 scientists working from various northern airbases, including Siberia for the first time. The European group is working with United States teams led by NASA scientists, who have the use of a new American satellite and special research aircraft.

Changing Formulas Fast

Since the new threats to the Earth's support system were disclosed, European environmentalists have increased their pressure on industrial giants like ICI, Hoechst, Akzo and Du Pont, demanding that they immediately halt their production of chlorofluorocarbons. The companies say they have been scaling down output rapidly, but

they argue that not enough alternatives are available.

"We get calls saying, why don't you stop making C.F.C.'s right now," said Nick Sommers, a spokesman for Akzo, the Dutch chemical company. "We say we will, but we have a certain responsibility to deliver until society makes the switch-over. Take heavy-duty refrigerators in meat and other markets: 40 percent of the world's food would spoil if it was not refrigerated."

Industrialists seem divided whether the earlier deadlines are realistic. Some note that chlorofluorocarbons have already been practically phased out from use in aerosols. Producers of plastic foam are switching to other

gases, as are other manufacturers. But ICI of Britain says there are only enough replacements for refrigeration gases to meet 5 percent of Europe's demand.

Ask About Safety and Cost

Germany's Environment Minister, Klaus Toepfer, said manufacturers have told him they are adapting so quickly that they might give up C.F.C.'s ahead of schedule. Others argue that too much of a rush may be good politics but not safe chemistry.

"Most companies have not finished toxicity and safety testing of the replacement products," said Mr. Sommers at Akzo. "We are almost putting the cart before the horse."

But policymakers in various North European capitals want to move ahead on the premise that deadlines are useful catalysts.

One senior official in Paris recalled that just five years ago, when the need for bans was first discussed, chemical makers balked and argued that substitutes were not available and that any change would cost billions and would put companies out of business.

"That attitude has changed dramatically," said the official. "And experience has shown that it's better for governments to crank up the pressure. Then companies will find a way to invent new products or solve problems. Some always do."

U.N. Opens Environment Talks; Europe Spurs U.S. to Act Urgently

By PAUL LEWIS
Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, March 2 — European nations said today that they were prepared to offer more money to help developing countries comply with proposed new treaties on the environment, and they urged the United States to do the same.

The Europeans called attention to another major difference between the United States and others in the industrial world by reaffirming their commitment to hold emissions of gases that warm the atmosphere in the year 2000 to 1990 levels — a pledge that the Bush Administration has so far refused to make.

The Europeans' positions were outlined on the opening day of a five-week conference here to prepare for a world environmental summit meeting in Rio de Janeiro in June. The purpose of the

Will the rich reduce warming gases, the poor spare resources?

June meeting is to forge a consensus on making world economic growth ecologically safe and sustainable.

Such an agreement would be codified the form of conventions curbing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting plants and animals. At the June meeting, participants also hope to agree on a general statement of environmental principles, to be called the Earth Charter, and a detailed plan of action for the 21st century.

It Won't Be Cheap

The extraordinarily high cost of meeting such goals was re-emphasized today by Maurice F. Strong, a Canadian who has been named secretary general of the Rio de Janeiro meeting. At a news conference, he said the total bill could be as high as \$600 billion a year, with developing countries requiring \$70 billion more a year in aid.

Mr. Strong said that for natural resources to have the chance to be protected, poverty would have to be alleviated. World population would also have to be stabilized, easing stress on the environment, he said.

As European countries pressed the United States to change its positions for the Rio meeting, third-world countries made their case to the relatively well-off nations of the Northern Hemisphere. These poorer countries are seeking a global compact under which rich nations would provide them with money and technology to protect resources and develop their economies in environmentally sustainable ways.

International talks are under way to try to do more to preserve animals and plants. Science Times, page C4.

Senegal's Minister of Tourism and Environmental Protection, Jacques Baudin, said third-world countries had "a right and a duty to develop." He argued that they could do so either by using environmentally friendly technology or by taking the damaging routes to riches that many of the northern countries had used.

Altruism and 'Planet Earth'

"Africa is looking to the developed countries to curb their national egoism to save planet earth," Mr. Boudin said.

Speaking on behalf of the European Community, Portugal's Environmental Minister, Carlos Borrego, agreed that new financial resources would be needed to help developing countries meet the Rio de Janeiro goals, and he urged "other industrialized countries" — an allusion to the United States — to adopt a similar position.

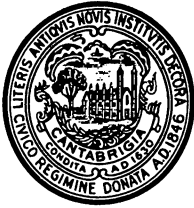
While European and other industrial nations have committed \$1.5 billion to a fund to help developing countries meet their obligations under these conventions and are prepared to give more, the United States at first refused to contribute anything. Last week, though, it offered \$75 million.

Britain Subtly Prods U.S.

Britain's Environment Secretary, Michael Heseltine, implicitly criticized American reluctance to accept clear-cut goals for reducing greenhouse emissions, saying "clear and ambitious targets" offer the best way to promote sustainable world economic development.

He said that the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change leave governments little choice but to establish a process for stabilizing the climate and fighting global warming.

He said the climate negotiations were "at a critical moment," with the majority of the richer countries ready to cooperate with the third world in drawing up the needed convention. Unspoken but implicit in his remarks was an appeal to the United States to get into step with other industrial nations.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL

#7

COUNCILLOR FRANCIS H. DUEHAY
26 LOWELL STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

consent

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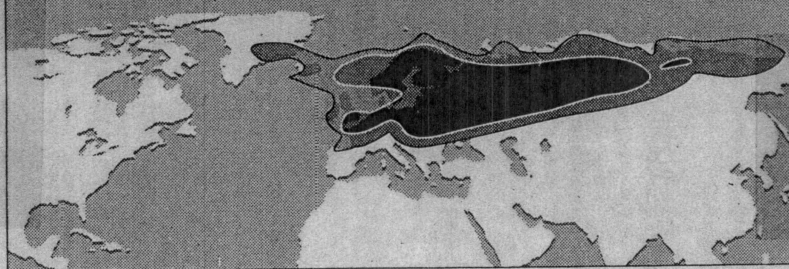
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Continued on Page A11, Column 1

Chemical Mix Over the Arctic

Unusually high levels of the ozone-destroying chemical chlorine monoxide are represented by the darker shades.



The New York Times

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City Council

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Joseph E. Conforti City Clerk

Consent Order # 7 *F-110*

Councillor Duehay re: enforcement
of the Stratospheric Ozone Ordinance.

In City Council,

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Order adopted