

goals and provisions of the GATT-based trade relations system, although there is room for clarification to remove any ambiguities and to strengthen the basis upon which the trade and environment issues can be made more overtly complementary.⁵¹

Another potential policy response is financial assistance provided for reducing environmental stress or promoting social conditions, such as poverty alleviation, that work to reduce social tensions that could turn into violent conflict. This assistance could consist of aid, but might also involve debt forgiveness. For the greatest impact, aid would need to provide new and additional resources. This was agreed to in principle at UNCED, but has proven to be politically difficult for the developed countries. Yet, there are good reasons for seriously considering further aid reorientation. Developed country reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases could be more than offset by increases in emissions by developing countries. This would not bode well for the objective of reducing climate change. Awareness of environmental stress-national security linkages may, and should, also give a shot of adrenalin to countries experiencing "donor fatigue." Taxpayers in the developed countries are more likely to support development assistance if they can draw an intellectual linkage between the assistance and their own private interest and well-being.⁵²

The composition of foreign assistance also needs to be reviewed. If a country cannot increase its foreign assistance budget, realignment of existing funding might be warranted in light of broader national security concerns. In particular, while an extremely sensitive political issue, emphasis on population programs might be warranted. It has been estimated that global population planning assistance amounts to only 1.4 per cent of all aid.⁵³ Public scepticism of aid to developing countries may remain high if aid cannot be clearly identified with a particular objective in the donor country's interest, or be shown to result in a globally desirable policy change in the

⁵¹Michael Hart and Sushma Gera, "Trade and the Environment: Dialogue of the Deaf or Scope for Cooperation?" Policy Staff Paper No. 92/11, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, p. 9.

⁵²Without reference to environmental stress contributing to violent conflict, environmentally motivated aid fits nicely into the broad definition of national security. For example, to reduce sulphur emissions from the use of high-sulphur coal, Japan has financed several stack scrubbers in the PRC, since the pollution moves eastward to Japan. Richard N. Cooper, Environment and Resource Policies for the World Economy, The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., 1994, p. 38.

⁵³Cited in James C. Clad, "Slowing the Wave", Foreign Policy, Number 95, Summer 1994, p. 147.