

PROTECTED

Report on Climate Change Sessions AGBM 3 and SBSTA 2 and SBI 2
FEB 26 TO MAR 8, GENEVA

The mtgs took place in Geneva Feb 26 to March 8 and were co-lead by Peter Fawcett/DFAIT/AGE for all sessions and Dr. Gordon McBean/DOE AES or Grimes/DOE/AES for SBSTA, Ann MacKenzie/GAIB for SBI, and Doug Russell for AGBM. Candel also included Varangu/NRCan, Drexhage/DOE/GAIB, Masterton/DOE/AES for one day of SBSTA, . Maciunas/DFAIT/JLO, Pierre Guimond/Cdn Elec. Assn. (first wk), John Dillon/BCNI (Second Wk.), Louis Comeau/ Sierra Club (first wk.), and Robert Hornung/Pambina Inst. (second Wk.). SBSTA and SBI sessions were held from Feb 26 to March 4, and included workshops on non-Annex 1 national Communications, and an NGO workshop. AGBM session was held from March 5 to March 8 and included workshops on Policies and Measures, and Quantified Emissions Limitations and Reductions Objectives (QELRO's).

Summary: The major outcome of Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) sessions February 26 to March 8 was a recommendation for a Ministerial segment July 17, 18th as part of COP 2 July 8 to 19, 1996. Canada was successful in securing a seat on the bureau of COP 2 (ENVCDA ADM Tony Clarke) which will provide greater access to decisionmaking of this key steering body of the Convention. This will strengthen Canada's profile in the international negotiations for a protocol or another legal instrument by COP 3 in 1997 to address post year 2000 greenhouse gas emissions.

The Ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM) discussed policies and measures that should be considered for further analysis and the scope of commitments and timeframe for quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELRO)'s. The lack of consensus in Subsidiary Body on Science and Technical Advice (SBSTA) on the Second Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and on the Technical Advisory Panels does not bode well for future scientific input. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) did resolve some difficult issues related to implementation. A clearer separation of responsibilities between SBI and SBSTA will have to be established, including joint sessions.

U.S. delegation following the lead of Secretary of State Christopher placed greater emphasis on achieving progress in the sessions including support for a Ministerial portion at COP 2 to give more public visibility and political impetus to the negotiations. At the same time the EU (particularly Germany and the U.K.) are concerned about the lack of engagement by southern European member states in their EU commitments and by developing countries in their Art 4.1 commitments. USA - EU conflict is expected over the degree to which future policies and measures will be common among Annex 1 Parties, with the EU arguing that a coordinated response will have a greater environmental impact and