

To promote this approach internationally, Canada will host Globe 90, an environmental conference and technology exhibition in Vancouver in March. We hope there will be a strong Soviet representation there.

The pollution problem is serious and will get worse before it gets better. Consider these statistics.

- o In 1950, the world's population, was 2.5 billion; in 1987, it topped 5 billion; in the year 2000 it will reach 6 billion.
- o Global industrial production is seven times the 1950 level.
- o Within the lifespan of our children, global industrial production will increase 5 to 10 times more.
- o Also within the lifespan of our children, the developing nations, including China, are expected to quadruple their CO₂ emissions - the principal cause of global warming.

Ultimately, the most serious threat to the fragile Arctic ecology is global warming. An increase of a degree or two in average temperatures at the Equator would be triple that high in the Arctic. Methane gas would be released from the permafrost, amplifying the greenhouse effect. Large glaciers and the ice cap would melt, and icebergs would multiply, endangering shipping and off-shore drilling. Marine and plant life would be dramatically affected. And Northern peoples would suffer serious disruption of their lives and livelihoods.

Global warming, ozone depletion, acid precipitation, overfishing -- these are all global environmental problems. As scientists, you are keenly aware both that these problems are real, not science fiction, and that they are urgent. Their solutions, however, are elusive and difficult.

What is clear is that these are everybody's problems and will only respond to international solutions. That is why we have made environmental protection a central theme of our foreign policy. We offered Montreal as the site of the 1987 Conference on Protection of the Ozone Layer, where the first global air pollution agreement, the Montreal Protocol on CFC's, was concluded. Toronto was the site of the 1988 Economic Summit