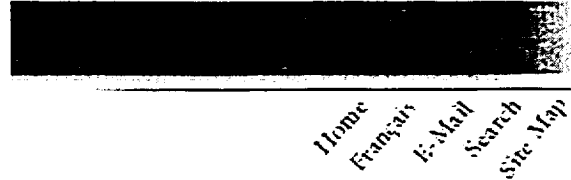
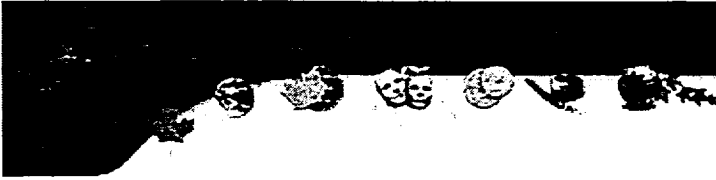




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## High Level Segment of the Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Bonn 2-4 November 1999

Mr. Frank E. Loy  
Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, Department of State  
United States of America

It is a great honor to be here in Bonn. For over four decades, this city stood as an emblem of humanity's determination to meet the great challenge of the 20th century - the challenge of preserving and renewing human freedom. Today, we draw on that rich legacy as we rise to meet one of the premier challenges of the 21st century - the challenge of preserving and renewing the earth itself.

The backdrop to our meeting is a growing scientific consensus on the causes and consequences of climate change. Just yesterday, for example, the officials at the International Coral Reef Initiative meeting passed a resolution calling on us to work with them to address the impacts of global warming on these fragile but vital ecosystems. We welcome their commitment.

Two years ago in Kyoto we put in place the basic architecture of an international strategy to address global warming. Last year in Buenos Aires, we laid out a road map for turning Kyoto's broad concepts into working realities. Our task in Bonn is to achieve the steady, solid progress that is necessary to ensure our ultimate success.

On behalf of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, I affirm to you today that the United States is more committed than ever to meeting this profound challenge - both at home and in concert with the nations assembled here.

Over the past year, the President and Vice President have launched significant new actions to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The President issued new Executive Orders to dramatically improve energy efficiency within the Federal government and to promote broader use of renewable energy. He also secured record funding for the research, development, and deployment of 21st century clean energy technologies. In addition, new efforts to address climate change are underway at the state and local levels and throughout corporate America. All of these efforts are part of Stage One of the President's larger three-stage plan, which we see culminating in binding domestic emissions targets and a domestic emissions trading system. I look forward to reporting on these efforts in greater detail at the Ministers' session on this topic on Wednesday.

Beyond our robust domestic efforts, our goal is to continue working with other nations to complete the work begun in Kyoto - to construct an international regime that works, to achieve an agreement that can be ratified. Chancellor Schroeder noted the other day that countries must implement at home what they promise abroad. Let us remember also that countries must negotiate abroad what they can ratify at home. For it would do the world little good for negotiators to reach an agreement that is ultimately rejected by our nations.

Many delegates have expressed great concern over the prospects for U.S. ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. I believe the Kyoto Protocol can be ratified by the United States - but I am realistic about what that will take.