

Reporting Tel: Second Conference of the Parties (COP 2) of The Framework Convention on Climate Change, July 8-19, Geneva

---Candel to COP 2 was headed by Minister Marchi and included John A. Fraser, ambassador for the environment, ADM Tony Clarke/EPS/ENVCDA, and Peter Fawcett/AGE/DFAIT as alternate heads. Other members of COP 2 del included Kristi Varangu/Env Div/NRCAN, John Drexhage/GAIB/ENVCDA, Sushma Gera/AGE/DFAIT, Anthony Knill, EA to Minister of the Environment, Kathy Wilkinson, Special Advisor to Minister of the Environment, John Dillon/Business Council on National Issues, and Louise Comeau/Sierra Club of Canada.

2. Substantive agenda items for COP 2 included: review of the implementation of the convention with respect to national communications and the financial mechanism; reports of subsidiary bodies and guidance on future work; and administrative and financial matters related to the establishment of the permanent secretariat. Ministerial segment (July 17-19) included ministerial statements, a roundtable, and a contact group to try to draft a ministerial declaration. Topics for the roundtable included the Second Assessment Report (SAR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), current commitments, and the Berlin Mandate process.

3. Summary: over 900 government delegates - including 80 Ministers, and 600 observers participated in the two wk mtg. As a COP Bureau member, Canada was asked to chair a ministerial contact group drafting session for a Ministerial Declaration, which included about 20 developed and developing country Party representatives as friends of the President of the Conference. Minister Marchi, as the chair of this group, displayed leadership and attention to the concerns of the participants in developing the Ministerial Declaration, which provides direction to second year of negotiations under the Berlin Mandate. This Declaration was noted by COP President/Zimbabwe, and will be annexed to COP 2 decisions. Although supported by a majority of Parties, it was not adopted. The challenge for Canada was to move the negotiations forward, while maintaining sufficient flexibility in the negotiations before any specific commitments are made internationally.

4. Ministers stressed the need to accelerate negotiations under the Berlin Mandate process. They also endorsed the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC quote as the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment of the science of climate change, its impacts, and response options now available quote. COP 2 also adopted a number of final decisions, one of the most important decision was an agreement on the guidelines for the preparation of national communications of non-Annex 1 Parties (i.e. developing countries national reports on climate change). Developing countries will start submitting their reports in April 1997. Most developed countries have already submitted their first national communications, and their second communications are due in April 1997. Other decisions concern technology transfer, financial support for the Convention related activities in developing countries, and Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ), and revisions to