

PAGE EIGHT EEEU2435 PROTECTED

CANADA AND OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE DELIBERATELY LEFT FOR MINISTERS TO RESOLVE IN RIO. FOR CANADA, THE MOST CRITICAL OF THESE ISSUES IS THE SECTION OF THE OCEANS TEXT, BRACKETED BY THE EC, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE INTERESTS OF COASTAL STATES IN THE EXPLOITATION OF STRADDLING STOCKS AND CALLING FOR A FUTURE INTER-NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OVER-FISHING ON THE HIGH SEAS. (THE OUTCOME OF PREPCOM FOUR ON THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL IN PRMNY TEL WKGR3450 06APR92). THE EFFORTS OF CDN MINISTERS AND THE PRIME MINISTER AT UNCED TO MOBILIZE INTL SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION VIS A VIS THE EC ON OVER-FISHING WILL FOCUS ON THIS SECTION OF AGENDA 21.

12. FORESTS: ALSO IMPORTANT FOR CANADA IS THE AGENDA 21 CHAPTER ON DEFORESTATION, WHICH CALLS FOR THE LAUNCHING OF A GLOBAL FOREST CONVENTION AFTER UNCED. CANADA AND THE REST OF THE G7 MADE A COMMITMENT TO THIS GOAL AT THE 1990 HOUSTON SUMMIT. THIS ISSUE REMAINS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR THE USA DELEGATION - AND IS PERCEIVED TO BE THE ONLY REAL DRAWING CARD FOR PRES BUSH TO COME TO RIO. AMONG G77 DELS, ONLY MALAYSIA AND INDIA REMAIN ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO LAUNCHING SUCH A CONVENTION - ALTHOUGH BOTH ARE CLEARLY USING IT AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN RETURN FOR ACTION BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES. MOST OTHER G77 DELS ARE AGNOSTIC ON THE ISSUE; ALTHOUGH A NEW TREND AT THIS PREPCOM WAS THE DEFINITE INTEREST DISPLAYED BY A NUMBER OF EQUATORIAL AFRICAN STATES, LED BY GABON, IN LAUNCHING SUCH A CONVENTION. UNFORTUNATELY, MALAYSIA HAS POSITIONED ITSELF AS THE G77 LEADER ON THIS ISSUE. GIVEN THE COMPLETELY INTRANSIGENT APPROACH TAKEN BY THEIR DEL AT PREPCOM FOUR, IT IS CLEAR THAT