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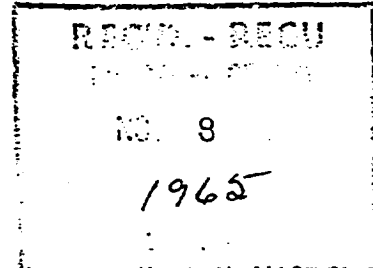
MEMORANDUM/ *Note de service*

DATE: November 7, 1995

TO/À: Doug Russell
A/Director General Air Pollution Prevention
Environment Canada

FROM/De: Pierre Guimond
Manager, Government Relations

SUBJECT/Objet: Report on the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM): Geneva, October 30-November 3, 1995



The Ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM) met in Geneva for its second meeting from October 30 to November 3, 1995. This meeting of the AGBM was the first actual negotiation on the substantive issues and it provided insight into some of the agenda being played out as Parties maneuver to influence an eventual protocol or another legal instrument. While no substantive decisions were made at the meeting, the agenda prepared by the Chairman was clearly intended to move consideration of the issues forward along the process leading to decisions.

The Canadian Delegation made a number of interventions at AGBM 2 which were helpful contributions to the process of moving matters forward while not closing options at this time. The assumption made in the Berlin Mandate is that a strengthening of Article 4.2(a) and (b) will mean hard targets and timetables to reduce net emissions even though such direct language is not used. The environmental community maintained pressure on Parties to see the eventual outcome only in terms of a reductions protocol. While Canada has been careful not to close options, it has not signaled a preference.

It is important to note that for the first time, an alternative way of thinking about the outcome made an appearance at the international negotiations. The approach is analogous to that developed by W. David Montgomery and others. Other Annex 1 delegations indicated a willingness to consider a wider range of policies and measures and, presumably, this reflects a wish for a more rational approach to the economics underlying commitments. From industry's perspective, the most important development at AGBM 2 was the US Delegation's attempt to broaden the thinking by considering alternative options and approaches that have not yet been tabled.