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N A T O C O N F I D E N T I A L

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MEMORANDUM

To: Political Committee at Senior Level

From: The Chairman

POSSIBLE EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS:  
CO-OPERATION TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Attached is a revised version of the section of the report to Council concerning environmental co-operation, which aims at taking into account the amendments suggested at the Committee's meeting of 3rd November.

(Signed) Jörg KASTL

NATO,  
1110 Brussels.

This document includes: 1 Annex

N A T O C O N F I D E N T I A L

EAST-WEST CO-OPERATION TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Introduction

1. The problem of the human environment occupies a rather special place among the range of issues that could possibly be tackled under an expansion of the East-West co-operation. By their very nature, environmental questions call for solutions which transcend national frontiers. Furthermore, as these nuisances directly affect the everyday lives of people in the East and West, the political implications are less pronounced than in the other possible fields for negotiation. Most important of all the East European countries have, on several occasions, expressed interest in taking concerted action with the West to protect the environment. The Soviet leaders did so at the 24th Party Congress and again in subsequent statements. The recent ECE Symposium in Prague also provided an opportunity for the Eastern countries to demonstrate their interest and express their views on this problem.

2. It may therefore be assumed that common ground will be more easily found early on in discussions with the East in this field than in the case of more politically sensitive issues. It will probably be easier to identify the concrete benefits likely to stem from East-West co-operation.

The special nature of environmental questions is also the reason for the fact that the considerations outlined below do not follow exactly the same pattern as that adopted in the other sections of the report.

Allied point of view

3. In any discussions with the East, Alliance members should highlight the steps already taken in the search for an improvement of the environment, either nationally or in co-operation with other members of the Alliance, in particular within the CCMS, whose activities in the careful preparation of a large number of studies have proven to be extremely useful. There is much to be gained from emphasising in this way the painstaking preparatory work which has been carried out over the last few months, not only within the Alliance, but also by the national authorities.

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In any discussions with the East, Alliance members should highlight the steps they have already taken in the search for an improvement of the environment, both nationally or internationally, including in the CCMS. There is much to be gained from emphasising in this way the painstaking preparatory work which experience has shown to be essential if solutions are to be found for environmental problems with international implications.

4. Within the general context of East-West negotiations, environmental questions provide the Allied countries with an opportunity of furnishing additional proof of their goodwill and their desire for fruitful co-operation, from which in actual fact the Eastern countries will derive most benefit.

5. In framing Western proposals, it will also be necessary to take account of the Eastern viewpoints which are summarised below.

Point of view of the Eastern countries

6. General considerations

- (a) The fields of the environment on which the East places the greatest emphasis are the problem of pollution and the preservation of natural resources.
- (b) In contrast to Western proposals, Eastern European statements on this matter appear to be vague and undefined. One reason for this could be that research and action programmes in the East are less advanced than they have been in recent years in the West.
- (c) It is clear that the East would favour a regional approach rather than the so-called global approach. For example, Mr. Kosygin confined his proposals to the European region.
- (d) It is also noteworthy that Soviet leaders do not draw a clear distinction between environmental co-operation and purely economic projects, such as the development of power, transport and communications(1).
- (e) The high cost of corrective measures against pollution seems to be of major concern to the East. Presumably for this reason, the ECE Prague Communiqué favours a preventive rather than a remedial policy.
- (f) Another matter of concern to the East seems to be the impact of environmental policies on foreign trade. The Prague Communiqué stressed specifically that environmental measures should not interfere with international trade.
- (g) Further information concerning the views of Eastern European countries is contained at Annex: Eastern European Interest in Environmental Questions.

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(1) Kosygin's remarks at the 24th CPSU Congress are also illustrative of this point. He stressed that the holding of a CES "could create conditions for solving such problems as the organization of transcontinental carriages, the building of large power transmission lines and establishment on this basis of a single European power grid, leading up to cardinal advances towards solving the problem of the fuel-and-power balance".

Prague Symposium Proposals

7. At the Prague Symposium on environmental problems, the participating nations put forward several proposals concerning the possible forms of international co-operation:

- (a) Co-operation could be realised on a national basis directly between Eastern and Western countries through:

exchange of information;

consultations (if conflicts of interests arose between nations);

agreements between neighbouring countries (when an environmental problem goes beyond national borders: in this case, practical measures would be particularly desirable; in fact, they would be indispensable);

development of a system of generally accepted principles in the social and economic fields.

- (b) Co-operation could also be pursued on a multilateral basis within the framework of the ECE:

the senior environmental advisers of governments of ECE countries might undertake sector studies on ways and means of diminishing pollution and begin some inter-disciplinary studies in that field;

the ECE might study the possibilities of creating an information centre on the environment;

attention was drawn to the need to create teams for inter-disciplinary research on environmental problems and to provide for close co-operation among the scientists of various countries.

II. POSSIBLE FORMULAS FOR CONCRETE EAST-WEST CO-OPERATION

8. Until more sustained contacts have been established between East and West in order to provide a basis for co-operation on the environment, it is probably difficult to determine the framework, within which such co-operation can evolve. Therefore, the following ideas, which have been based on existing practices, either within the Alliance or in other bodies, are presented merely as examples. Only during multilateral talks in connection with a Conference, will it be possible for the Western countries to put forward their suggestions and to ascertain if an overall agreement is feasible on one or other of them. Nevertheless it should be noted that the Eastern European countries have also contemplated working within the ECE. Finally, the Alliance countries, applying their experience gained in COMS projects, could have a considerable influence on the activities planned within the framework of East-West co-operation.

Fora

9. A CES could play an important rôle in adding high-level political support to East-West environmental co-operation. A CES itself would not, however, become actively involved in the actual carrying out of specific projects in this field, but would look to competent international organizations.

10. In seeking appropriate channels for environmental co-operation, a CES should be guided by the proven effectiveness of an organization or method in identifying timely solutions to concrete problems.

11. Depending upon the nature of the environmental co-operative activity which CES participants decide to pursue, a number of forums could be used, including: ECE; IMCO; World Meteorological Organization; FAO, WHO and other UN specialised agencies; ad hoc multilateral arrangements, as appropriate; any machinery resulting from the Stockholm Conference on the Environment.

12. Pilot studies may be developed, following the format of CCMS, and may be associated as appropriate with CCMS if the countries concerned so desire.

Possible rôle of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

13. The Economic Commission for Europe is an existing, UN-affiliated organization with long experience in this field. As noted above, it has established a new subsidiary body, the Committee of Senior Environmental Advisers of ECE governments. The Allies suggested in their last report (paragraph lll, C-M(71)40(Revised)), that at a CES it might be agreed to call upon the ECE to deal with specific questions related to environmental co-operation. Under such an arrangement, participants in the CES could, in the ECE, request study of certain specific topics connected with the human environment, in accordance with procedures to be worked out. Such suggestions arising from a CES could well strengthen the work of the ECE and improve its capabilities to deal meaningfully with some environmental problems.

Pilot nation initiatives

14. The pilot nation concept as developed by CCMS offers potential flexibility in organizing international co-operation on environmental subjects. Pilot projects, although CCMS approved, are primarily national rather than NATO undertakings. Following approved consultative procedures, non-NATO countries (including those of Eastern Europe) have been invited to participate in pilot country activities. Some non-NATO countries have accepted and participated, although none as yet from Warsaw Pact countries. The potential always exists, depending upon the nature of the subject matter, the willingness of the countries involved and the necessary co-ordination within the Alliance, to expand co-operation with Warsaw Pact countries through pilot country projects.

Action by the CCMS

15. Reference has already been made (in paragraph 3) to the active rôle of the CCMS in the study and careful preparation of a large number of environmental questions. Technically, the following alternatives are possible after a Conference on European Security, provided a genuine interest and a willingness to attend have been demonstrated by the Eastern Europeans which might open up perspectives for concrete co-operation:

- (a) The CCMS could invite observers from Eastern Europe to its meetings, together with observers from other appropriate countries and organizations. CCMS meetings are unclassified and take place in a non-secure area.
- (b) CCMS representatives could be authorised to take part in environmental activities held by neutral countries, international organizations and even by Eastern European countries (although this possibility will require further study in the Alliance).

16. With respect to the ideas contained in paragraphs 12 and 15 above, some delegations were of the opinion that it was inappropriate to envisage any rôle at all for the CCMS as such because of the danger that the environmental question would then become burdened with political implications. Given the fact that the CCMS is embodied in the NATO structure, they considered it unlikely that at least the Warsaw Pact countries would be interested in participating in the work of the CCMS. Accordingly, they would foresee that this body would limit itself to promote and stimulate, within the Alliance, wider ranging projects, the implementation of which is left to other organizations.

III. LISTING OF IDEAS WITH A VIEW TO FORMULATING A WESTERN PROPOSAL

General principles

17. As an introduction to the Western proposals, it will be necessary to define the basic principles underlying the desired East-West co-operation. Most of the points to be included in such a definition have already been listed in C-M(71)40(Revised).

Choice of issues

18. It would seem logical to start with issues in which both Eastern and Western countries have already shown interest. Other topics for co-operation which the Allied countries have a special interest in tabling could be added later to the initial list. The following listing of subjects should not, therefore, be considered as limitative. On the other hand, in considering subjects of negotiation with the East in the environmental field, a pragmatic approach should be adopted to take account of specific problems relating to East-West co-operation: these subjects could be taken up in the framework of the CCMS, or in another forum, depending on circumstances.

Areas of co-operation proposed by the East

19. Ocean pollution

(a) Comments by the Eastern countries

In his 6th April, 1971 speech at the 24th CPSU Party Congress, Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin expressed interest, inter alia, in co-operation in order to preserve the purity of the seas bordering Europe.

(b) Western proposals

The pilot country - Belgium - might consider whether and if so, how one or several Eastern countries could participate directly in any of the three present projects:

- establishment of a mathematical model of the North Sea;
- evaluation of technologies for reducing pollution;
- implementation of oil spills elimination policy.

Turkey might consider re-opening the question of the technical participation of Western experts in a Black Sea programme, which is being undertaken by the USSR, Bulgaria and Rumania. Member countries of the Alliance, in particular those of the Mediterranean region, might have an interest in such participation.

The dumping of toxic and solid wastes in recognised and potential fishing grounds, in shallow areas or in the high seas could also be included.

(c) Advantages for the West

Such proposals would offer the advantage of building on the already considerable success the CCMS has enjoyed in this field.

20. Public health

A new CCMS project on Health Care Delivery Systems is under preparation. This project is concerned with the use of modern technology in order to improve the day-to-day health service for a steadily increasing population with steadily increasing demands for medical care. The object in this case is essentially to improve the organization and the technological basis for widespread public health services.

21. Air pollution

(a) Comments by the Eastern countries

The East European countries believe that air pollution problems, including specifically the desulphurisation of fumes, are likely to be more readily resolved through international

co-operation. According to press reports, the Soviets are pursuing studies in air pollution measurement and control; these seem to be similar to those currently underway under CCMS auspices in various member countries.

(b) Western proposals

The suggestions set out in paragraph 58 of C-M(71)40(Revised) could be put forward. It might be added that the European air pollution survey carried out by the OECD could usefully be expanded to include Eastern countries.

Other areas of co-operation of interest to the West

22. Inland water pollution

(a) Advantages for the East and West

One of the aims of the CCMS study directed by Canada is to draw attention to ways in which countries can co-operate in reducing inland water pollution to their mutual benefit. It will develop improved techniques, concepts and principles for fresh water quality management - with special reference to spheres of legal competence.

A number of the large rivers in Europe flow through several countries. Moreover, the dispersion of the effluents has an immediate bearing on the problem of coastal water pollution. This is therefore likely to become a most fruitful field for East-West co-operation. High Soviet officials, in recent talks with Western scientists, have shown interest in clearly defined problems such as the pollution limit in inland waters when all vegetable and animal life is destroyed, or the pollution of major waterways. Such clearly defined problems might be, for example, phosphates and PVCs related to inland and coastal waters pollution. These problems could provide a basis for co-operation. Furthermore, in the recently published programme for intra-CEMA co-operation, one of the aims is to guarantee that the quality and quantity of COMECON water resources - with special reference to the Tisa and Danube basins - are adequate.

(b) Western proposals

Canada the pilot country, may want to invite Eastern experts to participate in aspects of the study where exchanges of information and know-how may prove mutually beneficial.

Contacts could be established between scientists and experts in inter-state bodies which administer or supervise the utilisation of international rivers, such as the Rhine, the Danube or the Elbe.



A link might be created with the pilot study on Environment and Regional Planning. Here, useful exchanges could take place about French experience regarding the setting up of the "Agences de Bassin" and the management of river basins.

23. Highway safety

(a) Advantages for East and West

The Soviet Union and the Eastern Allies are on the verge of developing large-scale car production. Consequently, the volume of traffic, which is still light, is likely to become greater. Any preventive measures that can be taken to reduce the level of casualties to be expected as a result of the increased traffic should be welcomed by the East. Moreover, should new safety laws be adopted in the future, they will undoubtedly have an impact on the development of international trade and, therefore, should also attract interest from the East. Road safety is one of the areas in which CCMS work has progressed fast, and considerable information of great interest has already emerged. Various international agreements have also been concluded, especially as regards the development of an experimental safety vehicle.

(b) Western proposals

Consideration could be given to the following suggestions contained in paragraph 61 of C-M(71)40(Revised): drunken driving and road safety, accident investigation, experimental safety vehicles, pedestrian safety and emergency medical services.

IV. OTHER POSSIBLE FIELDS FOR EAST-WEST CO-OPERATION

24. Disaster assistance programme

(a) Advantages for East and West

Large-scale natural disasters are increasingly disruptive and costly because of urbanisation and economic specialisation. Generally, they cannot be avoided, but prevention programmes can be designed to mitigate their effects. Natural disasters do not normally affect several countries at one time, and therefore remain essentially national in character. International scientific co-operation is indispensable for the research and identification of preventive techniques, and is highly desirable for the development of these techniques and the assistance to be provided after a disaster has occurred. Eastern countries are also facing increasingly rapid urbanisation and economic specialisation; this entails correspondingly greater risks from natural disasters and makes it all the more necessary to prevent them or mitigate their effects.

(b) Western proposals

A first step was the invitation recently extended by the United States, pilot country, to several Eastern governments to participate in an earthquake meeting held in San Francisco under the aegis of the CCMS. Although, generally speaking, the preventive or mitigating aspects of environmental challenges should be considered first, the question of how to deal with natural disasters may be an exception, and the rehabilitation of the people's living conditions, housing, public facilities or land reconstitution would probably take precedence.

25. Urban problems

(a) Advantages for East and West

Urban problems do not seem to be of major concern in Eastern countries where, among other things, adequate housing is still scarcer than in the West. However, the East may be willing to take stock of Western investigations into ways and means of improving and renovating the urban environment and of countering pollution by preventive rather than remedial methods.

(b) Western proposals

It should be recalled that the French project on Environment and Regional Planning specifically aims at developing techniques to prevent pollution as from the inception of a new town. Furthermore, the future results of any pilot projects which may emerge from the Indianapolis Conference will need to be borne in mind in helping determine courses of action.

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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

1. The question of East-West co-operation in the environmental field presents a rapidly changing picture. The first meeting (in November 1971) of the senior advisers to ECE member governments on environmental problems, current bilateral contacts, and preparations for the Stockholm Conference, may provide more definitive information on Soviet and Eastern European interest and capabilities in East-West environmental co-operation. The following background represents information currently available on East European interest and capabilities.

Eastern European Interest

General Comments

2. Some doubt has been expressed as to the genuineness of Eastern interest in the environmental field and in environmental co-operation with the West. This viewpoint cites Eastern unwillingness - in part ideological - to recognize the magnitude of the problem; the lack of existing and effective anti-pollution programmes, and the willingness to sacrifice environmental considerations to the goal of economic growth or, as in the case of the Prague meeting, to subordinate them to political objectives.

3. Even so, there is considerable evidence that East European countries and the Soviets are confronted with an ecological problem of increasing magnitude. Every East European country is faced with serious water pollution. In the USSR this problem is reaching crisis proportions. (One source estimates that only 20 per cent of the annual total of 70 million cubic metres of waste water in the USSR is decontaminated. The remaining 80 per cent, representing millions of tons of pollutants, is dumped into Soviet rivers.) Air pollution is a major problem in most East European cities, and has come to afflict whole regions of Czechoslovakia, Poland and the GDR. Moreover, highway safety, urban planning, and such social issues as drugs, alcoholism, use of leisure time, job satisfaction, etc., are problems of growing urgency in all East European countries.

4. East European countries are increasingly disturbed by these developments. For example, recent analysis of the Soviet press treatment of the environmental issue revealed that beginning in 1968, there has been a growing volume of articles, increasingly alarmist in tone and critical of plant managers and other responsible officials for failure to abide by Soviet laws designed to protect the environment. US Delegates to international conferences have noted what they believe to be a genuine environmental concern on the part of their East European counterparts. Papers touching on environmental questions presented at international fora by East European

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experts are gaining in precision and indicate an awareness of the complexity of the problems. The new CEMA programme adopted at the 25th CEMA Session includes three separate references to CEMA co-operation in the environmental field, along with several additional references to CEMA co-operation on other problems of developed societies such as auto-safety. An additional indication of growing interest is the reorganization which has taken place in the governments of several East European countries to give greater attention to protection of environment.

5. There is growing evidence, in addition to the Kosygin speech of 6th April, that the Soviet Union is willing to co-operate with the West on environmental questions. The 16th July Sixth Dartmouth meeting of Soviet and US public figures in Kiev, e.g. called for better bilateral relations and specifically cited joint work projects in fields such as ecology. The US-Soviet and US-Rumanian exchange agreements which contain environmental clauses (signed 10th February, 1970 and 27th November, 1970, respectively) are working smoothly, and American experts believe both countries are interested in furthering bilateral exchanges in this field. Poland has recently approached the US expressing interest in co-operation in the road safety field. Understandings have recently been reached between the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and its counterparts in several Eastern countries on co-operation in the urban affairs field, and the US Department of Transportation is in the process of concluding agreements with its counterparts in several Eastern countries on rapid transit, including its environmental aspects. The Soviets and, to a lesser extent, the other East European countries are taking a more active rôle in environmental activities of such international organizations such as the ECE and IMCO, and in non-governmental bodies such as SCOPE (Scientific Committee on the Problems of the Environment) and SCORE (Scientific Committee on Research on the Environment).

6. While there is evidence of growing Soviet and other East European countries' concern for the environment and willingness to co-operate with the West in dealing with these questions, there is little doubt that questions of national prestige (such as the SST), economic growth (except where pollution threatens economic growth, e.g. in the fishing industry), and political considerations (e.g. the preparations for the Prague Symposium) take precedence over environmental considerations in all East European countries. It is also true that East European interest in co-operation with the West is not exclusively motivated by an interest in the world's environment. The East European countries probably hope, through a CES, to obtain greater access to Western technology in the environmental field (thus reducing the cost of developing their own expertise). East-West environmental co-operation, in the context of a CES, would also serve certain obvious Eastern European political objectives, including a desire to make a CES more attractive to the West, a desire to create an impression of progress in the environmental field (thus improving their image in the West), the wish to add further to the international status of the GDR, and - in the case of several

smaller East European countries - a desire to reduce their dependence on the Soviet Union. The evident conflict between Eastern European interest in environmental considerations on the one hand and political factors on the other probably stems from a split in Eastern European societies between the scientific-intellectual community and some elements of the political leadership.

Individual Countries

Soviet Union

7. As the most industrially advanced East European country, the Soviets are faced with severe problems in the environmental field, especially water pollution due to industrial waste and sewage, and the related problems of water resource management such as salinization, siltation and erosion. Soviet scientists are also concerned that their programme to divert water to the South may be drastically altering the environment and climate of their Arctic regions. The Soviets recently established a high-level body within the scientific community called the "Joint Council on Problems of the Environment". This project reportedly had the blessing of Prime Minister Kosygin, who directed that the group report directly to the USSR Council of Ministers. In spite of this step, however, the Soviet leadership still clearly places priority on economic growth at almost any cost. The Soviets have been quite active in international bodies, e.g. their co-operation in IMCO in furthering the CCMS/generated oil spills ban. Thus they are willing to act in concert with the West on a multilateral basis when it is in their interest. Even so, they have shown a marked preference for dealing with environmental questions on a bilateral basis. The Soviet-American Exchange Agreement contains a section on "Man and his Environment" which includes oceanography, urban transportation and environmental impact of urban transportation; air pollution; management systems; social security; agricultural economics; and treatment of water in industry.

Czechoslovakia

8. The Czechs have demonstrated a level of concern, and a willingness to deal with environmental questions, perhaps greater than any other East European country. This may be due in part to magnitude of their water and air pollution problems. The Czechs have taken steps to reduce air pollution, and have taken an imaginative approach towards assessing delinquent factories for exceeding maximum authorized levels of pollution of various types. The Czechs have been particularly active in international organizations in dealing with environmental questions.

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Poland

9. Like Czechoslovakia, Poland is faced with severe air and water pollution problems. The Poles have also shown concern for flooding and for such other major problems as auto-safety, work performance and fatigue, alcoholism, urban and regional planning, etc. The Poles recently approached the US to explore the possibilities of co-operative ventures on these and other projects. An agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development already exists, and an agreement with the Department of Transportation seems likely.

Hungary

10. The Hungarians' main concern has been with water pollution, especially of the Danube. Air pollution is a major problem in major cities and some industrial districts. The Hungarians have developed some expertise on the question of pollution of agricultural and forest regions. Hungary's interest in East-West co-operation in the environmental field may be greater than the Hungarians' efforts to date would indicate. If so, their relative inactivity may indicate a reluctance - for political reasons - to get too far ahead of the Soviets in this field.

German Democratic Republic

11. As the most industrially advanced country in Eastern Europe (excluding the Soviet Union), and with the greatest concentration of industry, the GDR faces severe problems with air pollution and especially with water pollution. The East Germans are of course interested in any subject which might be used to enhance their international status, and they evidently sense in the environmental issue an area of Western concern which they can exploit. The sincerity of East Germany's own concern in the environmental area is unknown. However, the available evidence suggests that, as with most other issues in the GDR, the environment is subordinate to the goals of greater international recognition and greater industrial production.

Bulgaria

12. Bulgaria has devoted more attention to questions of the environment recently, although the push for rapid industrialization still takes top priority. In the government reorganization of July 1971, the former sub-cabinet committee for the protection of the environment became a part of a new Ministry of Forests and Protection of the Environment. Whether Bulgaria will agree to joint programmes with the West in this field will depend on the attitude of the Soviet Union.

Yugoslavia

13. Yugoslavia has an active interest in environmental matters, with particular stress on how environmental protective factors can be structured into industrial development. In the field of environmental health, Yugoslavia has co-operative projects under way with both the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The latter Agency now projects a research budget in Yugoslavia of two million dollars for Fiscal Year 1973. Yugoslavia can be expected to enthusiastically endorse increased co-operation with the West in this field.

Albania

14. Albania's attitude towards co-operation with the West is generally negative and Albania has been wary of the CES proposal. There has been no indication that the Albanians have devoted attention to environmental questions. Their economy is the most rudimentary in Europe.

Rumania

15. Rumania's interest in both CES and in environmental co-operation with the West is strong. Water pollution is a particular field of interest, and two United States water pollution experts will visit Rumania in the near future, under the US-Rumanian Exchange Agreement of 27th November, 1970. Rumanian interests, of course, in this and other fields transcend the environmental issue. They seem to see in fields such as environmental co-operation with the West the possibilities of further asserting their independent position in international affairs.

Capabilities

16. In general, East lags far behind West not only in terms of the priority placed on environmental questions but also in their capabilities for dealing with the question. Level of environmental technology - except for a few fields - is unsophisticated when compared with that of the West, although less so in the cases of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany. The Soviets have made considerable progress in the field of solid waste disposal. They are also quite advanced in oceanography and some of this technology may be directly applicable to the problems of coastal water pollution, ocean dumping, etc. Soviet capabilities in seismology and anti-seismic construction are also rather advanced. (The Institute of Earth Physics in Novosibirsk, for example, has developed a computerized system of estimating the frequency of earthquakes and the economic loss due to them); these might be applicable to co-operative efforts in dealing with disasters, including disaster relief, although to date they have shown relatively little interest in discussing this question with the West. The Soviets also have advanced space technology, some of which might be useful in an earth applications programme in detecting pollution and other environmental disruptions.

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17. While the level of Eastern technology in dealing with the environment is substantially below that of the West, the Eastern countries have somewhat more to offer in the field of technological applications. Experts at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, for example, believe that the Soviets and other East European countries have made considerable strides in utilizing the technology at their disposal and in organizing their productive facilities to deal with urban problems. The same holds true for rapid transit. Several Eastern European States have good programmes for emergency medical assistance. The Czechs have a unique programme of disincentives against polluters which has the effect of taxing pollution. Similarly, for several years Czechs and Poles have had ongoing programmes aimed at drunk drivers.