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1- Greenpeace Victory: Coca-Cola Cleans Up

Sydney, Wednesday 28 June 2000. Greenpeace today congratulated Coca-Cola for meeting Greenpeace demands by adopting a new refrigeration policy to reduce its impact on global climate change before the world's first Green Games. Coca-Cola today announced that it would phase out potent greenhouse gas hydroflurocarbons (HFCs) in refrigeration by the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. It will expand its research into refrigeration alternatives and insist that suppliers announce specific time schedules to use only HFC-free refrigeration in all new cold drink equipment by 2004. "Greenpeace has been campaigning globally to change Coca-Cola's polluting HFCs," said Greenpeace Olympics campaigner Rupert Posner. "Today's policy change shows that big industry can be made to abandon dirty practices when environmental groups raise the alarm." In May this year Greenpeace exposed Coca-Cola's use of polluting HFCs in the report Green Olympics, Dirty Sponsors. The report called on Coke to; Commit to 100% environmentally friendly Greenfreeze technology at the Sydney Olympics site and all future Olympic Games: abandon its corporate refrigeration policy of HFC use: specify all new equipment to be Greenfreeze and abandon all CFC/HCFC/HFC use by the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics. "Today's announcement by Coca-Cola fulfils most of these demands and sets a strong environmental benchmark for other industries" said Posner. "Greenpeace will work to ensure that Coca-Cola delivers on its new policy and provides adequate verification and independent monitoring of action. "The policy shift is a tribute to the thousands of people around the world who have joined the Greenpeace campaign at www.cokespotlight.com. to stop Coca-Cola from using dangerous HFC gases which contribute to climate change," said Posner. "If Coca-Cola can make this change, so too can the other Olympic sponsors such as McDonald's."

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2- Senate Considers Restrictions on Use of HCFS

WASHINGTON, DC, June 23, 2000 (ENS) - The U.S. Senate is now considering an amendment to an international agreement on ozone protection. President Bill Clinton sent the "Beijing Amendment" to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Senate on Thursday. The Beijing Amendment was adopted in December by the parties to the Montreal Protocol, an international environmental agreement to protect the stratospheric ozone layer, which shields the Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. To date, 172 countries have ratified the Montreal Protocol. Under the protocol, adopted in 1997, developed countries pledged to reduce production and consumption of ozone depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 50 percent of 1986 levels by 1999. Developing countries were granted a grace period allowing them to increase CFC use before taking on commitments.

The principal features of the Beijing Amendment, which was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program, are the addition of trade controls on hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). HCFCs were adopted as substitutes for CFCs, but scientists have now learned that HCFCs are also ozone depleters. The Beijing Amendment includes production controls on HCFCs, adds bromochloromethane to the substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol, and adds mandatory reporting requirements on the use of methyl bromide for quarantine purposes. "The Beijing Amendment will constitute a major step forward in protecting public health and the environment from potential adverse effects of

stratospheric ozone depletion," Clinton said. By its terms, the Beijing Amendment will enter into force on January 1, 2001, provided that at least 20 parties have ratified the amendment.

Source: ENS, AmeriScan: June 23, 2000, http://ens-news.com/ens/jun2000/2000L-06-23-09.html

3- MALAWI: The Importation of Ozone-Eroding Products in Developing Countries is interfering with implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. German consultant Erwin Protzen warned Malawian industries selling such products that the hindrance could delay the phasing out of ozone-depleting substances by half a century in the developing world. "The delay by developing countries in implementing the protocol is due to continued importation of refrigerators, oils and gases that were phased out in Europe," he said.

Efforts to ban such substances that can cause global warming are also being hampered by unethical traders in wealthy nations that export the substances to developing countries, according to Francis Nselembo, an ozone desk officer in Malawi's Department of Environmental Affairs (Raphael Tenthani, Panafrican News Agency/Africa News Online, 20 Jun).

Source: UN WIRE, 23 June 2000, http://www.unfoundation.com/unwire/unwire.cfm#10

4- India Accelerates Phase-Out Of Ozone Depleting Substances

NEW DELHI, June 20, 2000-India will phase out production of ozone-depleting substances such as chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs) with the help of a US\$82 million grant provided by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The project will be implemented through the World Bank, which is a trustee of the Ozone Trust Fund.

The India CFC Production Sector Gradual Phase-Out Project is the third of its kind to be implemented by the Bank, following similar operations for China and Russia. Together, these three projects will help phase out more than 80 percent of the remaining global CFC production.

"This project is an important undertaking for the Bank in terms of helping to address global environmental concerns," says Naimeh Hadjitarkhani, a Senior Operations Officer in the World Bank South Asia Environment Unit.

The project will provide financial compensation for CFC producing enterprises for meeting annual production ceilings that were agreed between India and the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund. It also includes a technical assistance program, to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Program. This program will help the Indian government implement its comprehensive CFC production monitoring and evaluation system, including a CFC Production Quota System.

India is the second largest CFC producer in the world, following China. Although India's CFC consumption increased significantly in the 1990s, on a per-capita basis, it remains among the lowest in the world. CFC consumption in India has started to drop, in line with its international obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

Globally, CFC consumption has dropped by 90 percent since 1986. While this reduction has been achieved mainly in industrialized countries, consumption in developing countries has peaked and begun to drop, heading for a complete phase-out by 2010 as mandated by the Montreal Protocol.

For more information on the World Bank's work in South Asia, visit www.worldbank.org/SAR

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