

Sustainable Development

SG FYA R/S

Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

Subject: Proposal of Germany for a World Commission on Sustainable Development and Globalization: Replies from Messrs. Desai, Malloch Brown and Töpfer

As requested by the Secretary-General, we received the views of Messrs. Desai, Malloch Brown and Töpfer on the proposal of Germany to create a World Commission on Sustainable Development and Globalization. Mr. Strong was not able to respond, as he is currently hospitalized.

All three were interested in the proposal, but neither was wholeheartedly enthusiastic and each had his reservations. All agreed that the proposal is still somewhat vague and more clarity is needed before a full assessment can be made. Mr. Töpfer was most enthusiastic but also most clear that the timing is not optimal. There is too little time before the Summit and it might be "interpreted as an 'anticipated alibi' for a failure or insufficient success". Mr. Desai argued that the Commission should focus on the economic growth - natural resources interface in the context of interdependence to ensure value added to the ILO commission. Mr. Malloch Brown pointed out that the draft Plan of Implementation has already agreed that the CSD should be at the center of the follow up and it might therefore be hard to gather political support for the German proposal.

Yet, all saw **potential positive aspects.** Mr. Desai noted that the Commission might address the follow up to the Summit and take up the gap in perceptions regarding globalization, which the Summit will not close. Mr. Töpfer thought that it is necessary to assess whether the findings of the Brundtland Report and the concept of sustainable development are still valid. This is especially important because of the changes since 1987 linked to globalization, such as the bipolarity of the world, the new role of civil society and private business and the fear of people to lose their identity. Mr. Malloch Brown argued that the Commission could step away from the politicized debates on globalization and sustainable development, but to do that more information is needed on the mandate.

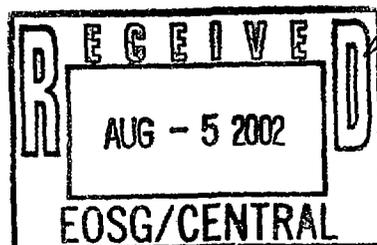
In short, it does not seem possible to endorse or launch such a Commission at the Summit, but the Summit could agree to explore the possibility and mandate of such a Commission.

[Handwritten signature]

Henk-Jan Brinkman
31 July 2002

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[Signature] 3/1

WSSD

DSG
15/11/02

Note to the Secretary-General

Proposal of Germany for a World Commission on Sustainable Development and Globalization

Ambassador Schumacher of Germany, in a meeting with me this morning, mentioned that Chancellor Schröder would be interested in creating a World Commission on Sustainable Development and Globalization (a "second Brundtland Commission"). The Government of Germany, however, would like to have your views before they officially propose this at the Johannesburg Summit and then seek endorsement in a General Assembly resolution.

There is some merit in a commission that would provide a comprehensive view on the framework of norms and institutional support for the process of globalization. Yet, experience suggests that this might be just another process and not provide the impetus to the Johannesburg Summit that Germany envisages. It may also not satisfy the desire of developing countries for concrete actions that would make a difference on the ground. One could also ask what this commission would add to the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization of the ILO.

The Germans are waiting for your reaction before deciding whether to go ahead with their proposal. They would appreciate some feedback before the 17 July meeting.

The Deputy Secretary-General
11 July 2002

Seek the views of Desai/Proctor
and Chongy/Born - w/faith
please - if this has been done,
the ignore.

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The Deputy Secretary-General

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Secretary-General,

The attached note summarizes the views of Desai, Toepfer and Malloch Brown on the German proposal for a World Commission on Sustainable Development and Globalization.

I would suggest that we ask Mr. Desai to get back to the Germans and share with them these evaluations. He could convey that, while there are several potential positive aspects, you cannot at this stage endorse the proposal for a World Commission.

H-OB
**. please*
RF
Louise Fréchette
1 August 2002

- P.S. The German mission has not come back to me. The idea may be fading already.
- Agreed - **. Desai should convey our views.* ~~RF~~ 3/8