

BLUE PLANET PRIZE

OCTOBER 31, 1996

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.

THOSE GATHERED THIS AFTERNOON, INCLUDING THEIR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES, PRINCE AND PRINCESS AKISHINO, ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE IMPORTANCE WE ALL PLACE ON THIS GREAT WORK. I ALSO WISH TO RECOGNIZE PRIZE RECIPIENTS, DR. BROECKER AND THE M.S. SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION, AMBASSADOR SAHDEV FROM INDIA, ASAHI GLASS CHAIRMAN FURUMOTO, AND THOSE MANY DISTINGUISHED YET UNNAMED GUESTS WHO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.

I GREW UP IN THE BEAUTIFUL AMERICAN STATE OF MINNESOTA, ENJOYING THE ABUNDANCE OF THE NATURAL WORLD. WE DON'T OFTEN THINK OF THE BEAUTY AROUND US AS PART OF A FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT, BUT THE MORE WE LEARN ABOUT IT THE MORE WE KNOW THAT OUR SHARED WORLD VERY MUCH NEEDS OUR HELP.

ONE KEY TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS EDUCATION. WHEN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF THEIR ACTIONS AND LEARN WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP, ALL OF US COME OUT WINNERS. I APPLAUD THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION FOR DOING SO MUCH TO EDUCATE US -- AND FOR RECOGNIZING THE PARTICULARLY OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF BLUE PLANET PRIZE RECIPIENTS.

WHEN RECIPIENTS ARE AMERICANS, I AM DOUBLY PROUD. DR. WALLACE BROECKER OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HAS DONE RESEARCH ON THE INFLUENCE OF OCEAN CURRENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, DEEPENING THE WORLD'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE "GREAT CONVEYOR BELT" PHENOMENON, AND SHOWING AGAIN THAT WE ALL SHARE THE SAME ENVIRONMENT.

AMERICA'S TOP ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER, VICE PRESIDENT GORE, NOTED THAT "THIS WELL DESERVED AWARD IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST HONORS BESTOWED ON THOSE WHO WORK TO PROTECT THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT." HE ADDED THAT "DR. BROECKER'S LEADERSHIP AS A SCIENTIST IS MATCHED ONLY BY HIS DEDICATION AS AN EDUCATOR. HIS LEGACY IS NOT ONLY HIS OWN WORK, BUT THAT OF HIS STUDENTS AS

WELL." AS YOU MAY KNOW, VICE PRESIDENT GORE HAS ASKED ME TO DELIVER HIS PERSONAL LETTER OF THANKS TO DR. BROECKER.

DR. BROECKER SAYS THAT WE ARE PLAYING A DANGEROUS GAME WITH THE FUTURE BY ADDING TOO MUCH CARBON DIOXIDE (AND OTHER TRACE GASSES) TO OUR ATMOSPHERE. WE OWE IT TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN TO LISTEN TO HIS ADVICE.

THE U.S. AND JAPAN ARE WORKING TOGETHER VIGOROUSLY ON THESE CRUCIAL ISSUES. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS ONE OF THE KEY AREAS OF U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION UNDER THE COMMON AGENDA. WE ARE ALSO ACTIVE IN MULTILATERAL FORA ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE VERY IMPORTANT COP-3 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN KYOTO IN DECEMBER OF 1997.

OUR TWO GREAT NATIONS MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER ON THESE CRUCIAL QUESTIONS AND I KNOW THAT WE WILL. AGAIN, PERMIT ME TO THANK THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION FOR SPONSORING THIS UNIQUE BLUE PLANET PRIZE.

THANK YOU.



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