

51. Mr. Mareth spoke of the problems in Cambodia that his country was trying to address as quickly as possible. A strategy had been adopted to tackle coastal zone issues.

52. Mr. Maruyama brought the perspective of a developed country to the table. He spoke of the high priority Japan accords ocean research, technology and observations. Japan is also supporting the cooperation between the space-based and *in situ* ocean measurements.

53. Mr. Scully reminded the meeting of the intergovernmental agreements that had been motioned since the Rio Conference. In his opinion, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which came into force in 1994, formed the basis for subsequent agreements. In particular, the several fisheries agreements, signed and awaiting ratification, were a direct follow-up of the UNCLOS provisions. Regional agreements on fisheries and other environmental issues were an important adjunct to global conventions.

54. Finally, Mr. Choe, described the situation in Korea, which had a huge 10% of its economy related to the marine environment. Environmental security was an obvious priority of his country.

55. In summing up, the moderators agreed on the following highlights from the discussion and recommended actions:

Disputes amongst countries are an obstacle to environmental cooperation and their resolution is therefore important to the resolution of regional environmental problems.

ACOPS was seen as a valuable mechanism to enhance cooperation and communication amongst nations. Both technology and research are required to address environmental problems so that knowledge and capability are used together.

Global fisheries agreements are now in place awaiting ratification, setting the agenda for future work. More needs to be done to protect pelagia and fish habitat.

Regional agreements are an effective way for nations to cooperate on environmental issues. Governments need to harmonise their policies to ensure the effective interaction of the respective agreements.

Governments need to act now and will need much public pressure to initiate appropriate actions.

#### F. Panel on the Indian Ocean

56. Mr. Peter Mokaba, Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism of South Africa and Mr. Terry Jones, Director of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Planning and Environment of Seychelles chaired this session of the Panel on the Indian Ocean.

57. The panellists were: Prof. Dr. Khosla Ashok, President, Development Alternatives, India; Mr. Joseph Belmont, Minister for Administration and Manpower, First Minister Designate, Seychelles; Dr. Robert Corell, Head of Geoscience Directorate, National Science Foundation, USA; Mr. Bernardo Ferraz, Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique; Congressman Peter King, House Foreign Affairs Committee, New York, USA; Dr. Mok Mareth, Minister of Environment, Kingdom of Cambodia; Mr. Philip Reynolds, Manager, Strategic Initiative for Ocean & Coastal Management, UNDP; Congressman Chris Smith, House Foreign Affairs Committee, New Jersey, USA; and Dr. Plodprasop Suraswadi, Director General of the Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand.

58. The panel discussed ———

#### G. Panel on oceans and the Russian Federation

Dr. Alexander Solovyanov, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on the Protection of the Environment of the Russian Federation and Senior Policy Adviser to ACOPS,

Prof. Vladimir Tetelmin, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Ecology of the State Duma, Russian Federation, and Coordinator for ACOPS' Russian Programme, and Prof. Vitaly Lystsov, Chairman of ACOPS' Arctic Working Group chaired this session of the Panel on Oceans and the Russian Federation.

The panellists were: Dr. James Baker, Administrator, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA; Mrs. Siri Bjerke, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway; Mr. Mikhail Faleev, Deputy Minister of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and the Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM); Ms. Sherri Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defence (Environmental Security), USA; Dr. Ljubomir Jeftic, Chairman, ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention; Prof. Dr. Willem J Kakebeke, Assistant Director General for the Environment, Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment, The Netherlands; Admiral Igor Kasatonov, First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy and Chairman of Section No. 2 on Sea and Ocean Studies in the Russian Federation Committee on Science and Technology; Dr. Laurence Mee, Coordinator, GEF Programme for Environmental Management and Protection of the Black Sea, and Chairman, ACOPS Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy; Mr. R. Tucker Scully, Director, Office of Ocean Affairs, Department of State, USA; Mr. Vitaly Sevastianov, Member of the State Duma, President of GLOBE, Russia; Colonel Viktor Sheremetyev, Ministry of Defence, Russian Federation; Senator Ted Stevens, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman, Alaska, USA; Congressman Curt Weldon, Chairman, Subcommittee of Research and Development of the Committee on National Security, House of Representatives, Congress of the USA, and ACOPS' Vice President from the USA; Dr. Leslie Whitby, Director of Environment and Renewable Resources in the Northern Affairs Programme, Canada; and Congressman Don Young, House Resources Chairman, Alaska, USA.

The panel discussed ———

#### H. Presentation of recommendations and the Potomac Declaration

Congressman Curt Weldon, Dr. Jeftic, Prof. Per Wrammer, and Dr. Sebek chaired this session which was devoted to the presentation of the draft recommendations. The Recommendations are attached to this report as Annex II.

The draft of the Potomac Declaration was prepared on the basis of presentations and statements made during the meeting and on the basis of position papers distributed at the Conference and other relevant materials.

The draft of the Potomac Declaration was discussed in detail and numerous amendments were agreed upon. The Potomac Declaration is presented in Annex IV of this report.

#### H. Closing of the conference

The closing session, at which short statements were made by ———, was chaired by ———.

It was agreed that the Conference was a great success and that it was not important to implement the recommendations contained in the Potomac Declaration.

#### FURTHER REPORT ON CONFERENCE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the conference that my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] just talked about. We are very blessed in this country to be surrounded by oceans and pay a lot of attention to it, but we really do not pay enough attention because the seas of the world are important to keep us alive. This is a water planet, we are, 78 percent of this globe is water and it is threatened.

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One thing that we found out in this conference is that everybody in the world agrees with that and wants to do something about it. If we could just dedicate enough of our commitment to research and science using the military, using the scientific community, the academic community, using the commercial community, and unlock the information about the ocean, at the same time to gather a lot more. In fact, this country spends more on studying the seas of outer planets than we do in studying our own seas, and that is wrong.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] did an incredible job for this country by leading this conference in the last 3 days. And I just want to urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, that this is not a partisan battle, this is a world struggle to try to keep our oceans clean, to try to keep our atmosphere from getting overheated so that the oceans will rise, we know those things are going to happen. We have to combat it. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] for his leadership and I look forward to working with my colleagues.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GOVERNOR PETER TALI COLEMAN OF AMERICA SAMOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a distinguished Pacific leader, the late