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THE WORLD BANK

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President Wolfensohn - Briefing Book for President's Meetings - Briefing Material
Video Recording and Remarks - Launching of World Dams Commission - February

Video Recording/Remarks: Launching of
World Dams Commission

Thursday, February 12, 1998

2:30 - 2:50 p.m.

MC 12-700 Conference Room

Archive Management for the President's Office

Document Log

Reference # : Archive-02062

128

Edit

Print

A. CLASSIFICATION

- Meeting Material
- Trips
- Speeches

- Annual Meetings
- Corporate Management
- Communications with Staff

- Phone Logs
- Calendar
- Press Clippings/Photos

- JDW Transcripts
- Social Events
- Other

B. SUBJECT: VIDEO RECORDING/REMARKS: LAUNCHING OF WORLD DAMS COMMISSION // JDW TO MAKE INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT // (B) (N) TIME: 2:30 - 2:50 P.M. VENUE: MC-12-700 (EXC. CONF. RM.) CONTACT: TIM CULLEN @ 31728 // JOHN BRISCOE @ 35557 IN ATTENDANCE: JDW, CAROLINE, JOHN BRISCOE NOTES: BRISCOE TO BRIEF JDW PRIOR TO EVENT - FOLLOWED BY TAPING // CATHY LAMB HANDLING A.V. ARRANGEMENTS (B) BY BRISCOE // DUE: TUESDAY, FEB. 10 // EXC: CA, ALI (2/9)

DATE: 02/12/98

Brief includes:

- Talking Points for JDW's televised remarks
- Commissioners' Bios
- Endorsement of Candidates

C. VPU

Corporate

- CTR
- EXT
- LEG
- MPS
- OED
- SEC/Board
- TRE

Regional

- AFR
- EAP
- ECA
- LAC
- MNA
- SAS

Central

- CFS
- DEC
- ESD
- FPD
- FPR
- HRO

Affiliates

- GEF
- ICSID
- IFC
- Inspection Panel
- Kennedy Center
- MIGA

D. EXTERNAL PARTNER

- IMF
- UN
- MDB/Other IO
- NGO
- Private Sector

- Part I
- Part II
- Other

E. COMMENTS:

WORLD COMMISSION ON DAMS:
Talking Points for Mr. Wolfensohn's televised remarks

I am delighted to be associated with the launching of the World Commission on Dams.

I think we are particularly fortunate that Professor Kader Asmal (phonetic: KAH-DER AAS-MAAL) has taken on the task of chairing the commission. In him, we have an individual uniquely suited to this demanding task.

Professor Asmal has a long and very distinguished record in human rights and the struggle against apartheid. Since becoming Minister of Water and Forestry in President Mandela's cabinet, he has led a pathbreaking process of reforming the process of water resources management in arid South Africa. The hallmarks of his leadership have been insistence that water be managed in the interests of all in South Africa, that the environment be respected, and that there be broad participation in the reform process. He has also had to deal first-hand with the difficult tradeoffs relating to large dams in Southern Africa.

We are all familiar with the debate over large dams:

- Proponents highlight the benefits -- an enormous source of clean, renewable energy, water for irrigation, and water for people.
- Opponents highlight the costs -- environmental and social.

The debate has become increasingly acrimonious and unproductive and it is clear that we have to find a way forward that ensures that future dams -- irrespective of who builds them -- provide the maximum benefits with the least cost to people and the environment.

Last spring, in Gland, Switzerland, the World Conservation Union and the World Bank brought together about 40 people from all stakeholder groups to discuss the issue of large dams. This group of affected peoples, environmentalists, governments, financiers, and dam professionals agreed that there was a need for global standards on:

- When large dams are appropriate and
- How they are to be planned, designed, built and operated.

Over the past 10 months the IUCN and the World Bank have worked with this group of 40 people (and many others) in constituting the World Commission on Dams. This has not been an easy process, because it has had to deal with mistrust built up over

decades of antagonism. But, I am delighted to say, it has culminated in agreement of all parties in both the mandate for, and composition, of a World Commission on Dams.

Much of the credit for having pulled this off must go to Professor Asmal.

Let me simply observe that this is a most remarkable group of distinguished leaders, bringing a wide range of experience and perspectives to this complex task. And let me salute the commissioners for agreeing to work, on the basis of consensus, in coming up with standards which we trust will provide a framework for all future dam investments.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the contribution of those who have got us this far. In particular I would like to thank the World Conservation Union, but also each of the 40 people who met in Gland 10 months ago, and who have all contributed to making the commission a reality.

Finally, let me say in a parochial vein that I am proud of the role that the World Bank has played in getting the Commission launched. And, as I have said to Professor Asmal before, all of us at the Bank stand ready to help in whatever way the Commission deems fit, to ensure a successful outcome.

Annex for Mr. Wolfensohn's information -- Biographies of the Commissioners

THE WORLD COMMISSION ON DAMS
Professor Kader Asmal, Chair

Donald J. Blackmore is the Chief Executive of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, in Canberra, Australia. He has brought principles of environmentally sustainable water management to a major river basin initially focused on hydroelectric power generation. He is currently serving as well as a member of the International Advisory Panel for the Aral Sea.

Joji Carino is Executive Secretary of the International Alliance of Indigenous-Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forest. Her work began as an activist and analyst of indigenous peoples in her native Philippines, and has effectively carried her agenda into global fora, now serving as a member of the Executive Committee of Survival International for Tribal Peoples.

Jose Goldemberg is a professor at the University of Sao Paulo, and has been recognized for his work on the future of energy globally. He has been Rector of his University and Secretary of Science and Technology for the federal Government of Brazil. He currently serves in senior capacities with the International Energy Initiative and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Judy Henderson is Chair of Oxfam International, as well as a Board member of the Environmental Protection Agency of NSW, Australia, and of Greenpeace International. She has a distinguished record of involvement on social and environmental issues internationally.

Laxmi Chand Jain is the Chairperson of the Industrial Development Services consultancy organization in India. He has served on the Central Planning Commission and Planning Boards of several states. He received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1989. He has recently served as a member of the Government of India's Independent Committee to review the Sardar Sarovar Project and is now Indian High Commissioner in South Africa.

Goran Lindahl is the President and CEO of ABB Asea Brown Boveri, Ltd, with headquarters in Zurich. An electrical engineer by training, he has held positions of increasing responsibility in industry, from technical positions to now one of the most important management and financial positions in the energy industry.

Deborah Moore is the Senior Scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund. Her work has centered on water policy reform in the United States and internationally. In the western US, she has worked successfully with Native American communities and the US Congress to design water rights arrangements. Internationally, she has provided substantive technical analysis on several large-scale river development projects.

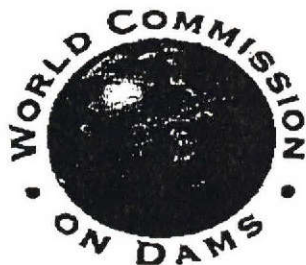
Mehda Patkar is a social scientist and the founder of the Narmada Bachao

Andolan (Struggle to Save the Narmada River) in India, an affected people's organization campaigning against the construction of dams on the Narmada River. She is also a founding member of the National Alliance of People's Movement and is currently National Coordinator of the Movement. She is internationally recognized as a campaigner for human and political rights.

Wolfgang Pircher is a civil engineer with extensive experience in the hydropower industry. Until 1997 he was Executive Director of the Tyrolean Hydropower Company in Austria and is now a consultant in the field of hydropower. He is a past President and current Honorary President of the International Commission on Large Dams. He was the principal author of the ICOLD position paper on environmental matters.

Thayer Scudder is a Professor of Anthropology at the California Institute of Technology. His work on social issues associated with river basin development has been definitive in the field. His work in Africa is best known, but he has undertaken studies of sustainable resource use in all parts of the world with a focus on resettlement and social issues related to infrastructure development.

Shen Guoyi is Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Water Resources, People's Republic of China. She is in charge of international cooperation for the water sector in China, and has extensive experience with large scale water management projects in China.



INTERIM SECRETARIAT
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IUCN – THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION
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<http://www.iucn.org>

FAX MEMORANDUM

TO: James D. Wolfensohn
President, The World Bank

FROM: Richard E. Bissell, Coordinator

SUBJECT: Endorsement of Candidates for the World Commission on Dams

DATE: Monday, 02 February, 1998

NUMBER OF PAGES: 4

PLEASE FORWARD THIS FAX TO THE PRESIDENT ON TRAVEL. The Director-General of IUCN intends to contact him by telephone later this week.

Mr. Wolfensohn:

As this list of prospective Commissioners was developed only recently during a consultative meeting of stakeholders in Cape Town, we have asked all nominees to confirm their willingness to serve in writing. We have received written confirmations from all but four by today, and of those four, three have given a firm oral commitment, with letter to follow. Only one (Medha Patkar of India) has been out of touch in the villages and therefore has not received the Chair's invitation. Nevertheless, we expect positive written responses from all the nominees shortly.

Richard Bissell



IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Mr James D Wolfensohn
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington DC 2043
USA

Mr David McDowell
Director General
IUCN - The World Conservation Union
28 rue Mauverney
1196 Gland
Switzerland

31 January 1998

Dear Messrs. Wolfensohn and McDowell,

As the Co-Chairs of the Interim Working Group of the World Commission on Dams, we are pleased to inform you of the results of our work of the last nine months, and to recommend to you a list of highly qualified individuals to name to the Commission.

As you will recall, the process began with the workshop co-hosted by the World Bank and IUCN in Gland in April 1997, out of which came a recommendation for a World Commission on Dams. The participants in that decision, which formed a Reference Group to provide ongoing guidance and support to the process of creating the strongest possible Commission, have all maintained their commitment. That in itself is remarkable. The diverse set of stakeholders represented a broad range of views with affected peoples (such as Narmada Bachao Andolan and Sobrevivencia), governments (such as China, Ghana, and Lesotho), and the private sector (ABB, Lahmeyer, Electricite de France, and Harza). These interests are often antagonistic to one another, but have continued to work together constructively towards a common outcome.

Through involvement of this group, the Interim Working Group has been able to achieve consensus on the mandate for the Commission, selection of a highly qualified Commission Chair, and the proposed composition of the Commission. While a few participants at both ends of the spectrum still have concerns, overall the consensus is strong. We can now recommend that the enterprise is worth a substantial investment of time and resources over the next two years.

The proposed membership of the Commission has been subject to numerous reviews. The Reference Group of stakeholders has been steadily involved in these discussions for several months. Professor Kader Asmal, the Chair of the Commission, has played an essential part in enabling us to put forward with confidence our recommendation to you.

We are also confident of Professor Asmal's ability to lead this Commission in an innovative manner of working which will result in constructive outcomes for all stakeholders. Our work together during the last months has convinced us that we have a rare person to lead this Commission, who is judicious, committed, knowledgeable, and objective.

We therefore have no hesitation in requesting you to endorse the list of Commissioners, so that Professor Asmal can formally appoint them to the Commission.

Yours sincerely,


for John Briscoe
The World Bank


George Greene
IUCN - The World Conservation Union

MEMBERS OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON DAMS

Kader Asmal (Chair) is the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry for the Republic of South Africa. He has led the fundamental review and reform of South Africa's water resources management policy. Prior to his return from exile in 1990, he was a law professor at Trinity College Dublin for 27 years, specializing in human rights, labor, and international law. Professor Asmal received the Prix UNESCO for the advancement of human rights in 1983. In 1996, he was awarded the Gold Medal Award for conservation from the World Wide Fund for Nature – South Africa.

Laxmi Chand Jain (Vice-Chair proposed) is the Chairperson of the Industrial Development Services consultancy organization in India. He has served on the Central Planning Commission and Planning Boards of several states. He received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1989. He has recently served as a member of the Government of India's Independent Committee to review the Sardar Sarovar Project and is now Indian High Commissioner in South Africa.

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