

The 'greening' of U.S. foreign policy

Secretary of State James Baker's speech, to the National Governors' Association meeting in Washington, on Feb. 26 betrays the Bush commitment to the "ecology" cult:

In 1908 at the White House, President Theodore Roosevelt convened a conference on the conservation of natural resources. . . . [It was] the single greatest stimulus to the creation of a responsible *national* environmental policy for the United States. Now, as we plan ahead for the next century, we must remember the lessons of the 19th and 20th centuries.

From America's native peoples, we have learned that we cannot take nature for granted. We must cherish it and respect its God-given dignity. From our forefathers, we have learned that nature is *not* a cornucopia of unending supply. We must give back to the Earth if we are to continue to draw from it. . . . Finally, we know from our *own* experience in this interdependent world, that we must "think local and act global." We cannot serve *America's* environmental interests effectively unless we address *worldwide* environmental concerns.

The foreign policy objectives of the United States are grounded in our basic values. We seek to encourage democracy, foster prosperity through economic liberty, ensure security, and improve effective international cooperation that addresses our common interests. What is *not* well-known, however, is that our environmental concerns have a major role to play in the achievement of each of these objectives. . . . That is why the President and I are committed to ensuring that environmental issues are fully integrated into our diplomatic efforts.

This is the greening of our foreign policy.

So *first*, I would like to discuss how our efforts to *consolidate democracy* are linked to our environmental efforts. . . . The conservation movement is one of the greatest success stories for grassroots democracy in the United States. When we defend and promote democratic and environmental values, we express the essence of what we believe is essential for all nations to make progress—developed and developing nations alike.

Let me give you a vivid example of how democrats and environmentalists make common cause. In Eastern Europe, environmental concerns were championed by democratic opposition groups long before the people power revolutions of last fall. In fact, environmental issues helped galvanize the push for democracy. It was an international environmental conference in Sofia, Bulgaria that helped to spark the popular revolution. The Ecoglasnost Association, formed in antici-

tion of that conference, is now one of Bulgaria's largest grassroots organizations and democratic opposition groups. So in Bulgaria, Ecoglasnost gave the term "Green Revolution" a whole new meaning.

The environment is clearly one of those points of mutual advantage between East and West that the President and I are pledged to seek as we try to leave the Cold War behind. To help the Eastern Europeans help themselves in the crucial area of environment, we are offering our whole experience in dealing with these issues. We are offering to the emerging democracies grants and concessional loans; joint projects, training and technology; as well as guidance in drafting laws and regulations. For instance, we have proposed a joint U.S.-Czechoslovak study to determine the most cost-effective way to deal with Czechoslovakia's serious air pollution problems. . . .

That brings us to our *second* major objective: *promoting prosperity and economic liberty*. Just as political freedom and economic liberty go hand in hand, so too, do sustained growth and a healthy environment. . . . These relationships are symbiotic. They are expressed by the concept called "sustainable development."

Our *third* key objective is *ensuring global security*. . . . Traditional concepts of threats need to be updated and extended to include the new transnational dangers—environmental degradation among them. . . .

Our *fourth* objective is *enhancing effective international cooperation*. . . . More than ever before, nations . . . are working together on global environmental problems. Let me give you two examples. One is global climate change. Just a few weeks ago, the President addressed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He was the first head of state to speak before the panel. And his presence demonstrated the seriousness with which our government regards this question The President reiterated our policy toward climate change. We call it the "no regrets" policy. . . .

Just what do we mean by "no regrets"? We mean that while we are pursuing the serious scientific research that is critical to any responsible approach, we're also hedging our bets. . . . We mean that the United States is making a major financial commitment to analyze these scientific issues, increasing our funding for the U.S. Global Change Research Program to over \$1 billion. And we mean that we are prepared to take actions that are fully justified in their own right and which have the added advantage of coping with greenhouse gases. . . .

If the results of international scientific research demonstrate that climatic conditions will not change in a significant way, we will have "no regrets" for these actions because they provided other benefits. If, on the other hand, the findings of our research turn out to be more troublesome, we will have taken prudent steps toward solving the problem in a cost effective way. We urge other nations to join us in our "no regrets" efforts. . . .