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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
December 29, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR NANCY J. RISQUE

THROUGH: RALPH C. BLEDSOE *Ralph Bledsoe*
FROM: ROBERT E. JOHNSON *Robert E. Johnson*
SUBJECT: The Global Climate Protection Act

Issue: What steps should the Administration take in response to a statutory requirement that the President propose a national policy on global climate change?

Background: On December 22, 1987, the President signed the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Title XI of which is the Global Climate Protection Act. This Act requires the President, through EPA, to propose a national policy on global climate change (date unspecified). The State Department and EPA must submit reports to Congress within two years, concerning scientific understanding of the greenhouse effect and U.S. efforts to gain international cooperation in limiting global climate change. State is to promote the early designation of an International Year of Global Climate Protection.

Current Administration policy is that more research is required before a policy on global climate change can be established. Administration research efforts on global climate change are coordinated by OSTP through its Committee on Earth Sciences (CES). A report submitted to Congress earlier this month said that an International Year of Global Climate Protection is not warranted at this time. Discussions with OMB indicate that research funding is increasing from \$57 million in FY87 to \$112 million in FY88.

Discussion: Several organizations (State, Energy, and OPD) have informally suggested that the DPC consider this issue. (State plans to send a memo formally requesting this.) Their rationale is that, given international and Congressional pressure for action, it may be wise for the DPC to consider the issue before Congress acts further. OSTP has strongly opposed the Global Protection Act and consideration of policy actions on global climate change, arguing that the science is not understood well enough to formulate meaningful policies. Although the statute requires policy consideration of this issue, DPC action now could be premature before the science "is ready."

Recommendation: I recommend that, after receiving the State Department memo, the CES brief the ENRE Working Group on the status of global climate change research. The working group could recommend whether the DPC should consider the issue.