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Australia

Consulate Melbourne has spent the past several weeks, interacting with key business leaders in the mining, smelting, and manufacturing industries on the climate change issue. It reports that most individuals in the sector are both surprised and satisfied with PM Howard's aggressive pursuit for "differentiation". (SBU)

The major greenhouse gas emitting companies have been suavely lobbying the GOA *since two years before the Rio Earth Summit* to ensure the continued economic viability and growth of their investments. They are extremely satisfied that their early efforts appear to have paid off, and are overwhelmed by the PM's personal commitment to their interests (who is otherwise normally perceived to be largely indecisive). Interestingly, two-thirds of Australian company directors support emissions targets, and 70% favor a legally binding agreement. (SBU)

They recognize that Australian NGOs have yet to make a full force pitch to the public on the issue, hence there has yet to be a serious open debate on the matter. But, reportedly, such NGOs are small and often divided, and climate is an extremely complex issue on which to persuade the average Australian. (SBU)

New Zealand

GNZ MAFT officials remain unprepared to react officially to our National Security Exemption proposal. Informally, they see merit in our initiative, and note that it would not impact on New Zealand emissions, given the GNZ's modest involvement in peacekeeping operations. (C)

Japan

Kyoto city officials plan to feature special tours of its famous pavilions and temples for COP-3 delegates, believing the ancient wooden buildings could dramatize the potential dangers of global warming.

Consulate-General Osaka-Kobe suggests the U.S. delegation to Kyoto, in prepared remarks and press statements, make reference to the threat posed to these structures (built in the 17th century and which have survived World War II and are designated World Cultural sites) by possible increased frequency and severity of East Asian typhoons. (U)