

**SECRETARY POWELL DELIVERS REMARKS AT EARTH OBSERVATION  
SUMMIT SPEAKERS: COLIN L. POWELL**

**4,741 words**

**31 July 2003**

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**English**

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**U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE**

**SPENCER ABRAHAM U.S. SECRETARY OF ENERGY**

**DON EVANS U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE**

(UNKNOWN): Good morning, and welcome to each and every one of you, our delegates from the nations of the world and representatives from our international organizations. It's indeed a great honor and a pleasure to be at the podium today to open this historic occasion and to welcome each one of you on behalf of our co-hosts, the secretary of state, the secretary of commerce, and the secretary of energy of the United States of America.

And also, in addition to welcoming each of you this very important occasion where we have an opportunity to work together to benefit the peoples of the world, I'm most delighted and thrilled to be able to introduce our first speaker and the senior co-host of today's event.

A professional soldier and a professional diplomat and a public servant for many, many years, well-known to all of you in this room, I believe, who's been dedicated to not only working for the good of the United States but for the good of the world in many different areas of disciplines and interests that all of you share and we all share today. And also, a former boss of mine and just a great individual all around. It's my pleasure to introduce the secretary of state of the United States of America, Colin Powell.

(APPLAUSE)

POWELL: Well, thank you very much, Admiral, out in back there, Connie(ph), it's a great pleasure to be here and especially to be introduced by Connie(ph), somebody that I've worked with very closely in my days as a soldier. Connie(ph) was an important member of my staff when I was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, we went through some challenging times together and many of you will remember the Gulf War and he was on my staff at that time.

And I'm so pleased to see him still in government and in this important position that he now holds. And I'm very pleased to co-host this event with Spence Abraham and Don Evans and my other colleagues who are here at the table. And especially to welcome all of you to the Department of State. It is unique that you would get three American Cabinet officers hosting an event like this, but it is that important to us and for us. And the leadership of my two colleagues, Spence and Don, have been instrumental in advancing President Bush's forward-looking climate research and energy strategy.

And it is a special pleasure to greet and welcome so many distinguished guests who have gathered for this conference. All one has to do is look around the room to see the importance that you all have attached to this gathering. I'm very pleased that so many ministers, heads of international organizations, heads of

development banks and other funding agencies and leading scientists from around the world have assembled for this conference.

And we are all here because we share a deep interest in increasing human knowledge about our planet and we want to act on that knowledge to address the compelling environmental and development concerns we face together. The future of countries -- large and small, developed and developing -- depends upon the global ecosystem that embraces and sustains us all. Whether we are talking about geophysics or geopolitics, our 21st century world is profoundly interconnected.

President Bush knows that these complex interdependencies hold far-reaching implications for well-being here at home and in the world at large. In such a world, the strong partnership between science and statecraft is critical to meeting a range of global challenges from sustainable development to preventing the spread of infectious disease and to protecting the environment.

POWELL: I cannot claim any extraordinary powers of foresight, only happy coincidence, when I say that the interrelationships we increasingly find between science and state craft, between geophysics and geopolitics, validate my very untraditional career path that bring me here today.

Last year, I amused and probably alarmed and shocked our good neighbors across the street at the National Academy of Sciences by revealing that I am a scientist. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the City College of New York, and my great contribution to the field of geology is that I never entered it upon graduation.

(LAUGHTER)

The City College of New York gratefully saw me leave the doors with not only a Bachelor of Science in geology, but, thank heavens, also a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. And they were pleased it was that career I followed and not geology.

But as one final tilt to all the education I received at CCNY in the field of geology, I became an infantry officer and acquainted myself with various rock formations -- dirt, jungles, deserts

(LAUGHTER)

and rivers around the world pursuing the national security of my nation. Luckily for everyone, I did go straight into the Army. But you know, you don't need to have a geology degree or to be secretary of state to survey the contours of our 21st-century world and see that science and technology must inform and increasingly inform and support good decision making by political leaders, corporate executives, and civic-minded nations and citizens.

We all need a better understanding of the earth and its systems. Such an understanding must begin with earth observations. With the development of ground-based and satellite-based systems that can document environmental changes in our land, rivers, forests, atmosphere and climate. We need to be able to see, hear, taste, smell and measure the blue orb we have been given and that we call earth. Already we reap daily benefits from earth observations in weather predictions, improved agricultural production and natural disaster management.

But much more can be done and much more must be done. Earth observations can better the lives of ordinary people in every land. Just think how a farmer in East Africa or a forest manager in the southwestern United States could benefit from access to improved forecasting of rains or drought conditions.

POWELL: The world meteorological organization estimates that farmers get \$15 of value out of every dollar spent on forecasting the weather, a 15-to-1 cost-benefit ratio. Think also of the misery and the lives that could be saved and the misery avoided if disaster managers in earthquake-, flood- or hurricane-prone regions could have many days or even weeks of advance warning. Or if we could better predict malarial outbreaks and other sources of infectious disease outbreaks that threatens the world being of citizens around the world. A more systematic, open, and timely sharing of existing earth observations information would greatly improve responses to natural hazards or disasters. We would gain even more dramatic benefits if we put in place a comprehensive earth observation system that will give us a complete picture of what is happening on our planet.

Consider the impact a coordinated earth observation system could have in just one crucial sphere alone -- development. In this area alone, development, statecraft and science can combine to unlock enormous human potential and help millions of people lift themselves out of poverty onto a path to prosperity. Over the past several years, the international community has built a new consensus on how best to approach the challenge of development. Last September at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, governmental and non-governmental representatives all agreed that wise economic management, investment in people and care for the environment are inextricably linked. They are essential elements for successful development.

The summit participants recognized that sound science must underpin decision making in each of these key areas. They also recognized that developmental challenges are much too big for governments to tackle alone. Strong public, private partnerships are essential. They are vitally needed. The Congo Basin Forest Development Initiative launched by the United States in South Africa last year is just such a public, private partnership. So too, is the White Water to Blue Water Partnership, which promotes integrated watershed and marine management and includes the establishment of an oceans observation system for the Caribbean region.

POWELL: The Geographic Information For Sustainable Development Initiative is another example of an innovative private-public partnership. This initiative makes satellite imagery available via the Internet to people around the world. Just imagine the power of that system so that anybody with access to this marvelous Internet can get information that just a few years ago would only have been found in scientific circles or in the tightest circles where people did not make maximum use of this kind of information.

Policy-makers, users, scientists, any citizen can now get instant access to satellite photography and data, and can apply this information to map watersheds, to plan agricultural strategies and to trace urbanization trends. This

initiative brings the power of technology to the most distant corners of the world, to people who just a few years ago we would have considered totally isolated from the information age.

Beyond international partnerships that promote sustainable development, the United States is engaged in a host of other environmental and economic partnerships with governments, and nongovernmental actors as well, around the world. I will just mention two of them. One is the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy; a way to foster worldwide coordination of the research, development and application of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. The other is the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum. It is designed to develop technologies to capture, separate, transport and store carbon emitted by the combustion of fossil fuels before that carbon can enter the atmosphere. We hope that these kinds of initiatives and so many other things you'll be talking about at this earth observation summit will trigger you to think of other ideas and other productive partnerships that might be entered into. And particularly, we hope that this summit will take critical first steps toward creating an integrated earth observation system. Such a system would bring together national and multinational surface, airborne and space-based measurements of the Earth into a cooperative network of systems. We could build on already established partnerships and platforms to build a powerful system of systems. An integrated earth observation system would vastly increase our store of knowledge and leverage billions of dollars of worldwide investment.

So there is much for you to do here over the next two days. And I encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity to exchange experience, ideas and insight. It is now my honor to introduce your next speaker, a man who is committed to understanding our Earth and turning that knowledge into human well-being.

POWELL: Under the leadership of Spence Abraham, the Department of Energy has been a recognized leader in science for the service of mankind. My buddy, Spence, is a man of vision and creativity. He is an effective and passionate advocate at home and abroad for cooperation for the private and public sectors in the field of energy. And it has been a genuine pleasure for me to work side by side with him over the past two years.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for being here. And it is now my pleasure to introduce my colleague and my friend, the secretary of energy, Spence Abraham.

Thank you so much.

(APPLAUSE)

ABRAHAM: Thank you so much, Secretary Powell. And let me begin by welcoming all of our guests here today. I see a number of familiar faces in this room and we are very excited to have you all visit us for this Earth Observation Summit. Many of the people here are individuals with whom our department has already embarked upon a working relationship, either in the form of science and technology dialogues or other projects along the technology side or various energy technology undertakings. And so, we are very pleased to have the chance to welcome you here today.

And I want to thank Secretary Powell and the entire team here at the Department of State for their hospitality. Also, want to acknowledge and thank the work of Dr. Jack Marburger, who is the president's science and technology adviser, James Connaughton, who is the chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality. They, along with our other speakers this morning have helped to bring together this event so successfully today.

The development of an international, comprehensive, integrated and sustained earth observation system is in my judgment a pivotal event. It is pivotal to advancing the work which we have begun under President Bush's climate change research initiative. It is pivotal to the various tasks which Secretary Powell just outlined that will benefit all the nations of the world, and in particular help to address some of the challenges we face in dealing with questions that relate to sustainable development.

The benefits of an earth observation system to understanding various important phenomena such as land use change, crop production, energy and water use, disease outbreaks and natural hazards are vitally important -- not just to the people of the United States but to people throughout our planet.

ABRAHAM: This important summit comes just one week after Secretary Evans and his department took the lead on another large step forward with the announcement of the Climate Change Science Program that we have embarked upon here as part of our climate initiative; a 10-year strategic plan, which he may comment on, I suspect, to address many of the, as yet, unknown answers to science of climate change.

And as the secretary of energy, I'm especially pleased to note that our department's climate research programs will support the scientific aims of the global observation system that is the subject of today's summit. Our department's research observations are used to improve climate models, understand the behavior of carbon emitted to the atmosphere, and develop improved strategies for carbon sequestration.

Along with Secretary Evans, I co-chair the Committee on Climate Change, Science and Technology Integration, a project line which in our government has pooled the resources of a number of our departments and agencies to address the challenges before us. In specific terms, my department has the responsibility for overseeing the development and the application of technology that comes with every increase in our scientific understanding of climate change.

The Earth Observation Summit is yet another example of our strategy of pursuing bilateral and multilateral cooperative approaches to speed progress on a variety of issues, including climate change: an approach which we have taken and employed consistently and, I think, with good affect in advancing technology development related to a variety of issues. In fact, just this year, in the year 2003, I think we have seen the launching of several exciting new technology initiatives that are excellent examples of this approach in which I have great expectations for. Secretary Powell outlined them briefly, and I want to comment on them as well.

Last January, in his State of the Union Address President Bush announced his plan to place the United States' focus on hydrogen technology, and in particular the development of a new automotive fuel, hydrogen, as well as its application to stationary power generation. You all know the potential benefits that that will lead to not just for America, but for the world. Not only will it on the one hand lead to vehicles which emit no greenhouse gases, but it also will tremendously enhance energy security.

ABRAHAM: And we have committed a total of \$1.7 billion over the next five years for research and development work on these initiatives. But we strongly believe that greater opportunities lie in multilateral and bilateral work to advance the science and this technology. Toward that end, just last month we signed an agreement with the European Union to collaborate on hydrogen research, and as Secretary Powell indicated, later this year the United States will host an international partnership for the hydrogen economy summit.

We already have commitments from ministers from a number of interested countries to join in officially establishing such a partnership so that we might all work together to accelerate the work that will be done to more rapidly bring about the development of hydrogen fuel cell technologies and their applications, both to transportation as well as other powered generation.

But the transportation sector, while having great potential for the reduction of greenhouse gases and pollution, is not the whole story. Science and technology present us with tremendous possibilities for reducing or eliminating greenhouse gases and pollution produced while burning fossil fuels to generate electricity. Carbon sequestration or the capture and permanent storage of produced carbon dioxide has rapidly grown in importance to become one of our highest clean coal priorities. We're currently working with private-sector partners here in America on 65 carbon sequestration projects and participating in two international projects. And we have increased our own carbon sequestration budget in my department by 60 percent.

But we recognize that the potential here for collaboration and for an even greater impact comes, as Secretary Powell just indicated, through the multilateral approach. And so, last February the State Department and the Department of Energy announced a carbon sequestration leadership initiative to help unite interested governments on the development of carbon sequestration technologies. And then, last month at a ministerial level carbon sequestration leadership forum here in Washington, more than a dozen nations plus the European Union formally joined us in this cooperative effort.

The same time we announced that leadership initiative, we also announced another highly significant development in this field. And that was a project which the Department of Energy will lead with private sector and international support. It's a project we contemplate over the next 10 to 15 years will involve an approximately \$1 billion investment to design, build, and operate the world's first coal-fired, emission-free power plant. One operation of this plant, which we call "Future Gen," will be the world's cleanest full-scale fossil fuel power plant.

Using the latest technology it will generate electricity. It'll sequester greenhouse gases and provide a new source of clean-burning hydrogen as well. And, of

course, as many of you know, we are actively engaged along with a number of people as we have rejoined the international thermonuclear experimental reactor project, ITER.

All of this, I think, reflects our view, which I know is widely shared in this room, that potential for international collaboration in addressing these challenges is great and the time to do it is now. In short, we're already engaged in an aggressive and active basis at a multi-prong campaign to try to address these challenges through technology development. We're trying to bring together where it's appropriate as many partners to this challenge as we can as we are doing in the scientific realm here today. And so, even as we embark on an expansion of these science initiatives, we are making rapid progress on the technology side.

A global earth observation system will add immeasurably to that progress on several levels. The information provided by the system will help in the formulation of sound, science-based environmental policies. And beyond that, it will help us to verify things like the compliance with laws and regulations to help us assess the effectiveness of our policies as well as to spot evidence of any unexpected results or unintended consequences.

On the technology side, monitoring and verification are key elements of our program on greenhouse gas mitigation technologies.

ABRAHAM: And so today's summit is very important. It's especially timely, as the United Nations prepares to review the adequacy of the Earth's climate observation system at the ninth conference of the parties to the U.N. framework on climate change this December. And for all of these reasons, we are anxious to work together with you and hope that today's participants will join together at the end of our work to adopt the declaration of the Earth Observation Summit when the deliberations conclude.

Again, let me close by just reemphasizing to all of you that we already have been working with how much we value that collaboration and how excited we are about the opportunities presented today and other challenges which lie ahead. I'm confident that not only will this undertaking be successful, but that we will, as Secretary Powell indicated, come away from today's sessions and these sessions with new ideas for additional areas in which we might all work together.

It's now my pleasure to introduce the next speaker. He is a man who I have the great honor to work with on a number of projects, because we have been designated as co-chairs of the president's climate change, science and technology undertakings. We alternate the chairmanship. And under his leadership, we have made tremendous advances on a variety of fronts. When he's not working on climate change and the issues that we are here today to discuss, he also heads the Department of Commerce of the United States, which means that he's able to integrate in a very, I think, effective fashion the concept of sustainable development and economic growth. And he brings tremendous leadership to all of those challenges. And so, I ask you to join me in welcoming the United States secretary of commerce, Secretary Donald Evans.  
(APPLAUSE)

EVANS: Thank you all very much.

Spence, thank you for your leadership on this vitally important subject to all of us in this room and people all around the world, like you.

I see a number of friends of mine in the audience. It's certainly good to have you here. I look forward to meeting more of you. I'm inspired by the attendance this morning. I'm inspired and uplifted by the interest that we feel from around the world to work on this most important issue for the future of all mankind.

Likewise, I want to thank secretary of state for hosting us today, and his leadership on this issue. He's leading the world in so many important areas right now. And I thank him for his particular focus on a global observation system and global climate change and the vision and leadership he brings to the effort. I want to also acknowledge my friend, Sean O'Keefe, behind me, who's the director of NASA. And the tremendous amount of energy that Sean and NASA puts into this effort. It is indeed a collaborative effort within the United States government. When we arrived here some two and a half years ago, there were some 13 agencies that worked on the issue of global climate change. And under President Bush's leadership, he believed that those agencies ought to be brought together under one organization so that all agencies could work together in focusing on this most important issue.

And as Spence said, we share the co-chairmanship of the Global Climate Change, Science and Technology Initiative on behalf of the president. And we're honored to do it. And we have so much help from so many areas of the government, including Jack Marburger, who's up here with us, and Jim Connaughton, as well, who is head of CEQ for the president.

Thank all of you again for coming. Good morning to you. As I like to say, I don't think there's anything more important than measuring the heartbeat of Mother Earth as we continue to move into the 21st century. I believe we have an historic opportunity to do just that, to do an effective job of measuring the heartbeat of Mother Earth in the years ahead. We can make significant progress toward creating a true global observation system that can benefit all mankind.

Many pieces of this global observation system are, quite frankly, already in place. New technologies are providing unprecedented views of changes occurring on Earth. The data obtained is invaluable to all of us. We use it to estimate crop yields, monitor weather, monitor water and air quality, improve airline safety and to enhance weather predictions all around the world. However, as you know, critical gaps do exist in the earth observation network. Because of this, we don't have the comprehensive and sustained real-time data on the state of the world's atmosphere and oceans.

As a result, we don't have much of the information or sound science needed to make policy decisions affecting economic growth, the environment and public health and safety.

On a personal note, the value of the Earth Observing System was evident to me recently when Hurricane Claudette struck my home state of Texas. Two people lost their lives.

One hundred years ago -- 100 years ago -- before we were able to track storms and issue warnings, a hurricane hit the state of Texas, killing over 8,000 people. The world population is projected to nearly double, to 12 billion people, as we move on into the 21st century. This growth will bring increasing demands for food and clean water and clean air and energy and safe and healthy habitats. This demand will mean enormous strains on our natural resources. And I would say to all of you that it's time for us to close the data gaps that exist out there. It's time to move the Earth Observation System to the next level, move it to the next level so we can benefit not only this generation, but the generations of your children and your grandchildren.

And it's why the federal government of the United States spends \$4.5 billion -- \$4.5 billion -- each year on global climate change science and technology. And it is why President Bush has reallocated \$103 million to the high priority of a global observation system.

More accurate weather watches and warnings can not only help save lives, but also billions of dollars in property damage. In the United States, more accurate hurricane forecasts alone have prevented nearly \$2 billion in yearly damage cost.

Because of more accurate El Nino forecasts we are now reducing damage losses to our economy by 13 to 16 percent. The reason we have more accurate El Nino forecasts is because we have monitors in the oceans where El Nino begins and occurs.

In its latest report, the National Research Council estimates that as much as 40 percent of the U.S. economy is weather- and climate-sensitive.

EVANS: At risk are industries, such as agriculture, transportation, tourism, construction and insurance. In pure economic terms, reports say that national institutions that provide weather, climate and water services to their citizens contribute some \$20 billion to \$40 billion each year to the national economies.

Clearly, there are humanitarian and economic benefits to having information from thousands of individual technological assets to draw a more complete picture of weather and climate change and the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

However, there's yet a third reason for taking this next step, and it's advancing earth science. There are still many unanswered questions about the ecosystem-based processes that define our world. Sir Isaac Newton wrote of "the great nation of truth that is still to be discovered." A comprehensive Earth Observation System can bring some of these truths to light.

There's the power in this room to make a difference. There is the power in this room to begin a journey that will connect our world in ways that will help protect our citizens, our fellow mankind and our environment while growing our economies for generations to come, while growing our economies and lifting the good people of this world up out of poverty, helping lead this world to a place our children and all of our grandchildren would all want to call home.

We look forward to working with you. And again, thank all of you for coming. Thank you for your interest. And thank you for your commitment to this most important task. God bless you.

(APPLAUSE)