Kelly Sims, 12:00 PM 7/29/97, Gwire news today

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> *16 CLIMATE CHANGE: CHAFEE MAKES PITCH TO MANUFACTURERS
> Senate Environment Committee Chair John Chafee (R-RI) "is trying to enlist factory owners" in an effort to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions (Paul Leavitt, USA Today, 7/29).
> Speaking yesterday in Rhode Island to the National Assn. of Manufacturers, Chafee said improving industrial processes to use less energy can boost productivity, profitability and competitiveness. He said the scientific evidence indicating a global-warming trend has become "ever stronger" and added his hope that international negotiators will craft a treaty with "realistic, achievable and flexible but binding emissions targets for signatory nations."
> The senator also called for "joint implementation" programs, which would allow industrial nations to meet part of their emissions-reduction obligations by reducing emissions or enhancing forest "sinks" in developing countries, where costs are lower (CongressDaily/A.M., 7/29).
> The seventh round of talks aimed at producing a climate-change treaty convene in Bonn, Germany, from 7/31 through 8/7.
> Key issues at this point include targets and timetables for emissions reductions; the degree of flexibility nations will have in achieving them; and the extent to which nations may have differing targets (UN Environment Program release, 7/28).

> *17 CLIMATE CHANGE II: SCIENTISTS PONDER CLOUDS AND ICE
> Aircraft contrails "may be inducing enough extra cloudiness over heavily traveled Northern Hemisphere regions to significantly warm the ground below."
> Patrick Minnis, an atmospheric scientist at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA, last year conducted satellite observations of aircraft contrails, finding "solid evidence" that they induce much more cirrus-cloud coverage than previously thought. Since cirrus clouds tend to be "climate warmers," Minnis calculates they may cause as much as two-thirds of the warming that has "already" been attributed to carbon-dioxide buildup in the atmosphere over the last century. But scientists need to do further research to determine what's going on, the Christian Science Monitor reports (Robert Cowen, 7/29).
> ALASKAN GLACIER IN RETREAT
> "North America's largest glacier is melting fast, and..."
scientists say global warming ... may be to blame." The 1,930-
square-mile Bering Glacier near Cordova, AK, has thinned by up to
180 meters and has lost some 50 square miles in surface area over
the last century, Greenpeace International said yesterday
(Anchorage Daily News).
 USA Today devotes its weekly science page to the efforts of
a National Science Foundation team that is studying ancient
climatic changes by examining ice cores in Greenland (Jack
Williams). (All cites 7/29.)

*18 OZONE LAYER: EUROPEAN OFFICIALS BREAK CFC SMUGGLING RING
 European customs officials, joined by the European
Commission's anti-fraud unit, have broken a major smuggling ring
that illegally brought ozone-depleting products into Europe from
China, according to EC spokesperson Sophie Petzell (Agence France
Presse, 7/25).

German authorities have arrested the ring's alleged
organizer on charges of importing 630 tons of CFCs and 365 tons
of halons, relabeling them as hydrofluorocarbons, and reselling
them over the past year in several European countries. CFC
purchasers in several countries could also face charges.

Although smuggling rumors have circulated in Europe since
the EC banned CFCs and halons in 1995, "there has been little
hard evidence of illegal trading" until now. And the report that
the CFCs originated in China is "extremely ominous," according to
Duncan Black, of the Royal Institute for International Affairs in
London. If China is supplying the CFCs, Black said the problem
could persist until 2010, when China and other developing
countries must abide by an international ban on ozone-depleting
substances (ENDS Environment Daily, 7/28).

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