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Remarks by Senator Edmund S. Muskie to U.N. Officials on Global Environment

Edmund S. Muskie

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U.N. Environment
May 21, 1971 (N.C.)

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President
of the General Assembly, Judge Jessup
~~Mr. Chairman~~, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On various occasions, the Secretary General of the United Nations has spoken positively and prophetically of the need to see this entire globe as a habitat that must serve the needs of mankind. I know of few men in the world today who more fully exemplify Plato's ideal of statesman-philosopher than U Thant. It is a privilege to be his contemporary, and an honor to share this platform with him.

I am pleased, too, to have been able to meet Mr. Maurice Strong, Secretary-General to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to be held in Stockholm. The fact that Mr. Strong was willing to give up his distinguished career in government in Canada in order to take on this assignment is a tribute to the persuasive powers of the Secretary-General - just as it is an authoritative assurance of the high quality of the preparatory work going into the Stockholm meeting.