



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

CLASSIFICATION//HANDLING RESTRICTION
CLASSIFIED//,NODIS

03/10/2020

☐ Read by _____

INFORMATION MEMO [or NOTE] FOR: UNDER SECRETARY HALE (P)

FROM: Kristin Abkemeier, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: A Snapshot from the State Department on Science Diplomacy Today

BLUF: Thank you to NCSE and to Michelle Wyman for inviting me here today. I appreciate being with this audience for the 30th Anniversary of NCSE because of who you all are and how important what you do is to the work we all do. It is great to be here today. So why am I so grateful? I have the privilege of supervising a Bureau of negotiators. When we walk into a room wielding our science—your science—things happen.

The United States has long relied on science to inspire and inform stronger environmental policy. We were among the first in the world to recognize the value of a clean environment and to take federal action to protect it. The Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration were established in 1970. Legislation to protect our air and water and marine mammals soon followed. In 1973, Congress established my bureau—the Bureau of Oceans, and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) at the U.S. Department of State—with the charge of having wide-ranging global responsibilities to promote and advance U.S. interests, including science, pollution, conservation, health, and space to name a few.

Since 1973, OES has been the face of American leadership in the international environmental policy arena. OES issues are front and center on the international agenda and are recognized worldwide as critical foreign policy and security issues. Science remains incredibly important to our foreign policy. Our science is a powerbroker; it will break a policy logjam, or catalyze a policy decision, precisely because it is trusted, and we continue to rely on it constantly.

Attachment(s):

1970, 1973, 2020, ASEC, Climate and Environment, Information Memos, information technology, National Oceanic and Atmospheric, Science and Technology, SENV, SHLH, The Ocean and Polar Affairs

All Audiences, U.S. Department of State

Kristin Abkemeier, Ph.D.

03/10/2020

CLASSIFICATION//HANDLING RESTRICTION

Classified by Kristin Abkemeier, Ph.D.

E.O. 13526, Reason(s): 1.4 (justification section), (justification section), and (justification section)

Declassify on: 03/10/2020