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SENATE LEADERS APPOINT OBSERVER GROUP FOR UN CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell and Republican Leader Bob Dole today appointed 13 members to the Senate Observer Group to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

"The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development meeting is one of the most important international meetings since the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. It is a unique opportunity for nations of the world to make substantive progress on key issues, including climate change, biodiversity, ocean and forest protection, and overall international environmental cooperation," said the Senators in a joint statement.

"This observer group will serve as a vital link between the conference and the Senate in our continuing efforts to meet today's challenges of protecting the environment and our natural resources."

Senator Al Gore of Tennessee will serve as Chairman of the Observer Group. Other members of the group are: Max Baucus of Montana, John Chafee of Rhode Island, Pete Domenici of New Mexico, Bob Graham of Florida, Alan Dixon of Illinois, Jake Garn of Utah, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, Steve Symms of Idaho, Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming, Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, and Tim Wirth of Colorado.

Senators Mitchell and Dole will serve as ex-officio members.