

15/15. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN PESTICIDES

AWARE of the harmful effects of certain pesticides on human health and the environment;
INFORMED of the dramatic extent of poisoning due to these substances particularly in developing countries, as revealed by the World Health Organization in a recent report, and documented by information from non-governmental organizations in these countries;

CONCERNED about the long-term detrimental effects of intensive use of these substances on ecosystems through destruction of non-target species, particularly predators, and contamination of food chains;

ALSO CONCERNED about the growing resistance of numerous target species of pests to these substances;

NOTING that hazardous substances, several of which are banned in their country of origin for health and environmental reasons, are being exported to developing countries which lack information on their effects and lack the capacity to enforce adequate controls on pesticide use;

HAVING REGARD to the urgent appeals for a regulation and restriction of the export of potentially harmful chemicals by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 34th session in Resolution 34/173 of 17 December 1979 and by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its 8th session in Resolution 8/8 of 29 April 1980;

The General Assembly of the IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christ-church, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CALLS UPON all countries to prohibit the export of pesticides which are banned for domestic use in their country of origin, except:

- (a) for specific purposes for which no alternate means of pest control are available;
- (b) at the explicit request of the government of the importing country; and
- (c) following appropriate notification by the exporter of the health and environmental consequences of the product;

SUPPORTS the Hazardous Substances Export Policy adopted in 1980 by the U.S. Government and regrets that this policy has since been abandoned; and

URGES particularly the Member States of the European Communities to take appropriate measures for the control of pesticides export.

