Message

From: Kasman, Mark [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=419892C6FDC74087B775ABB683821344-MKASMAN]
Sent: 3/31/2017 4:05:23 PM
To:
CC: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: RE: Vatican Voices Concerns on U.S. Climate Policy

Thanks for keeping us posted...

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:50 AM
To: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov> Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Cc: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: FW: Vatican Voices Concerns on U.S. Climate Policy

There is more to this story now...Turkson has clarified. More info asap.

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From: SMART Core
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 5:05 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: Vatican Voices Concerns on U.S. Climate Policy

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Action Office:	POL_ECON, PAS

MRN:	17 VATICAN 44
Date/DTG:	Mar 31, 2017 / 311504Z MAR 17
From:	AMEMBASSY VATICAN
Action:	WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.:	13526
TAGS:	SENV, PREL, KRGA, EPA, VA
Captions:	SENSITIVE

Subject: Vatican Voices Concerns on U.S. Climate Policy

1. (SBU) **Key Points:**

- The Vatican is concerned about President Trump's environment policies.
- It hopes that U.S. bishops and others will raise their voices in defense of the obligation to fight climate change and, in time, can persuade the President to change his position.
- The Vatican is also worried about increased military spending at the expense of environmental protection, diplomacy and foreign aid. **End key points**

U.S. Environmental Policy "Challenge" to Vatican

2. (SBU) Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, told a group of reporters March 30 that the President's position on immigration and his efforts to roll back U.S. commitments on environmental regulations are "a challenge for us." Turkson said the Vatican was hopeful that things can change. The first sign of hope, he said, is the growing number of "dissenting voices," who are calling attention to the scientific facts surrounding climate change and the ethical obligation to act to protect the environment for current and future generations. "This, for us, is a sign that little by little, other positions and political voices will emerge, and so we hope that Trump himself will reconsider some of his decisions," the cardinal said. Turkson noted that some American bishops had already spoken out about the President's position, "and this could have an influence." Perhaps, Trump will come to see that not all the promises he made in the campaign would be good for the country, he added.

China Stepping Up

3. (SBU) A change in position is not impossible, Turkson said. "There is another superpower -- China -- that is rethinking its position." The cardinal noted that China has allocated funds for programs to reduce dangerous emissions. "While Trump is moving in the opposite direction, there is another great power in the world, China, which is showing different signs, as if America is creating a vacuum that China is filling," Turkson said. He said the Vatican hoped that positions by China, which is investing heavily in the export of clean energy products such as solar panels and wind turbines, "would provoke a re-consideration of the positions of some countries, in this case the United States." The Vatican was also "very worried" that the U.S. budget, released on March 16, increased military spending at the expense of environmental protection, diplomacy and foreign aid, he added.

4. (SBU) **Comment:** While the Vatican has been relatively quiet on Administration policy, it is likely to speak out more frequently and forcefully in response to perceived "threats" to issues it holds dear: migration, refugees, foreign aid and development, and protection of the environment. Of note is the call for the U.S. bishops to "raise their voices" in defense of the obligation to fight climate change – a reflection of general Holy See policy to encourage local efforts to deal with national issues. End Comment.

Signature: BONO

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Released By: VATICAN:Sapp, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Action Post: NONE

Dissemination Rule: POL_ECON, PAS

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