

## Protection of the Environment in the Arctic

- The Government of Finland is deeply concerned for the deterioration of the environment in various parts of the Arctic region, where the ecosystems are exceptionally fragile. (Acid rains in the Finnish Lapland).
- The 8 arctic countries have the primary responsibility to tackle the problem of pollution there and have the best knowledge to counter it.
- The ever worsening development calls for coordinated action mainly upon the 8 arctic countries
- Possible ways of action are foreseen:  
exchanges of data on emissions and information on research work done by individual countries; international convention on concrete measures to be taken for the protection of the arctic environment.
- In order to arrive to these results an international conference might be needed. Finland would be ready to host such a conference.
- The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), now under discussion, might be instrumental to prepare scientific ground for concrete action.
- Finland, when taking the lead in this initiative, is open minded as to the modalities and welcome reactions from other arctic countries.

### Initiation of 'the Finnish Initiative' (AEPS)

The text above is the note forwarded by Ambassador Rajakoski, Finland before travelling around to Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Arctic countries.

The basic idea is similar to the contents of the discussions between Ambassador Rajakoski and Director Odd Rogne of the Norwegian Polar Institute during the Nordic Consultative Meeting on Polar Affairs (Ny-Ålesund, March 1987).