

OPS
cc Master.
Subject: Env. Affairs



10 DOWNING STREET

cc. PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T182/84.

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 October 1984

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 2 October about air pollution.

I entirely agree with you that European countries need to work together to solve the long term problems of air pollution. The United Kingdom has a good record of concern about domestic air pollution and we have always acted, and acted effectively, to control problems when circumstances warranted. Our position on the long term international air pollution problems which we all now face is exactly the same; there are clearly strong grounds for concern and effective solutions have to be found. For my part, I am happy to pledge that the United Kingdom will continue to work to find those solutions both through domestic research and through work under the aegis of the United Nations Convention.

Meanwhile, I believe that current scientific evidence gives grounds for the view that reductions should be made not only in sulphur dioxide but also in nitrogen oxide emissions within a reasonable timescale. Having considered our industrial prospects and other factors, the United Kingdom therefore intends to make substantial reductions in these emissions by the turn of the century. We shall naturally stand ready to take further action in the light of changing scientific evidence.

His Excellency Mr Kare Willoch

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

OPS