

W.0366

15 May 1984

PRIME MINISTER

## LONDON SUMMIT: POSSIBLE BRITISH INITIATIVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

I strongly support the Foreign Secretary's proposal for an initiative on the environment at the London Summit, for three reasons:

1. There is currently a plethora of rather arbitrarily defined proposals for international action on environmental problems, eg the European Community directives. There is a real need for a parallel international approach on research to better define the problems and to provide an authoritative scientific background against which proposals for action can be judged and sensibly implemented.
2. The initiative also concentrates on an area in which the UK has a strong position. For example, our climatological research is extremely highly regarded, and UK scientists have made major contributions to recent international scientific debates on acid deposition.
3. The Technology, Growth and Employment Working Group Report highlights the environment as an area in which internationally co-ordinated research and development is especially significant, because of the nature of the problem. The proposed initiative would have support from the Group's Report to the Summit.

The approach suggested in paragraph 1 of this minute is, I believe, an effective counter to any allegation from other countries that our initiative is a delaying tactic, a possibility



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which the Secretary of State for the Environment rightly draws attention to in his minute of 15 May.

*RBN*

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Cabinet Office  
15 May 1984



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