SCOTTISH OFFICE WHITEHALL, LONDON SWIA 2AU The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP Secretary of State for the Environment Department of the Environment 2 Marsham Street London SW1 6 November 1986

Der Nick,

ACID RAIN: DRAFT EC DIRECTIVE ON LARGE COMBUSTION PLANTS

I refer to your minute of 29 October, seeking agreement to a brief for the Minister of State's negotiating position on this Directive at the Environment Council on 24 November.

I think your proposal offers some prospect of avoiding isolation of the UK position and of attracting limited support. It is however the minimum package which is likely to carry any credibility, and it should therefore not be watered down.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, to other members of E(A) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

MALCOLM RIFKIND

ENVAFFARS

ACID KAINS

PTS