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THE PRIME MINISTER

21 July 1988

Dear Ambassador,

I am responding to the letter of 27 June from Senator Baucus and 37 other United States Senators about the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

I fully agree on the importance of meeting the target date of 1 January 1989 for entry into force of the Protocol. On 16 June European Community Environment Ministers not only agreed that the Community itself and all the Member States should ratify the Protocol before the end of 1988 but also approved proposals for its implementation throughout the Community. The United Kingdom's own Parliamentary procedures for ratification are complete and we are asking our Dependent Territories whether they wish to be included in the United Kingdom's ratification. European Community Environment Ministers also agreed that the Community and those Member States not already having done so should ratify the Vienna Convention before 1 October 1988. As you may know, the United Kingdom itself ratified the Convention as long ago as May 1987.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Thatcher

His Excellency The Honourable Charles Price II

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