

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

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Subject cc MASTER  
cc OPS

Letter

from Herr Dr. Helmut Kohl,

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

to

Her Excellency The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland

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Dear Prime Minister,

Last year at the Economic Summit in Paris we dealt in particular depth with international environmental problems. We agreed that drastic measures are needed to maintain the ecological equilibrium of our planet.

The forthcoming Economic Summit in Houston/Texas provides a welcome opportunity to reassess the pressing problems of global environmental change, critically evaluate the situation and develop internationally agreed, binding strategies for the effective protection of man and his environment. We must view the threat of climate change as a global challenge to all mankind. The world expects the Seven Summit Countries to come up with far-reaching, specific proposals.

In order to counter effectively worldwide environmental problems, we must extend our global change research to cover socioeconomic aspects and expand international cooperation to form a dense research network.

At the same time, however, to comply with the precautionary principle, the knowledge and warnings from the scientific community should be the spur even now to initiate more effective measures against the depletion of the ozone layer, against a further intensification of the greenhouse effect and against the

destruction of forests, particularly the tropical forests. Here, too, productive international cooperation both among industrialized countries and with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as with the developing countries is indispensable.

The States party to the Montreal Protocol are at present in London for their second meeting. I feel it important that progress be made at this meeting as regards the inclusion of additional substances that deplete the ozone layer and on the tightening of the targeted reductions for these substances.

The Federal Government is therefore committed to a perceptible tightening of the Montreal Protocol. Our aim is to halt completely the production and use of CFCs by 1997 if possible, but certainly by the end of the century. It is planned to halt the production or use of these substances in the Federal Republic of Germany after 1995. The Federal Republic of Germany will thus face up to its responsibilities as one of the major users and producers of CFCs.

Internationally binding regulations should be aimed for with regard to other substances which affect the climate as well. In particular, steps need to be taken effectively to limit anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at the earliest possible date. This obligation is incumbent first and foremost on the major industrialized countries.

I would therefore be very gratified if the message from the forthcoming meeting in Houston were that the UN Conference "Environment and Development" in 1992 should adopt not only the planned World Climate Convention, but at the same time an implementing protocol with radical measures to limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. My government is resolved to effect a marked reduction in energy-induced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and recently decided that conditions must now be created for a 25 pc reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as compared to 1987 by the year 2005.

A particular concern of mine as regards climate protection is the maintenance and propagation of forests. Here, too, I feel the Summit must call for internationally binding regulations on the

protection of forests. In doing so, we should support the approach taken under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of lending legal substance to forest protection in the form of an implementing protocol to be concluded at the same time as the World Climate Convention scheduled for 1992. It should incorporate commitments on forest conservation and the establishment of new forest areas. Further, the second World Climate Conference in the autumn of 1990 and the World Congress on Forests to be held in Paris in 1991 will make contributions to the content of the protocol. Under this protocol, special significance will attach to the conservation of tropical forests.

The protection of tropical forests is a joint task of the industrialized and tropical forest countries. A few weeks ago a commission of enquiry set up by the German Bundestag presented an extremely valuable report on the protection of tropical forests. The intense discussions in this commission, involving internationally recognized institutions and experts on tropical forests, made a fundamental contribution to heightening awareness of the problem. The commission also prepared a comprehensive catalogue of recommendations for coordinating further approaches at international level.

The findings of the commission have strengthened my conviction that the destruction of the tropical forests must be halted through a programme of immediate measures. For not only does it pose a threat to the global climate, but it leads above all to the eradication of the basic, life-supporting natural resources of people living in tropical forest countries and to the destruction of the tropical forest ecosystem with its immense variety of species.

We must join with the countries affected in increasing many times over our endeavours to preserve the tropical forests. I am particularly keen to see the intensification of measures already initiated and the development of joint campaigns incorporating objectives and time schedules for tropical forest protection.

If the causes of the destruction of tropical forests are to be tackled, their protection must be integrated into general

structural and development policies. In the context of bilateral measures, we should therefore agree that funds released through debt remission be used to protect the environment. As far as multilateral measures are concerned, I would be glad if the World Bank could coordinate in close cooperation with UNDP and UNEP the financial aspects and if the proposed global environmental facility could be made into an important instrument for funding environmental protection measures.

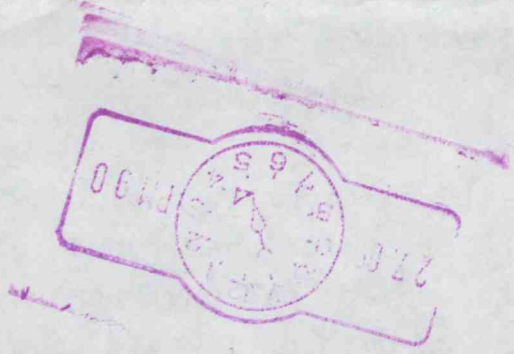
The strengthening of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) and its more effective orientation towards forest protection objectives covering all forestry sectors has a decisive role to play. In this context we could provide political guidelines, for example by agreeing to set up flexible reserves within the framework of official development aid to fund national tropical forest action plans.

Our countries, being the principal culprits as regards the global environmental problems and having such economic resources, bear a special responsibility. We would not be facing up to this responsibility if we did not immediately give definite impetus.

I very much hope, therefore, that we can have a useful exchange of thoughts on this subject in Houston and that we can find a common stance for the protection of Planet Earth.

Yours sincerely,

sgd. Helmut Kohl





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*From the Private Secretary*

27 June 1990

**ECONOMIC SUMMIT, HOUSTON:  
ENVIRONMENT**

I sent you last week the German text of a message from Chancellor Kohl about discussion of the environment at the Houston Economic Summit. I have now received an English translation which I enclose.

I am copying this letter to Nigel Wicks (Treasury) and Phillip Ward (Department of the Environment).

**CHARLES POWELL**

J S Wall Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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DER BOTSCHAFTER  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

Baron Hermann von Richthofen

cc pc  
London, 27 June 1990

Dear Prime Minister,

Following my letter dated 22 June, 1990, I now have the honour to transmit to you the courtesy translation of the letter from Herr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

I am, dear Prime Minister,

Yours sincerely  
Hermann Richthofen

Her Excellency  
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury  
and Minister for the Civil Service  
10 Downing Street  
London S.W.1