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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 May 1984

R. Hatfield, Esq.,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Hatfield,

LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT INITIATIVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT *with C.R.*

1. As agreed at the Prime Minister's meeting yesterday afternoon on Summit initiatives (Mr. Coles' minute of 16 May to Sir Robert Armstrong refers), I enclose a draft Speaking Note for Sir Robert Armstrong's use at the weekend.

2. We have cleared it on the telephone at official level with DOE, Department of Energy and Cabinet Office, but I am also sending copies, together with this letter, to Mr. Coles and to the Private Secretaries to Permanent Secretaries in all interested Departments.

Yours sincerely,

James Adams

W.J. Adams

/Copies to

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Copies to: Private Secretaries to:

Sir G. Moseley, KCB,
DOE

Sir K. Couzens, KCB,
Dept. of Energy.

Sir P. Middleton, KCB,
H.M. Treasury

Sir B. Hayes, KCB,
DTI

Sir W. Fraser, KCB,
Scottish Office.

Sir M. Franklin, KCB, CMG,
MAFF

M.E. Quinlan, Esq., CB,
Dept. of Employment

P. Lazarus, Esq., CB,
Dept. of Transport

J. Coles, Esq.,
10 Downing Street.

PS
PS/Mr. Whitney
PS/PUS
Sir J. Bullard
Sir C. Tickell
Mr. J. Thomas
ERD
ECD(I)
ESSD
Planning Staff
MAED

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTE

LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT: INITIATIVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

1. In setting up the Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment, the Versailles Summit of 1982 recognised that revitalisation and growth of the world economy would depend to a large extent on cooperation among our countries and with other countries in the exploitation of scientific and technological development.
2. In their report for this Summit the Working Group have drawn attention to the close relationship between science and technology and environmental protection issues. They have identified five particularly important environmental issues on which further research is needed:
 - (i) the processes involved in acid deposition and how these relate to perceptible environmental damage such as reductions of fresh-water fish stocks and fir and spruce forest damage;
 - (ii) the safe storage and disposal of radioactive waste;
 - (iii) the protection of the marine environment;
 - (iv) world climate and climate change;
 - (v) the development and introduction of more efficient energy-generating technologies compatible with a significant reduction in emissions.
3. The relationship between industry and the environment is of great concern to us all. It is now widely accepted that the application of technology in industrial and agricultural processes should be compatible with acceptable standards of environmental protection.

4. Old technologies which harm the environment should wherever possible and necessary be cleaned up, and new technologies introduced only after unacceptable environmental consequences from their introduction have been eliminated and any valid concern allayed.

5. Solid scientific research is essential before we can successfully start to cope with environmental pollution. A great deal of work has been done and more is in hand, e.g. Royal Society's Joint Study with Royal Norwegian and Swedish Academies. But our scientists agree that further research into environmental protection issues is necessary and recommend that it should continue to be given high priority. We agree with this approach. We must also be confident that any remedial action we take will be cost-effective.

6. As a further step to finding solutions to these problems we believe that the Working Group should now be asked to:

- (i) consider what has been done so far and identify specific areas for research where existing knowledge is inadequate;
- (ii) identify possible projects for industrial cooperation to develop cost-effective techniques to reduce environmental damage; and
- (iii) submit its report by 31 December 1984, taking into account other international discussions on these issues in the meantime.

7. The report and what action to take on it would then be considered at the next Economic Summit to be held in 1985 in the Federal Republic of Germany.

8. We are not proposing to add unduly to work being done already. We want to coordinate our efforts. In doing so, it will be necessary to review the current understanding of the relationship between industrial and agricultural processes and the environment and to report on the work conducted by relevant international organisations.

Exam Pt. Pt 15 L.E.S.

