

SUBJECT

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. HATFIELD

CABINET OFFICE

ACID RAIN

A presentation was held at Chequers on Sunday 27 May on the subject of acid rain. A record of the proceedings will be circulated shortly.

You should, however, know immediately that the Prime Minister asked for a defensive brief to be prepared for her use at the Economic Summit, when the subject may well be raised by Chancellor Kohl.

This brief, which will need to be prepared in consultation with those scientists who took part in the presentation, should cover the following ground:

- (i) contain a concise statement of the UK's record in reducing emissions of SO₂;
- (ii) enable the Prime Minister to counter two assertions -
 - (a) that UK emissions are a major contributor to levels of SO₂ and NO_x in central Europe;
 - (b) that there is a direct causal link between acid deposition and forest damage. (Reference could be made here to the German Government's paper for the Munich Conference);
- (iii) confirm our willingness to take cost-effective measures to combat air pollution (e.g. our proposals in the Community on lead in petrol, and on lean-burn engines); and to contribute actively to research in this field (e.g. Royal Society and CEEB programmes);
- (iv) make clear that although we are open to every new opportunity, we regard the costs of the draft EEC directive as prohibitive (CEGB estimates should be included). We believe it would be wrong to make a commitment in advance to any specific target reduction in SO₂ levels by any specific date.

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Could this brief please reach us on the same timetable as the other material being prepared for the Summit?

I am sending copies of this minute to Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Michael Reidy (Department of Energy), John Ballard (Department of the Environment), Dinah Nichols (Department of Transport), John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office, HM Treasury), Neil McMillan (Kenneth Baker's Office, Department of Trade and Industry) and Robin Nicholson (Cabinet Office).

DM. Ballard

29 May 1984

Sources of Emissions

Sulphur Dioxide SO ₂	65% Power Stations 19% Industry	Acid
Nitrogen Oxides NOX	46% Power Stations 34% Vehicles	Acid
Hydrocarbons THC	Vehicles	Ozone Smog

Abatement Methods

Prevention at source

Removal at or near source

Counter ecological effect

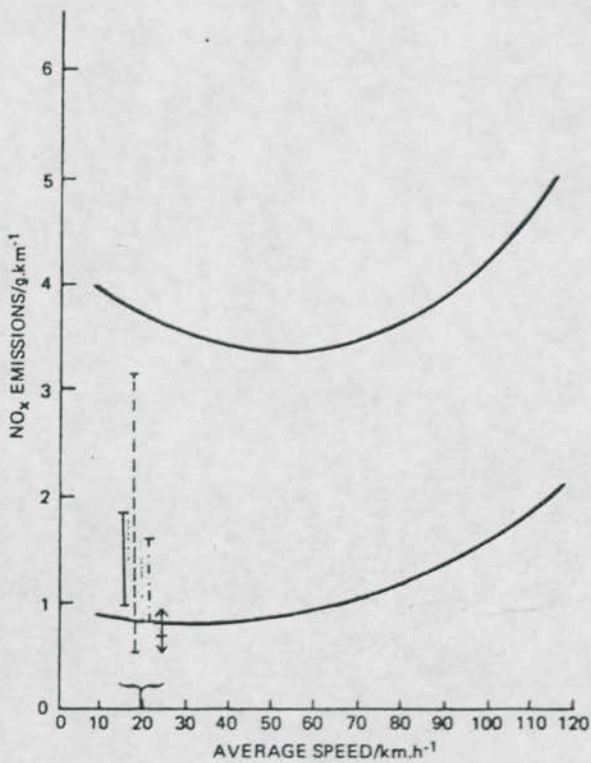
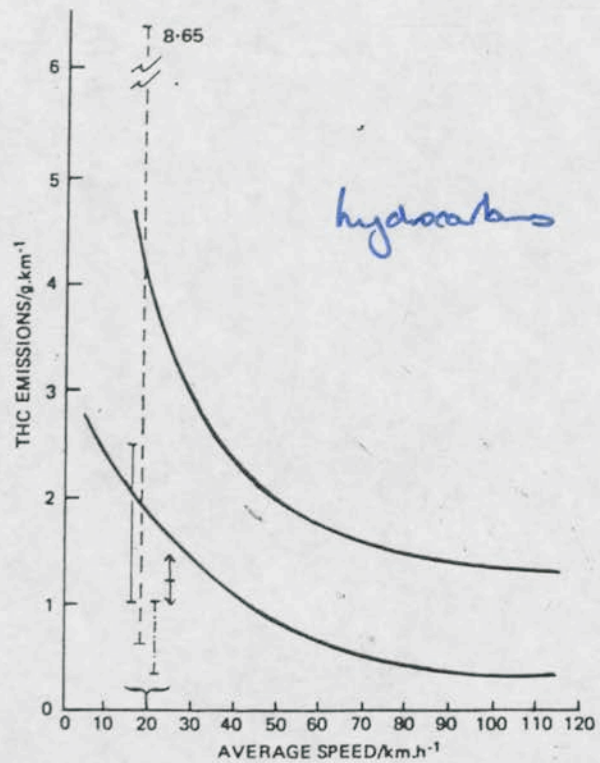
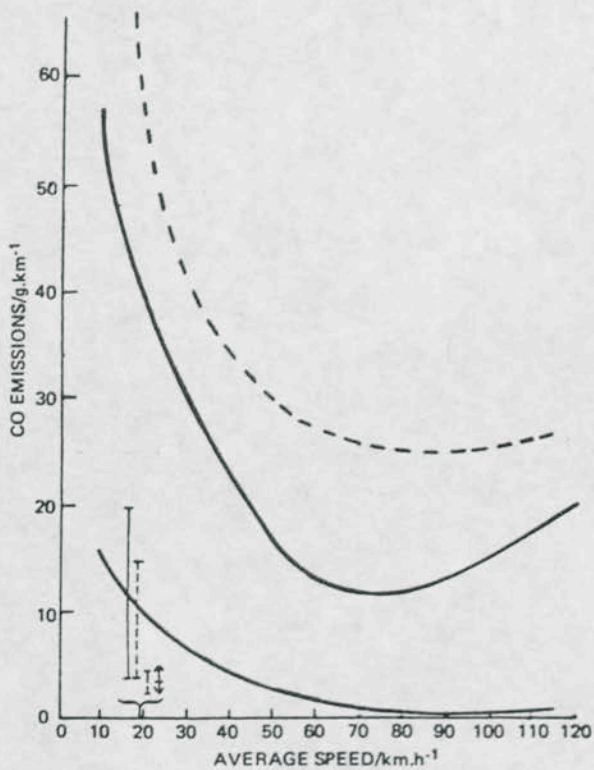


Figure 8

Emission estimates for technology systems meeting arbitrary criteria for emissions and costs. ref. (20).

system 4p	Improved Conventional
+£100 - Fuel	system 15/16 Lean Burn
+£200 + Fuel	system 23 Improved Conventional + Oxidation Catalyst
+£600 + Fuel	system 29 Improved Conventional + 3-way Catalyst