



CC DP
Prime Minister

12 MARSHAM STREET

LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

17 July 1984

To note.

~~18/7~~
18/7

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Dear David,

Further to my letter of 11 July, I now enclose a note prepared for my Secretary of State which reports on the Environment Council at Luxembourg on 28 June. As you know, Mr Waldegrave attended this immediately after the Munich Air Pollution Conference.

I am again copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President of the Council, the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Energy, Scotland, Wales, Trade and Industry, Employment and Transport, the Minister of Agriculture, the Chief Secretary and the Secretary of the Cabinet.

Yours,

Andrew

A C ALLBERRY
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL, 28 JUNE 1984

The Environment Council at Luxembourg on 28 June went well for the UK.

On unleaded petrol, our initiative a year ago bore fruit at this meeting, when the Council agreed that unleaded petrol should be introduced throughout the Community not later than 1989. This is entirely in accord with our own proposals. Urgent work will now proceed on the outstanding questions on octane ratings, together with further work on other vehicle emissions.

The draft Directive on emissions from large combustion plants was given a brief initial discussion, which showed that several of our partners share our own worries about the heavy costs of the proposals as they stand. The draft will now be remitted to a working group for detailed study.

The Council agreed to two Directives on terms satisfactory to the UK; one on a community-wide system of supervision and control of the trans-frontier shipment of hazardous waste, which will come into force in October 1985; and one on the disposal to water of the pesticide Hexachlorocyclohexane, more familiarly known as Lindane.

A draft directive on air quality standards for Nitrogen Dioxide was also brought very near agreement on a basis acceptable to us.

Acid Rain Pt 2

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23 July 1984

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's note reporting on the Environment Council meeting on 28 June, which you sent me with your letter of 17 July. The Prime Minister has noted the position.

David Barclay

Andrew Allberry, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.





Await further
letter from DSE.
Prime Minister (4) Dub
to note. 11/2

CCDP

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

11 July 1984

Dear David

My Secretary of State thought that the Prime Minister might be interested to see the attached report which Mr Waldegrave made to him on the Munich Air Pollution Conference at the end of last month.

I am sending copies of this letter and of the report to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President of the Council, the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Energy, Scotland, Wales, Trade and Industry, Employment and Transport, the Minister of Agriculture, the Chief Secretary and the Secretary of the Cabinet.

Yours,

Andrew

A C ALLBERRY
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq

Secretary of State

MUNICH AIR POLLUTION CONFERENCE, 24-27 JUNE

1. You will wish to have a formal report from me as Leader of the UK delegation for this conference.

2. Thirty one member countries of the Economic Commission for Europe were represented, virtually all by Ministers. The ECE Secretariat, the EC Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the OECD and some non-governmental environment bodies were also represented.

3. The major document before the Conference was a draft resolution, the key feature of which was an operative paragraph on reduction of total annual national Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) emissions. The FRG, supported by those countries which had already committed themselves to a reduction of 30% in total annual SO₂ emissions by 1993 or 1995 on the 1980 base, pressed strongly for all countries present to agree to such a commitment, and three further western countries (Belgium, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein) did so.

4. We made it clear that the UK expected to secure further substantial reductions of SO₂ emissions (beyond the 37% already achieved since 1970) and of NO_x emissions within a reasonable timescale, but that ^{we} were unable to enter into a specific commitment to reduce emissions by a precise percentage by a specified date. I attach a copy of my concluding statement. The USA, Italy, Spain and some other

.../ctd...

western countries were also unable to undertake specific commitments.

5. The USSR and some of its allies announced that, by 1993, they would seek to make 30% reductions in transboundary fluxes of SO₂ over their western borders. This is much less onerous than a commitment to reduce ^{total} emissions, but it brought the USSR some credit, not least from the Press who may not have appreciated the distinction between this formula and that of the "30% club". But, significantly, the eastern countries were not prepared to translate these statements into a specific commitment.

6. The Conference resolution, which was adopted by acclamation, reconciled these differing positions by agreeing that the Executive Body of the ECE Convention should, at its meeting in September, "adopt a proposal for a specific agreement on the reduction of annual national sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by 1993 at the latest".

Agreement was also reached on paragraphs calling for a reduction in emissions or transboundary fluxes of NO_x, on the development of technically available and economically feasible strategies to reduce pollution from motor vehicles, on the need to take account of the relationship of hydrocarbons (HC) to the problem of trans-frontier pollution, and on a wide range of scientific and technical activities designed to improve monitoring, enhance understanding of the transport, deposition and effects of pollution and improve methods of abatement.

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7. The atmosphere of the Conference was cordial throughout, and, contrary to the impression given by the London press, the UK was at no time isolated in its resistance to a specific commitment on reduction of SO₂ emissions. The FRG and the Scandinavians were naturally disappointed by the position we took, but they made no public reference to this and indeed the Norwegian Minister went out of her way to dissociate herself from some of the stories put about by journalists. Nor was the Press picture of embarrassment because of my absence for part of the time any closer to reality. Several other Ministers were present for only part of the time; and neither our FRG hosts nor any other delegation made any reference to this point, either to me personally or to any of my officials.

8. I have no doubt that the pressure for specific commitments will continue and indeed increase. In particular, the '30%' countries will return to the charge in the Executive Body in September. The pressure will be the greater if the eastern bloc is then prepared to enter into a formal commitment to reduce transboundary fluxes of SO₂ by specific amounts in the setting of the Convention. I am satisfied that we were tactically right to defer, for the time being, announcements of any numerical aim on the part of the UK.

H. Bondes.

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE (approved by the Minister and signed in his absence)
6 July 1984

CC: PS/Sir Peter Harrop
Dr Holdgate
Mr Rutterford
Mr Burgess
Miss McConnell

Statement by Mr. William Waldegrave, Head of the British Delegation, to closing session of the Munich Conference, Wednesday 27 June 1984

The British delegation would like to give a warm welcome to the conclusions of this Conference. A very considerable part of the international community has shown itself capable of making steady progress on the problem of air pollution. We have not allowed the inevitable differences in the particular situations we face, and which must have some impact on national policies, particularly in the short term, to overshadow the more important fact that we are agreed that further progress must be made.

It is this more important area of agreement that I should like to emphasise, so that we do not leave behind us a misleading impression. It was never I fear going to be possible for us all to agree here and now to one single number or date for progress on each main pollutant. Perhaps that has caused a little disappointment but any disappointment should be seen against the very powerful new impetus this Conference has given to the work of the ECE Convention. And in Britain's case we have difficulty with only one thing: immediate adoption, on top of the nearly 20 % reduction made before 1980 in SO₂ emissions - of a binding commitment to a 30 % drop by 1993. But we are saying 'yes' to further substantial SO₂ reductions in a reasonable timescale; 'yes' to parallel NO_x reductions; 'yes' to a European-wide onslaught on pollutants from motor car exhausts; 'yes' to further strengthening of scientific work and monitoring within the ECE Convention and in other contexts; and above all 'yes' to an international agreement itself. The initiative and commitment of the Federal Republic, backed by the additional hospitality of the Bavarian Government, has made possible the timely affirmation of new commitments by all of us; we will look back on the Munich Conference as an important step forward, perhaps a turning point in our collective endeavours in the field of clean air.