

→ Garden Rooms, CONFIDENTIAL

PL type letter
attached
for my signature
N.C.U.
1.12
Pure Minutes
Content for me to
write as - the
draft attached?
N.C.U.
30.11

Ref. AO88/3484

MR WICKS

Climatic Change

Thank you for your minute of 24 November.

I have asked Richard Wilson to chair an official group to consider the issues raised by climatic change. He has already had a preliminary discussion with DOE at official level. We will aim to circulate a paper by the official group for a Ministerial discussion on 9 January, at which Ministers will be able to decide on the direction and scope of further work, both national and international. The paper will also address the issues of presentation, and the best way in which outside experts could be associated with the development of the Government's policy.

The first step is to alert other Departments to the proposed group. I attach a draft letter for you to send to Mr Ridley's Private Secretary, copied to the offices of the other Ministers principally concerned. In addition to those you mentioned, I have included the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry and for Transport, in view of their interests in CFCs and vehicle emissions respectively. The group may want to co-opt representatives from other Departments: for instance, from the Meteorological Office (MOD) and the DES because of their interest in the Research Councils. But they need not be full members and I do not think it need be mentioned here.

F.R.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

30 November 1988

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DRAFT LETTER FOR MR WICKS TO SEND TO ROGER BRIGHT, PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATIC CHANGE

The Prime Minister has been considering the response which the Government should make to growing national and international concern about climatic change. She is arranging an informal meeting of Ministers on Monday 9 January to discuss this subject. She has asked the Cabinet Office to coordinate the preparation of a paper for consideration by the Ministers principally concerned at that meeting. She would like the paper to cover both the substance and the presentation of Government policies, and take full account of international aspects of climatic change.

The purpose of this letter is to invite your Secretary of State to nominate a representative on the Cabinet Office group. The following main Departments will also need to be represented on the group: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Overseas Development Administration, the Treasury, the Departments of Energy, Trade and Industry, and Transport, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. I would be grateful if the relevant Ministers could nominate representatives accordingly. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of nominees should be conveyed as soon as possible to Richard Wilson at the Cabinet Office.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Trade and Industry and Transport, and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

slh bbp