



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 August 1988

✓ C D Powell

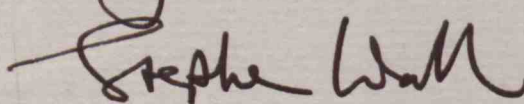
Dear Charles,

International Environmental Symposium, Stockholm 18 August 1988

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to the Prime Minister from the Swedish Prime Minister Mr Carlsson. It was sent by fax to the Swedish Embassy, which expects to receive the original for onward transmission in the next day or so.

We are urgently consulting DOE (the Central Unit on the Environment), who lead on this matter, and MAFF, about British representation at this symposium. No acknowledgement is needed in the meantime.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (Environment), Shirley Stagg (MAFF) and Trevor Woolley, Cabinet Office.

Jani,

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street



PRIME MINISTER

Date
August 1, 1988

Dnr

RS/8

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.1208/88

The Right Honourable
Margaret Thatcher F.R.S., M.P.
10 Downing Street

LONDON

SUBJECT - MATTER
OPS

copy already read with
writing letter from FCO

Dear Colleague

Environmental developments during later years give rise to grave concerns. Several disquieting symptoms have been observed, such as continued acid precipitation, serious damage to the forests and a deteriorating status of the seas, in particular the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. This summer we have witnessed an alarming proliferation of algal blooms and a tragic mass death of seals in the North Sea, the Skagerak and the Kattegat. These developments in our region add to a number of global threats which have been in the focus for some time, e.g. risks of long-term climatic changes and depletion of the ozone layer.

Governments have recognized that global and regional hazards to the human environment must be dealt with in international cooperation. Ever since the United Nations conference in Stockholm in 1972 international cooperation in this field has been developing and many agreements have been made to bring about concerted international action aiming at limiting and reducing emissions of noxious substances as well as other measures to enhance environmental protection. Notwithstanding, environmental degradation seems to accelerate.

Whereas environmental protection was originally conceived of as a series of counter-measures to abate pollution, it has now become obvious and, I think, generally acknowledged that coherent and effective environmental protection can only be achieved by way of anticipatory and preventive action. Such action is needed in practically all sectors of societal activities. Suffice it to mention that major sources of environmental degradation are to be found in

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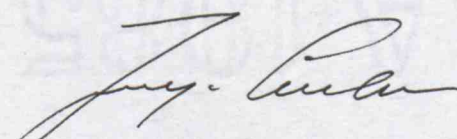
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industry, agriculture, transportation, energy supply, waste disposal and sewage treatment. The responsibility for environmentally warranted legislation and other necessary government interventions in these sectors lies with several ministries. Therefore, efficient co-ordination has become of prime importance.

Apparently, environmentally sound development calls for far-reaching technological change with regard to economic activities which constitute the main sources for environmental disturbances. Against this background, the Swedish Government has decided to establish in Stockholm an international institute, the main function of which will be to promote the development and diffusion of environmentally appropriate technologies. It is my sincere hope that the institute, which will be established in the early autumn, will contribute substantially to improve technological options for the benefit of the environment. One of the first concerns of the institute will be to participate in the fight against marine pollution.

Taking into account the strong need for co-ordination of Government activities in support of efficient environmental protection, it appears to me that cabinet leaders will need to get increasingly involved in these matters. That is my reason for addressing this letter to you and to the Heads of Government in all the other states surrounding the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The Swedish Government will host an international environmental symposium in Stockholm on August 18, to discuss concrete steps to halt marine pollution, and also how the new institute could function as effectively as possible. It would be of great value if you would be willing to send a personal representative or expert as a participant in this symposium. Details about the program and the logistics for that conference will be sent to your office shortly. It is also my intention to pursue personal contacts with you later this year, with a view to soliciting your support for concerted and strengthened international action necessary to bring about effective protection of our common environment.

Yours sincerely,



Ingvar Carlsson

PART 5 ends:-

SS/SCOTLAND to SS/DOE 22 7 88

PART 6 begins:-

Swedish PM (Carlsson) to PM 1.8.88

~~SS/N10 to SS/DOE 4.8.88~~