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From John W Fairclough FEng
Chief Scientific Adviser

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1. Mr. Harris }
2. Mr. Peall } to see
3. Cf - pc.

9 November 1988

Dear David

E(ST)(0) DISCUSSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

As already discussed briefly with you, I would like the next E(ST)(0) meeting to major on recent developments on environmental issues and Departments' future plans for focussing on such issues. The meeting has now been rescheduled to 19 December at 2.30 to ensure that members of those Departments most directly involved can be present.

The increasing Government interest in "green" issues was of course signalled in the Prime Minister's speeches to the Royal Society and the Party Conference. Following on from this, Departments and others are responding with a number of political initiatives together with new policy studies and reviews of research priorities both in relation to the national and international scene. The Advisory Council on Science and Technology (ACOST) has also recently discussed a review of Global Environmental Research commissioned from the Natural Environment Research Council and will be considering further action in this area.

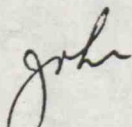
With all these initiatives in hand I believe it would be timely for E(ST)(0) to take a look across the board at the science and technology aspects of the developing plans and priorities within Government, with a view to satisfying itself that a coherent approach is being developed, identifying any needs for greater co-ordination at a national level, and considering UK inputs to EC and other international initiatives.

To this end I am inviting you and copy recipients, in particular John Rae, Ron Bell, and John Vereker - on behalf of the Research Councils, to submit brief papers to the meeting (say no more than 4 pages) highlighting recent

developments on environmental issues in your respective Departments and plans in hand for future work. I would suggest that, as in the Prime Minister's speech to the Royal Society, we should at least initially focus principally on those issues with a world-wide impact.

Other Departments would also be welcome to submit papers if they wish to do so. All contributions should be forwarded to the Secretariat by Tuesday 6 December.

Yours sincerely



JOHN W FAIRCLOUGH

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