

SUBJECT

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBIN BUTLER

The Prime Minister had a short discussion this morning with the Secretary of State for the Environment about the arrangements for the collective consideration of environmental matters.

After some discussion, the Prime Minister said that she would like the Cabinet Office to call together departments with an interest in the responses to climatic change and to co-ordinate the preparation of a paper for consideration by the Ministers concerned. You should consider the membership of the Cabinet Office group, but obvious candidates, besides the Department of the Environment, would include representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Overseas Development Administration, Department of Energy and the Treasury. The DOE Chief Scientist should, as his Secretary of State had requested, be a member of the group. The group should consider, among other issues, the consequences for the environment of the introduction of the lean-burn engine, energy saving, the likely trend of power station building and other related issues. The group's report should be prepared, if at all possible, in time for an informal discussion of Ministers on Monday 9 January. The group should consider, besides substance, the presentation of the Government's policies, including the possible publication of an attractive White Paper which described achievements and future plans. Full account should be taken of international aspects, including the need to deal with the proposed Rocard initiative. You should consider how outside experts, like Sir John Mason, could be associated with the development of the Government's thinking on these matters.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Roger Bright (Department of the Environment), but not circulating it more widely at this stage.

N.L.W.

N. L. WICKS

24 November 1988

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ENV AFFAIRS
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