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File PM
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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 November 1988

ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE BY
PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AND MONSIEUR ROCARD

Thank you for your letter of 29 November about Monsieur Rocard's proposals on the environment. The Prime Minister agrees that we should reply to Monsieur Rocard in the sense you propose and I enclose the letter which she has signed. I should be grateful if you could arrange for its delivery.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Roger Bright (Department of the Environment).

C. D. Powell

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 November 1988

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for forwarding to me the papers describing your ideas for new arrangements to deal with environmental matters, about which we spoke on the telephone on 2 November. I much appreciate your courtesy in putting me so thoroughly in the picture.

I have of course looked at these papers with great interest. I do not think you will expect me to comment in detail at this stage, given that - as your paper points out - the ideas are so far very much at a formative stage, and need further refinement. Clearly your central proposal, for a new international institution endowed with considerable powers in environmental matters, raises very complex issues. One of these is that mentioned in your paper, namely the effect on national sovereignty. Another is the relationship which such an institution would have with existing international bodies and agreements which are already doing work on environmental problems. Some of these are themselves very new, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which held its first meeting in Geneva in early November. A proposal for a new institution suggests that there may be deficiencies in existing ones. It may therefore be necessary to consider more thoroughly what specific need a new institution would be designed to meet.

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I wonder whether the right first step would be, having developed your ideas more fully, to submit them for full scrutiny by international experts in this field. Since your paper on presentation makes clear that you intend to pursue the initiative within the framework of the United Nations, perhaps you should look to that organisation to arrange for that kind of scrutiny? We should be happy to be involved, although it would also be important to involve countries from all regions and in all stages of development.

I hope you will keep me informed of further developments.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Nargant Shahar

Monsieur le Premier Ministre Michel Rocard

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

B51AAM

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to.

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

M. Rocard

s/rocard

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

..... In Confidence

Thank you very much for forwarding to me, with your letter of November, the papers describing your ideas about new arrangements to deal with environmental matters, about which we spoke on the telephone on 2 November. I much appreciate your courtesy in putting me so thoroughly in the picture.

CAVEAT

I have of course looked at these papers with great interest. I do not think you will expect me to comment in great detail at this stage, given that - as your paper points out - the ideas are so far very much at a formative stage, and need a good deal of further refinement. It is clear, however, that your central proposal, for a new international institution endowed with certain powers in the environmental field, raises some very important and complex issues. One of these is of course that mentioned in your paper, namely the effect on national sovereignty. Another is the relationship which such an institution would have with existing international bodies and agreements which are already

Enclosures flag(s)

doing work on environmental problems. Some of these are themselves very new (such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which held its first meeting in Geneva in early November). A proposal for a new institution suggests that there may be deficiencies in existing ones. It may therefore be necessary to consider more thoroughly what specific need a new institution would be designed to meet.

~~Given the complexity of the issues raised by your ideas, and the world-wide impact which they can be expected (and are designed) to have,~~ I wonder whether the right first step would be, having developed ^{your ideas} them more fully in the way you anticipate, to submit them for full scrutiny by ^{interested} ~~suitable~~ experts ^{in this field,} from the international community, as a prelude to discussing them more widely. Since your paper on presentation makes clear that you intend to pursue the initiative within the framework of the United Nations, perhaps you should look to that organisation to arrange for that kind of scrutiny? ~~It goes without saying that~~ ^{in that preliminary scrutiny} we should be happy to be involved - though it would of ^{also} course be important to involve a wide cross-section of countries, ^{from} representing all regions and ^{in all} stages of development.

I naturally remain entirely at your disposal should you wish to discuss the matter further.

I hope you will help me
in the development
with best wishes.