

ack up

PRIME MINISTER

CLIMATIC CHANGE

In early December the Cabinet Office were asked to prepare a paper for consideration at a meeting of Ministers in early January. This is attached. You will want to look at the covering note by the Cabinet Office. In addition there is a lot of interesting material in the annexes.

- (i) Annex A sets out the current scientific assessment of the problem.
- (ii) Page 5 of Annex C demonstrates just how important China is in this problem, and pages 13 and 14 indicate the range for the contribution which nuclear electricity could make.
- (iii) Page 7 of Annex D draws a pessimistic conclusion of the possible contribution from transport.
- (iv) Paragraph 20 of Annex E indicates the conclusions for Britain's flood defences.
- (v) Annex F discusses the benefits of converting methane to CO₂.
- (vi) Paragraph 16-28 of Annex H indicates the main research priorities.
- (vii) Annex I discusses the economic policy implications.

The meeting has been arranged for Thursday 12 January after Cabinet. The Cabinet Office have suggested adding Mr. Baker and possibly also the Secretary of State for Defence, in view of the responsibility for the Meteorological Office. Agree to add Mr. Baker in view of his responsibility for research councils? Adding the Secretary of State for Defence does not seem necessary; we can bring in the Director General of the

CONFIDENTIAL

Meteorological Office at the seminar. ✓

The report suggests that Ministers consider setting up a seminar of experts. It will be helpful to have this decided in advance so that preparations can start immediately, eg the issue of invitations and the commissioning of papers. Agree?

The final page sets out ideas for people who might be invited. Any you wish to delete (Porritt?), and any you wish to add (Professor Lovelock?).

AT

ANDREW TURNBULL

23 December 1988

PM3AGA

CONFIDENTIAL