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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*CDO
16/1*

16 January 1989

Dear Charles

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Forestry Initiative

The Foreign Secretary thinks that the Prime Minister might be interested to see the enclosed minute from Mr Patten, reporting on how we have been taking forward the Prime Minister's pledge to the Party Conference and Parliament that we will direct more of our aid to encourage the wise and sustainable use of forest resources.

Tonson

R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Secretary of State

FROM: CHRIS PATTEN
DATE: 29 DECEMBER 1988

cc: PS/Lord Glenarthur
Mr Caines
Mr Ainscow
Mr Bennett
Mr Beetham MAED, FCO

Secretary of State:

Secretary of State

AID TO FORESTRY

As you know, I have been pursuing the Prime Minister's pledge to the Party Conference, subsequently confirmed to Parliament, that in the developing countries of the Third World, we will direct more of our aid to encourage the wise and sustainable use of forest resources.

2. The December issue of British Overseas Development (enclosed) includes a front page statement from me about the importance of forestry and how we propose to take the Prime Minister's initiative forward. The statement also serves to introduce the forestry supplement which describes our current activities.

3. Specific action in hand includes:-

(i) A review of our bilateral country programmes to identify a selected number which we should target for additional forestry commitments. The countries are likely to be ones with significant needs and interest, where we have major aid programmes and relevant expertise. I expect the process of identification to be completed by the end of January;

(ii) More support for forestry research. I addressed an international conference on international forestry research, which we helped to host at Wilton Park, on 1 December, (copy attached at A). The conference led to clearer ideas of how the donor community should help strengthen developing country national research capacity. We have set aside an additional £0.5 million a year from next April to support further forestry research efforts which is an area where Britain has considerable expertise;

(iii) Encouraging British charities to put forward more forestry projects. I expect to decide shortly to increase our funding of British charities, including a block grant of £1 million a year to the World Wide Fund for Nature primarily for their forestry activities;

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(iv) Strengthening our access to forestry expertise so that we are fully prepared to handle the new commitments which will include an emphasis on training and institution building.

4. I plan to let you have a further progress report in February. In the meantime you may wish to advise the Prime Minister of the work in hand.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'J. L. ...'.

CP

