



10 DOWNING STREET

~~George~~      6/11/11      ← N.B.

Any thoughts on this  
by Monday PM welcome.

Also v helpful to Andrew I  
→ me if someone (you?) could  
do a child's guide me paper  
on the interrelationship between the  
various environment issues - eg  
warming, ozone depletion, acid rain  
(I assume the link between the  
first two is only CFCs are a  
common factor.)

Dominic      6/11.



*cc/v.*

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P 03326

Dr David Fisk  
Department of the Environment  
Room A314  
Romney House  
43 Marsham Street.

6 January 1989

*Dear David,*

CLIMATIC CHANGE

*for.*

You will have seen from Andrew Turnbull's minute to me of 3 January that the Cabinet Office have been asked to circulate a further paper for next Thursday's meeting of Ministers, setting out more detailed suggestions for the seminar suggested in our note of 22 December.

I attach a draft and would be grateful for comments by Monday evening, 9 January, so that the note can be circulated on Tuesday.

Copies go to John Rae, John Fairclough, Dominic Morris and, in view of the publicity aspects, to Bernard Ingham and Jean Caines.

*Yours ever,*

*Ridwan*

R T J WILSON

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CLIMATIC CHANGE

PROPOSALS FOR A MINISTERIAL SEMINAR

Note by the Cabinet Office

We have been asked to circulate a further paper setting out detailed suggestions for the Ministerial seminar with outside experts, proposed in our paper of 22 December.

OBJECTIVE

2. The aim would be to enable Ministers to hear at first hand the opinions and advice of the foremost national experts on climatic change, including any who diverge from the scientific consensus. It would help to involve these experts in policy-making, and enlist their support for the outcome. Depending on the timing, it might also be a useful contribution to preparing for the international conference on CFCs and the ozone layer in March. It would be made clear that the aim was not to take decisions at the seminar itself.

FORMAT

3. The seminar would be chaired by the Prime Minister, supported by the Ministers principally involved. The formal proceedings might last 2 to 3 hours, from say 9.30 am or 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. If Ministers so wished, it might be followed by informal discussions over a buffet lunch.

INVITEES

4. It would be important to keep the seminar to a reasonable size in order to make it manageable and give all the outside experts a chance to contribute. This suggests a total number, including Ministers and officials, of no more than 30 or perhaps 40, preferably fewer. The list of outside experts to be invited might be drawn from

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Annex J to the Cabinet Office Note of 22 December, in the light of comments from Ministers which the Prime Minister invited on 3 January. Ministers might also wish to invite key experts from within the Government service.

#### STRUCTURE

5. The seminar might be divided into three sessions. Each session would be introduced by a short, prepared presentation from a leading expert, of perhaps 20 minutes, followed by comments from the floor and discussion lasting about 20 to 40 minutes, depending on the length of the seminar.

6. The main headings for the three sessions, and possible presenters, might be:

I. the science of climatic change and its likely impacts. Possible presenter: Professor Tom Wigley, Director of Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia.

II. options for mitigating the greenhouse effect. Possible presenter: Dr Ken Currie, Head of Energy Technology Support Unit, Harwell.

III. responses in an international context. Possible presenter: Sir Crispin Tickell, Ambassador to the United Nations.

In order to get the best out of the occasion, it might be useful to send all invitees beforehand a short note explaining the purpose of the seminar and the topics which would be covered under each heading, and perhaps informally discuss with a few of them how and when they would contribute, so as to provide the occasion with some structure without being too rigid.

#### LOCATION

7. The location would depend in part on how many people were invited. Possibilities include:

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- i. Number 10 Downing Street;
- ii. Number 12 Downing Street (where the seminar on broadcasting was held);
- iii. Chequers.

#### TIMING

8. The Government are hosting a major international conference on CFCs in March 1989. If Ministers wished to use the seminar to help prepare for this conference, the best timing might be around mid-February. Alternatively, the two could be treated as separate events, in which case the seminar could be arranged for April or May.

#### PUBLICITY

9. Ministers will want to secure effective public presentation of the decision to hold a seminar, and to avoid any misunderstanding about its purpose. The best course might be to issue a press release when invitations are sent to outside experts.

#### FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS

10. Ministers will probably want the Department of the Environment to take the lead in the detailed preparations for the seminar.

#### CONCLUSIONS

11. Ministers are invited:

- i. to agree the proposals for the objectives, format, and invitees for the seminar (paragraph 2 to 4 above);
- ii. to agree the structure and consider the presenters proposed for each session (paragraphs 5 and 6);

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iii. to consider the most appropriate location for the seminar (paragraph 7);

iv. to decide when the seminar should be held, and whether there should be a press release when invitations are issued (paragraphs 8 and 9);

v. to agree that the Department of the Environment should take the lead in further arrangements for the seminar.

**CABINET OFFICE**

6 January 1989

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HOME AFFAIRS : Climatic Changes,

July 79.

