

cc: [signature]
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BCE 6/3



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 January 1989

[signature] [signature]
COP
9/11

Dear Charles,

French Environmental Initiative

You will recall that towards the end of last year M Rocard, the French Prime Minister, telephoned the Prime Minister to tell her of some ideas he had for a major global initiative on the environment. He subsequently wrote to her giving further details of his ideas and Mrs Thatcher replied on 30 November. [signature]

The Department of the Environment told us this morning that in a conversation in Geneva between members of the UNEP Region Office and a DOE official, the former claimed that M Rocard was "incensed" by Mrs Thatcher's decision to call an international conference in March to discuss CFCs and the Ozone Layer and that he intended to make a dramatic initiative of his own at an early date. Apparently Rocard has had several long discussions with Dr Tolba, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and is today sending an aircraft to Nairobi to bring Dr Tolba to Paris for yet further discussions, with a view to making an announcement as soon as possible.

We heard yesterday from the Canadian High Commission that Rocard telephoned the Canadian Prime Minister on 29 December to inform him of his ideas. As far as the Canadian High Commission are aware, Rocard's promised follow-up letter has not yet arrived in Ottawa. Rocard told the Canadian Prime Minister that he intended to hold an early meeting with the Norwegian and Dutch Prime Ministers, presumably to help further refine his ideas and gain their support.

We have asked the Embassy in Paris urgently to let us know of any developments there.

Yours ever,
[signature](L Parker)
Private SecretaryC D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

ENV. Aff. Acid Rain

