

PRIME MINISTER

CLIMATIC CHANGE

I have divided the papers for your meeting tomorrow on Climatic Change into three folders. The first contains Richard Wilson's steering brief for the meeting (Flag A). I suggest you take the issues in the order suggested in paragraph two of his note.

The second folder contains the main Cabinet Office paper and Departmental annexes (Flag B) which you saw at Christmas, and a paper from George Guise (Flag C) commenting on this, which you have not hitherto seen. There is a difference in emphasis between the Cabinet Office paper and George's note on domestic policy action.

You will want to decide whether you are asking colleagues to consider action now in their fields as part of a package of measures to be announced in a glossy brochure/White Paper later this year following the seminar; or whether, as George suggests, this ought to be purely contingency thinking, pending the outcome of the seminar and greater certainty on the science of climatic change and its likely impact. I assume that it is the former to which you are looking.

If so, you will probably want the meeting in particular to give a steer on the action to be taken on Research and on Energy Efficiency (where the budget has fallen from a high of £26 million in 1986, which was Energy Efficiency Year, to £15 million this year and £12 million next). Although only one part of the jigsaw, Energy Efficiency is an important one and it is currently a weak flank in the Government's public presentation on climatic change issues.

On agriculture and forestry, as Richard Wilson's briefing note says, the main action must be external (your note from the

Forestry Commission (Flag D) shows the limited effectiveness of temperate forestry in CO2 fixation). You may therefore want to consider whether the action under this front is more for the Chancellor and Foreign Secretary to consider whether more could sensibly be done in the context of G7 on reforestation, aid and debt relief - ie whether there is scope for something like the Chancellor's/Mr Baker's initiative last year on LDC debt. But as with other possible new international initiatives by the United Kingdom, you will probably not want to take more than tentative decisions ahead of the proposed seminar.

The third folder contains the Cabinet Office paper (Flag E) on the form of the proposed seminar of experts. The key issues here are:

- What outcome you want from the seminar. (I assume, to get Government and experts in the United Kingdom to the same level on scientific certainty on climatic change as now exists on ozone depletion, and to serve as the scientific basis for any United Kingdom international initiatives.)
- When to hold it.
- The structure of the seminar. Your broadcast seminar provides a good model.
- Public presentation both before and after the seminar (the Cabinet Office paper incorporates Bernard Ingham's comments).
- Who should lead on preparing for the seminar.

You will probably not want to get into a detailed discussion at this meeting on the names of the external experts to be

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invited. The list of possibles suggested by the Cabinet Office, and which you have seen, is at Flag F. Whoever leads on preparing the seminar should produce a short list based on these. The only changes proposed are Mr Ridley's suggestion of John Maddox, Editor of "Nature" and the inclusion of the Department of the Environment Chief Scientist, Dr David Fisk.



DOMINIC MORRIS
11 January 1989

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