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PRIME MINISTER

GLOBAL CLIMATE

- I have seen a copy of David Young's minute to you of lst February.
- 2. His minute rightly draws attention to the importance of the ERS-2 satellite in maintaining the thrust of current action on the world environment. We should support it and although up to the present the cost has principally fallen to the DTI, I think it appropriate that several departments should contribute to its cost.
- 3. There has not, however, been a chance to consider the question of cost. While I note the suggestion David Young makes on this count, this would obviously need to be discussed with the Research Councils most involved in the light of their existing plans for deployment of future available resources. I believe this aspect may raise issues needing to be addressed in the 1989 Survey.
- 4. I am sending copies of this letter to the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry, and for the Environment, for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, for Defence, for Transport and for Energy, to the Chief Secretary, to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to the Paymaster General, to the Minister for Housing, Environment and Countryside, to Sir Robin Butler and to John Fairclough.

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6 February 1989

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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