

CCP.V.



FROM: CHIEF SECRETARY  
DATE: 6 February 1989

PRIME MINISTER

GLOBAL CLIMATE

*with PG?*  
I have seen David Young's minute to you of 1 February recommending that the UK should participate in the second Earth Resources Satellite (ERS-2) and offering to meet 50 per cent of the cost from within his existing programmes.

2 I understand that the total proposed UK cost of £59.5 million represents rather more than 15 per cent of the ERS-2 programme. I would hope that should UK participation go ahead it will be no higher than the 15 per cent participation agreed for ERS-1. Restraining costs should improve value for money to the UK. On the benefits to the UK of participating in ERS-2 I should prefer to see a fuller account of the potential technological and commercial benefits to the UK since this will be a major factor in determining overall value for money of the programme.

3 Progress on this proposal will clearly depend on the reaction of colleagues, and if they support ERS-2 I hope they, like David, will feel able to meet the additional costs from within existing provision. I note that over half the proposed expenditure lies beyond the Survey period; I should stress that if this proposal goes ahead I shall not be disposed to look at bids in the coming (and future) Surveys to meet the additional costs of ERS-2 beyond 1991-92.

4 I am copying this minute to Nicholas Ridley, Geoffrey Howe, George Younger, Kenneth Baker, Paul Channon, Cecil Parkinson, John MacGregor, Malcolm Caithness and to Sir Robin Butler and John Fairclough.

*John H.*  
JOHN MAJOR

Sci & Tech - Budget  
Pr 8.

