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My ref:

Your ref:

Dominic Morris Esq
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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6 February 1989

Dear Dominic,

"SAVING THE OZONE LAYER" CONFERENCE: 5/7 MARCH

As agreed, I am sending the draft synopsis of a speech for the Prime Minister to give on the morning of Tuesday 7 March at the end of the Ozone Layer Conference. I am also including details of a proposed programme for the Prime Minister.

SPEECH

The Secretary of State recommends that the speech should concentrate primarily on the conference theme of ozone depletion and the need for world action, but also emphasise the importance of CFCs as greenhouse gases. The outline does, however, envisage that this speech will lightly touch on the UK and other global and regional pollution issues; set the issues in the context of sustainable development and the lead the UK is taking in this field; and leaves open the possibility of announcing action on global climate change following the 12 January meeting.

This framework will allow the global environmental issues, to the extent possible, to be linked to the existing institutions dealing with them, and in particular UNEP. This will be especially appropriate for two reasons: UNEP's Executive Director, Dr Tolba, will be speaking immediately before the Prime Minister; and support for existing institutions may be useful a few days before the meeting in The Hague.

To underline this the Secretary of State would like to double our contribution to UNEP's Voluntary Fund (from £1.25m to £2.5m). There is no doubt that UNEP's priority activities, notably on climate change, will need additional resources, but such a large increase would have to be justified primarily on political grounds. My Secretary of State will of course consult the Chief Secretary about

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this proposal. We will be in touch again after the Prime Minister has seen M. Rocard next week.

Officials here are also discussing urgently with other Departments whether new initiatives on helping developing countries, eg "by facilitating access to alternative substances and technologies" can be announced in the speech.

These points are touched on in the outline and I should be grateful for comments, amendments and additions as soon as possible so that the speech can be more fully worked up.

PROGRAMME

The Prime Minister will wish to consider what she would like to do at the Conference before and after the Opening Ceremony on Sunday 5 March.

We propose that she should arrive at the Conference Centre shortly before 9.45am in time to greet President Moi, (and perhaps Tolba of UNEP before him) on the front steps, accompanied by my Secretary of State. She, Moi, Tolba and Mr Ridley would then wait briefly in the Nightingale VIP room before going onto the platform for the Opening Ceremony in the Churchill Auditorium at 10.00am. As you know, we have proposed that for this occasion the Prime Minister's speech should be a short one of a few words of welcome and exhortation; the main speaker will be President Moi. Also on the platform would be Mr Ridley, Lord Caithness and Tolba.

At 10.30am, there is a half-hour pause for coffee upstairs in the Benjamin Britten Lounge. If she wanted to stay after the Opening Ceremony, the Prime Minister might like to talk informally to delegates here; we could, if she wished, pre-arrange a group of delegates for her to meet [perhaps including some industry and NGO representatives]. Alternatively, she could meet a group of delegates and others in private in the Nightingale room (although this is rather small).

The main Conference session begins at 11.00am in the Fleming/Whittle rooms. If the Prime Minister wanted to be present for the beginning of this, perhaps again accompanying Moi, she might like to attend at least the first part of the proceedings - the showing of a video on the ozone layer commissioned by DOE for the Conference. We would suggest, in this case, that she should leave the Conference Hall before the plenary session got properly underway, and - again with Moi - should finish her visit by touring the industry exhibition on the fifth floor. On this basis the Prime Minister would be free to leave around 11.45am. She may, however, prefer to miss the video, or the exhibition, or both.

The Closing Ceremony, now timed for 10.00am on Tuesday 7 March, is the opportunity for the Prime Minister's main speech, following both Mr Ridley's own wrap-up speech as Conference Chairman and Tolba's speech. There will be a pause of half an hour between the end of the

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Closing Ceremony (scheduled for 11.00am) and the Press Conference, to allow delegates to disperse and the Press Conference to be set up. Our Press Offices are in touch about arrangements for the Press Conference which we expect to run for around an hour, until 12.30pm. During the pause before it the Prime Minister might like to wait in the Nightingale room and discuss handling with those concerned.

I am copying to Stephen Wall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Myles Wickstead (Overseas Development Agency), Jeremy Godfrey (Department of Trade and Industry) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours,
Deborah.

DEBORAH LAMB
Private Secretary