



## Foreign and Commonwealth Office

## CONFIDENTIAL London SW1A 2AH

7 February 1989

Charles

Thank you for your letter of 3 February. The Foreign Secretary shares the Prime Minister's distaste for inviting Libya and Syria to the conference. He has concluded, however, that as the conference is being organised in association with the United Nations Environment Programme, all countries active in UNEP have to be invited. We followed this principle with the AIDS conference last year, co-sponsored by WHO; both Syria and Libya were invited but only Libya turned up, and at official level. UNEP, not HMG, will issue these invitations.

If the Lockerbie investigation reveals clear evidence of Syrian or Libyan involvement, Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that we should tell the country concerned that it would no longer be welcome. We also reserve the right to refuse visas to any individual delegates who are themselves undesirable.

(J S Wall)

Private Secretary

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