

R17/2

ZCZC
LNCYAN 5826 SVLNAN 6496
RESTRICTED
DD 200930Z CAOFF
FM NYMIS TO FCOLN
180105Z FEB
GRS 594

RESTRICTED
FM UKMIS NEW YORK
TO DESKBY 200930Z FCO
TELNO 225
OF 180105Z FEBRUARY 89

FOR POWELL PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET
COPIED TO SLATER, FCO

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT THE OZONE CONFERENCE

1. YOU SENT ME A COPY OF YOUR LETTER OF 13 FEBRUARY TO DEBORAH LAMB (DOE) WITH A DRAFT SYNOPSIS FOR USE BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE END OF THE OZONE CONFERENCE.

2. THE ESSENTIAL POINTS ARE WELL SET OUT IN THE SYNOPSIS. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW THEY ARE EXPANDED INTO A SPEECH. I HAVE A FEW COMMENTS ON THEM.

3. FIRST I THINK THAT AT AN EARLY STAGE IN THE SPEECH THE PRIME MINISTER COULD UNDERLINE THE POINT THAT WITHOUT THE OZONE LAYER LIFE ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH COULD NOT EXIST IN ITS PRESENT FORM. THE OZONE LAYER IS BOTH THE PROTECTOR OF LIFE AND THE PRODUCT OF LIFE. AS YOU RECOGNIZE IN THE DRAFT, THERE ARE STILL MANY UNCERTAINTIES: WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BOTH THE MECHANISMS OF OZONE CREATION AND DESTRUCTION, AND THE EFFECTS OF INCREASED ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATION ON LIVING ORGANISMS.

4. MY OTHER COMMENTS RELATE TO SPECIFIC PARAGRAPHS IN THE SYNOPSIS.

(2) AT THE END OF (2) I THINK YOU SHOULD UNDERLINE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE LINKAGES BETWEEN DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF ATMOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY. FOR EXAMPLE CHLOROFLUORCARBONS (CFCs), WHICH CAUSE THE BREAK UP OF OZONE MOLECULES, ARE ALSO A GREENHOUSE GAS: AND THINNING THE OZONE LAYER MAY AFFECT TEMPERATURE AND CLOUD FORMATION, PARTICULARLY AT THE POLES.

(3) I FEAR THAT THE PHRASE OZONE 'FRIENDLY-PRODUCTS' IS MISLEADING. ALTHOUGH THE RIGHT QUANTITY OF OZONE IS ESSENTIAL AT THE TROPOSPHERIC/STRATOSPHERIC BOUNDARY, OTHER QUANTITIES OZONE CONSTITUTE A POISON AT GROUND AND SEA LEVEL.

(4), (13), (14) I ALWAYS DISLIKE SUCH PHRASES AS 'LDCs', 'DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' OR 'THE THIRD WORLD', BECAUSE THEY CREATE CATEGORIES WHICH HAVE THE EFFECT OF PUTTING THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES IN THE DOCK. I SUGGEST YOU USE THROUGHOUT SOME SUCH PHRASE AS 'COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN INDUSTRIALIZATION'. THIS USEFULLY INCLUDES SUCH COUNTRIES AS THE SOVIET UNION. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY SAID TO ME RECENTLY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT AFFORD TO ABSTAIN FROM USING CFCs, AND WOULD NEED TO BE PERSUADED (OR BY IMPLICATION BRIBED) TO USE SUBSTITUTES. SO WHATEVER WORDING YOU CHOOSE SHOULD BE ALL-EMBRACING.

(6) YOU NEED TO BRING OUT THE DANGERS INVOLVED IN DEVISING PROCESSES WHICH REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF CFCs BUT THEN CREATE OR COMPOUND OTHER PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE MOST CFC SUBSTITUTES ARE PRODUCERS OF CARBON DIOXIDE, WHICH IS THE MAIN CONTRIBUTOR TO GLOBAL WARMING.

(9) I AGREE ABOUT NOT INVENTING UNNECESSARY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE (NOT LEAST IN HELPING TO DEFLECT DEMANDS FOR SUCH INSTITUTIONS) TO UNDERLINE THE NEED TO IMPROVE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS, AND GIVE THEM THE SUPPORT WHICH MANY GOVERNMENTS HAVE SO FAR DENIED THEM. THE MAIN REQUIREMENT AT THE MOMENT SEEMS TO ME TO BE TO REINFORCE UNEP, AND TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE IN DOING ITS JOB. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL OF COURSE BE PRESENT. HE CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE WORK WHICH LED TO THE MONTREAL AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL, AND I BELIEVE MADE A HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR OWN OZONE CONFERENCE.

5. THE FCO HAS INVITED ME TO COME BACK FOR THE CONFERENCE, AND I SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE. THIS COULD ALSO BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER ANY FURTHER HELP YOU MAY NEED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH. INCIDENTALLY I HAVE PREPARED A DESPATCH ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND WILL SEND YOU A SIDE COPY NEXT WEEK.

TICKELL

YYYY

SVLNAN 6496
NNNN