



file P73  
AJC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

23 February 1989

Lord Weinstock, mentioned recently that when cars are being filled up with petrol a considerable amount of noxious fumes escape into the atmosphere and end up adding to the damage to the ozone layer. In most of the United States, it is now compulsory to fit a device to petrol pumps which stops this. He suggested that it would be a signal of our determination to combat damage to the environment if we were to introduce something similar here.

I assume that this refers to benzine and other hydrocarbon evaporation. I recall something similar being proposed in the Community, but for the car rather than petrol pumps, to reduce hydrocarbon vapour emissions from the engine.

I should be grateful for your advice on whether:

- (a) the level of these emissions is significant as a contributor to damage to the ozone layer (and to the greenhouse effect);
- (b) the cost;
- (c) the desirability;
- (d) the practicality of an initiative along the lines suggested.

BM  
Could I ask for this, please, by Friday 3 March.

DOMINIC MORRIS

Miss Deborah Lamb,  
Department of the Environment.

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