



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Kind Minister

24 February 1989

*Re FCO warning to
keep the door to UK
representation at this summit
ajar, if the declaration
Den Charles is much watered down. efn.*

Anglo French Summit: French Environment Initiative

Since the Prime Minister spoke to M Rocard on 8 February, we have consulted the Japanese, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and Italians about the proposed Hague Conference. The New Zealanders appear not to be concerned about the proposed declaration. But all the others to a large extent share our reservations and have expressed their views to the French and Dutch. But they all apparently intend to be represented at the conference, the Canadians at Prime Minister level. The Australians gave the co-sponsors a revised draft of the declaration which omitted a reference to a supra-national authority and turned the draft into a general political statement. This would have been much better from our point of view, but it has been coolly received by the co-sponsors who also rejected an Australian proposal for a small drafting group to meet some time in advance of the conference to consider amendments to the declaration. The co-sponsors have however said that they will themselves issue a revised draft of the declaration early in March. We are therefore making further approaches to the French, Dutch and Norwegians re-stating our objections to the declaration as it stands.

The Hague Conference has now been announced publicly and, according to the announcement, some 20 countries have agreed to attend. The Americans have recently told us that they have now been invited to the conference: but they think it unlikely that they will attend. They share our objections to the draft declaration and are making their views clear to other invitees. The Russians, when we consulted them last week, were puzzled at not having been invited to the conference. We do not know whether they (or the Chinese) have subsequently received an invitation.

/During



During her last meeting with M Rocard, the Prime Minister explained to him frankly our objections to the declaration. She also told him that she would not go to The Hague. At the present meeting the Prime Minister may wish to re-state our objections to the draft declaration, not only to M Rocard but also to President Mitterrand. This may cause Mitterrand to put pressure on Rocard to modify the declaration to make it more acceptable to us. The Prime Minister may wish to repeat that she does not intend to go to The Hague. But we suggest that we should not completely close the door on British representation until we have seen the revised draft declaration. We should also bear in mind the need not to irritate the French to the point where they make difficulties at our CFC Conference or with any other subsequent environmental initiatives we may take.

The Prime Minister may therefore wish to tell President Mitterrand and M Rocard that we share a common concern about the global climate and a common objective in seeking to generate action. But we favour working within existing international bodies and fixing practical targets for action. We are therefore opposed to the creation of a new agency which would cut across work under way in the inter-governmental panel on climate change and in UNEP. We also cannot accept the concept of majority voting, of sanctions and of compensation. We therefore cannot accept the draft declaration as it currently stands. We know that other countries share our concerns about it. We understand that the co-sponsors may issue a revised declaration in the early days of March. Is this true and, if so, what would be the nature of the changes?

The Prime Minister might then ask about the position of the US, USSR and China at the conference. Without them any attempt to make progress on global environmental issues is meaningless.

As regards our own attendance, the Prime Minister might say that, as she made clear to M Rocard at their last meeting, she does not intend to be present. Unless the co-sponsors are able to make radical changes to the declaration, there would be no point in the UK being represented at all.

Yours ever
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