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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 February 1989

Dear Professor Lovelock.

I very much enjoyed meeting you at the dinner given here for the President of Bangladesh. I was so very sorry to learn subsequently that your wife, Helen, had died earlier in the month. Please accept my deepest sympathy. At what I know must be a difficult time for you it was very good of you to have come on 16 February.

I mentioned to you that you would shortly be getting an invitation both to the International Conference on 'Saving the Ozone Layer' (which is being held at the QEII Centre in London on 5-7 March) and to a smaller seminar of experts on the question of global climate at Downing Street in late April.

I would very much welcome and value the contribution which you can make. I know too that in a time of grief, throwing oneself into additional work can in fact be a solace. So, if you would like to, those invitations are very much open to you. But if in your present circumstances you felt you would sooner let things be I would very readily understand.

Yours sincerely

Ronald Davies

Professor James Lovelock, F.R.S.

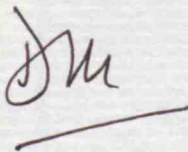
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PRIME MINISTER

I learned today by chance (and subsequent enquiries from the Royal Society have confirmed) that Professor Lovelock's wife died on 5 February. I gather she had had multiple sclerosis for some time. Andrew Turnbull said he had been fairly quiet at the dinner for the President of Bangladesh and this was no doubt why. Lest, when he gets his invitations to come to the CFC conference and global climate seminar he feels he must come regardless, I thought you might like to send him a note of sympathy and set the invitations in context.

A draft is attached for your signature, please.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'DM', with a horizontal line underneath.

(DOMINIC MORRIS)

24 February 1989