

CONFIDENTIAL

file



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

6 March, 1989.

Dear Bob,

FRENCH ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

The Netherlands Prime Minister, Mr. Lubbers, telephoned the Prime Minister this evening about the proposed Heads of Government Meeting in The Hague on 11 March to discuss the French Government's environment initiative.

Mr. Lubbers started by referring to the Save the Ozone Layer Conference in London which he described as important and successful. His purpose in telephoning, however, was to discuss the meeting in The Hague. He understood that the Prime Minister had problems with the draft Declaration to be adopted by that meeting. He had subsequently received proposed amendments from several governments including Canada, Australia and Sweden. They were taken into account in the new text which had been circulated. He wondered whether the revisions might alter the Prime Minister's decision not to attend.

The Prime Minister said that she had seen the new text, and it did not help. She saw no need for a new international organisation or authority. We should support the United Nations. Nor could we support compensation and sanctions. She had already gone over this ground with Monsieur Rocard, and found him determined to stick to his original proposals. There was no point in her attending the meeting. She would simply argue against all the main points in the Declaration. She sympathised with Mr. Lubbers who had got himself saddled with a conference which had not been properly prepared and was basically misconceived.

Mr. Lubbers said that he was not so pessimistic about the chances of something positive emerging from the meeting. He believed that there was a need for stronger international institutions and new instruments to deal with environmental problems. He thought that the modifications already introduced to the draft Declaration went a long way to meet the Prime Minister's concerns. The Prime Minister read from the revised text to demonstrate that they did not do so. The problem was that other Heads of Government had not

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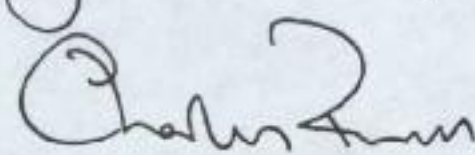
looked into the detail of the Declaration as thoroughly as she before they had agreed to go to the meeting. She would be surprised if they were really able to sign up to it when it came to the point.

Mr. Lubbers then suggested that it would surely not be right for the United Kingdom to be absent altogether. He wanted to suggest that Britain and the United States should send observers. The Prime Minister said that she saw no point in this either. We would not be able to sign the proposed Declaration, and believed it was a wrong conference held in the wrong context. There was no point in sending anyone. But we would of course be interested to hear an account after it was all over.

The Prime Minister concluded by saying she looked forward to seeing Mr. Lubbers at Chequers towards the end of April.

The tone of the exchange was, shall we say, crisp but not unfriendly. It was clear from the beginning that Mr. Lubbers knew he was on a loser on this one.

I am sending copies of this letter to Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Roger Bright (Department of the Environment), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,  


C.D. Powell

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



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6 March, 1989.

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Mr. Lubbers started by referring to the Save the Ozone Layer Conference in London which he described as ~~very~~ important. His purpose in telephoning, however, was to discuss the meeting in The Hague. He understood that the Prime Minister had problems with the Draft Declaration to be adopted by that meeting. He had subsequently received <sup>proposals</sup> amendments from several governments including Canada, Australia and Sweden. He wondered whether ~~they~~ might affect the Prime Minister's decision not to attend. ~~The new text had been circulated which contained some of these amendments.~~

The Prime Minister said that she had seen the new text, and it did not ~~really~~ help. She saw no need for a new international organisation or authority. Nor could we support compensation and sanctions. She had already gone over this ground with Monsieur Rocard, and found him determined to stick to his original proposals. There was no point in her attending the meeting. She would simply argue against all the main points in the Declaration. She sympathised with Mr. Lubbers, who had got himself saddled with a conference which ~~was set up on the wrong basis.~~

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Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

~~Street~~  
~~2/29~~  
~~Street~~

Too low

K.L.C.

ANNEX I

C.F.C.'s

100%

Could be  
achieved

holder

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTE

Structure

Chen P. P.  
1-1 bill

PRESS CONFERENCE