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the department for Enterprise

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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

2 papers

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*Nicholas*

**OZONE CONFERENCE: ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

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P87

Following my letter of 28 February, I am writing in response to John Major's letter of 28 February to you which raises three points that I feel I should clarify, concerning the draft UK policy statement.

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First, on paragraph 3, second sentence, my earlier letter makes it clear that we do not expect our industries to give anything away in dealings with developing countries on other than commercial terms.

On paragraph 4, I think it necessary to correct what seems to be a misunderstanding. The purpose of this paragraph is to draw attention to existing patent search and advisory services available from the Patent Office and/or from other commercial database operators in the UK, on a fee-paying basis chargeable to the customer. The paragraph is not intended to suggest that information is being provided free of charge.

On paragraph 6, on reflection I agree with John Major that, given the need to resolve all the complex implications that any new policy initiatives might have in OECD and the Berne Union, it is preferable to delete this paragraph.

I understand that a policy statement will not now be issued as an official document at the Conference. Nevertheless, I think it important for you to be aware of these points for any discussions during the Conference.

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I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister (for information); to Geoffrey Howe, John Major, Chris Patten and to Sir Robin Butler.

*Yours,  
David*

*the*  
**Enterprise**  
*Initiative*