



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

cc PC ✓

9 March 1989

*Sia to PM  
cannot send there  
before holiday. They are  
not worth sending. Pl. file. Nja.*

*John Charles*

*off of PM*

*CD 9/3*

French Environment Initiative

With your letter of 6 February you passed to us for draft reply a letter from Mr Lubbers inviting the Prime Minister to attend the Hague Conference. Although Mr Lubbers knows of our decision from his recent conversation with the Prime Minister we believe the Prime Minister should send him a written reply. She might also write to M Rocard and Mrs Brundtland. I enclose draft letters.

///

I am copying this letter and its enclosures to Deborah Lamb (Department of the Environment).

*Yours ever*

*R N Peirce*

(R N Peirce)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/No 10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT .....

TO:

Copies to:

Mr Ruud F M Lubbers  
Prime Minister of the Netherlands

SUBJECT:

Thank you for the invitation to attend the Hague Conference which your Embassy passed to me on 6 February.

*We talked*  
It was useful to talk to you on the telephone on 7 March, <sup>so</sup> you know my views. I do not believe we need to establish a new international institution ~~rather~~ *we* should build on the existing institutions, particularly UNEP. For ~~that~~ reason I am afraid that I see no point in the UK being represented at the Hague Conference, where we would be unable to sign the Declaration.

*Of course I share the*  
Nonetheless, we both share a common concern to protect the global environment and to raise ~~the~~ <sup>an awareness</sup> awareness ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> governments ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> peoples ~~to~~ <sup>about</sup> environmental problems. ~~And~~ <sup>But</sup> while

~~we may differ over the mechanism required to move forward we are at one in believing in the need for action.~~

*And I do not support the concept of functions or powers.*

Enclosures flag(s) .....  
*practices. And I am not prepared to accept the notion of compensation, or to say - it would be financed.*

*clear what money how*

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I look forward to hearing about your conference  
when it is over and we shall be to discussing environmental  
issues you come to the with you further when we meet at  
the end of April.

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Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland  
Prime Minister of Norway

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

..... In Confidence

~~And~~ Lubbers and Michel Rocard ~~may~~ have told you of my views on the Hague Declaration. But I thought I should let you know directly. My main difficulty is that I do not think it right to establish a new international institution, rather we should support and build on the existing UN framework. Moreover I also cannot accept the principles of sanctions and compensation which are still contained in the revised declaration.

CAVEAT

Since the UK cannot therefore sign the Declaration I concluded that we should not be represented at the conference. Nonetheless, I am grateful to you for the invitation.

I am also grateful to you for sending a message to the London Ozone Layer Conference. The Conference succeeded in increasing awareness of the problem of ozone depletion.

Enclosures flag(s) .....

directly  
I have not decided yet to attend Secretary's meeting in the Hague to discuss environmental matters.

I am grateful for it to be included in all participants

Back

helped

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*some 24*  
And ~~over 20 more~~ countries indicated that they ~~might~~ *would* now sign the Montreal Protocol or ~~are~~ *are* considering it. This augurs well for the meeting in Helsinki.

~~For the future we are both agreed that we need to generate action to stimulate global problems. While we may occasionally differ on the method of achieving this we do not differ on the objective of protecting the environment in which we all live.~~

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TO: Copies to:

M Michel Rocard  
Prime Minister of the French Republic

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

SUBJECT:

Following our exchanges about the Hague Conference I thought I should let you know formally that, while we were grateful for your invitation, the UK will not attend.

CAVEAT .....

You know my views. I do not believe we need to establish a new international institution: rather we should build on the existing institutions, particularly UNEP. So I am afraid that we could not sign the revised version of the Declaration. Against this background no purpose would have been served in our attending the Conference.

Enclosures flag(s) .....

For the future I know we both share the view that we need to protect the global environment and to raise the awareness of governments to the problems which exist. And while we may differ over the mechanism required to move forward we are at one in believing in the need for action. I hope that we shall remain in touch on environmental matters, which are of vital importance to all of us.

ENV AFFAIRS. And Rev P8

