

A.B. CLEAVER

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cc OES

*From the Private Secretary*

Acty/ 17 March 1989

The attached letter from Tony Cleaver of IBM suggests the establishment of a partnership at Cambridge University to conduct computer modelling of the ozone layer. The suggestion seems to be that IBM would contribute some £7 million plus five experts, but that they would require some matching contribution from the Government.

I should be grateful if you could liaise with the Department of Education and Science, and provide a suitable draft reply for the Prime Minister to send by the end of next week.

P. A. BEARPARK

Miss Deborah Lamb  
Department of the Environment

Vho



IBM

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Chief Executive

The Right Honourable Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister  
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16 March 1989

*Dear Prime Minister,*

May I offer my congratulations on your ozone initiative. Clearly such a well attended gathering confirms the Government's and the country's leadership role in addressing global issues. Your endorsement of the work of UNEP was particularly pleasing for us in IBM in view of our recent support for them.

I now have a proposition which could greatly enhance the lead you have taken. You will know that to understand fully the ozone problem immensely complex computer modelling using supercomputers will be required. This should be carried out at a centre of supercomputing excellence. We had already been planning a supercomputing partnership this year with Cambridge University, who have considerable skills in this area. However, it now occurs to me we should consider a partnership encompassing the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge University and hopefully the government, to establish a World Centre of Competence on ozone at Cambridge. Clearly this is going to be established somewhere and soon. After your initiative, why not in Cambridge now?

My proposal, subject of course to contractual detail, is that IBM United Kingdom would install our largest model supercomputer at Cambridge supported by experts in computer modelling techniques. Would the Government be prepared to match the value of IBM's capital contribution? It would require a subvention of approximately seven million pounds. If so IBM would also second up to five experts in computer modelling techniques for two years at a cost to us of about one million pounds.

I believe such a partnership would be a clear example to the rest of the world of how seriously we in the United Kingdom view the Global environmental issues. It would also be seen as your government getting on and doing something, as opposed to so many others who just talk.

We are ready to move quickly if you wish to do so, and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*A B Cleaver*

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