

PRIME MINISTER

ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION

You will recall that Mr Lubbers wrote to you about The Hague Conference on the Environment, and expressed the hope that the UK will participate in a follow-up meeting of officials in May.

The FCO and DoE recommend that we should do so, on the ground that the final text of The Hague Declaration omitted most of the points which we found most objectionable.

I am not convinced this is wise:

- it will look like a climb-down;
- at the least we need to be certain that no conditions are attached to participation;
- we also need to think carefully before breaking ranks with the Americans, Russians and Chinese. We ought to find out first whether they propose to attend.

Agree to FCO/DoE advice?

OR

Prefer to proceed more cautiously, finding out first what others intend to do?

CHARLES POWELL
7 April 1989

EAMARS

EDP

I do NOT think we should attend. They are still trying to set up a body with authority to finance them. We are AGAINST a new Authority so we CANNOT attend.