



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 April 1989

Dear Charles

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You sent me a copy of your letter of 23 March to Deborah Lamb enclosing a copy of the Netherlands Prime Minister's letter of 20 March following the Hague Conference on the Environment.

Mr Lubbers clearly hopes we will participate in the follow-up to the Hague Conference. The French are organising a follow-up meeting at senior official level in Paris, probably in early May. They have indicated that they are ready to invite us.

The final declaration of the Hague was a considerable improvement on the drafts we saw. It calls for the creation of a new authority or the strengthening of existing institutions. And the explicit references to sanctions, compensation and majority voting that had caused us difficulty in the drafts were all omitted. Countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan and Germany, whose views are close to ours on the issues involved, are now keen for us to join the process to help steer it along a sensible course. The Foreign Secretary therefore believes that there would be merit in our going to the Paris follow-up meeting, provided we can do so without conditions.

We have been trying to find out from the Dutch and the French whether any conditions attach to participation in the follow-up meeting by other countries, like the UK, who did not sign the Hague declaration. The Foreign Secretary stressed to his Netherlands opposite number on 3 April that the sponsors should not set conditions if they wanted wider attendance. Mr van den Broek was not sure if this would be possible but undertook to look into it. At official level, the French and Dutch have been equivocal, suggesting that some acknowledgement of the Hague declaration may be expected. Our officials have responded that this would be an unreasonable condition. Given that we are contributing actively to international environmental cooperation, we should not be excluded.

Mr Lubbers' letter seems to allow cooperation in the follow-up without conditions. The Foreign Secretary believes that, following up his conversation with Mr van den Broek, we should encourage the Dutch in this direction. He therefore

/suggests



/ suggests that the Prime Minister reply in the terms of the enclosed draft letter, which also stresses the importance of participation by the United States, the Soviet Union and China.

I believe the Environment Secretary's Private Secretary will be writing in similar terms.

Copies of this letter go to Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Carys Evans (Chief Secretary's Office), John Fairclough (Chief Scientific Adviser) and Deborah Lamb (Department of the Environment).

Yours ever

Bob Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

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DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
The Prime Minister
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference
C20ABU/SJH

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
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TO:

Copies to:

The Prime Minister of the
Netherlands

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

Thank you for your letter of 20 March about the Environment Conference held at the Hague on 11 March and the Declaration adopted there. I much appreciated what you said about the London Conference on the Ozone Layer.

Brian Mulroney did indeed give me a full account of the Hague Conference ^{held me for} I am glad to see that the text of the Declaration, as finally adopted, contains a number of changes for the better.

In your letter you express the hope that we can co-operate in the follow-up to the Hague Conference. I am prepared to consider this with an open mind and hope that you will do the same. I gather that the sponsors of the Hague Declaration intend to invite other countries to a follow-up meeting in Paris in a few weeks time. As Geoffrey Howe said to Hans van den Broek earlier this week, I trust there will be no conditions attached to participation in that meeting, which would make attendance difficult. In that connection I also attach

Enclosures flag(s)

importance, as I did before The Hague Conference, to the inclusion of representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union and China. I was glad to see that you wrote to President Bush. Do you also plan to write to the Soviet and Chinese leaders? You will also wish to consider how to bring in those other EC member states who have not hitherto been involved.

We are ready to work with you and the other signatories of The Hague Declaration, without pre-conditions, but with the aim, as you put it, of pooling our efforts. It will be particularly important that we get this process into the mainstream of international exchanges so that we can have more fruitful discussions, not least at the UNEP Governing Council in May.

I look forward to your ideas.