



10 DOWNING STREET

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10 April 1989

From the Private Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

You wrote on 7 April enclosing a draft reply to Mr. Lubbers' recent message about follow up to the Hague Conference on the Environment.

The Prime Minister disagrees strongly with the advice given. Her understanding is that the participants in the Hague meeting are still trying to set up a body with authority to finance their schemes and to enforce their decisions. We remain opposed to a new international Authority and should not therefore participate in discussion of it. Moreover, there are grounds to think it unlikely that the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - apart from France - will agree to participate in the follow-up meeting. In these circumstances she does not think we should attend the meeting in Paris - although you will wish to establish firmly whether the Americans, Russians and Chinese are being invited and what their attitude is likely to be.

BF (1)
In the light of this I should be grateful for a revised draft reply.

I am copying this letter to Kate Bush (Department of the Environment), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), Carys Evans (Chief Secretary's Office) and John Fairclough (Chief Scientific Adviser).

(C. D. POWELL)

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office.