

PRIME MINISTER

GLOBAL CLIMATE

You have a meeting with Ministers on Wednesday to consider the papers you commissioned in January. You will want to look at the cover note and brief by Cabinet Office, especially on handling the mass of material in the annexes. You had intended this to be a discussion on substance rather than simply a preparation for the seminar on 26 April.

The three blocks into which you might divide the meeting are:

- possible UK international initiatives
- research
- other domestic action.

Annex A is the FCO paper on international action where they propose putting our efforts into strengthening UNEP and a new "umbrella" convention.

The Cabinet Office note draws the contrasts with Crispin Tickell's letter (Annex B) which you saw earlier.

The FCO paper also assesses the contribution of India and China's greenhouse gas emissions. Their conclusion is: uncertain, large (up to 50 per cent of the world increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel), and that China rather than India is the one to watch. Of the other sections in the FCO paper, that on forestry says nothing new; that on debt argues strongly against significant Government involvement. They also outline a number of difficulties with Sir James Goldsmith's ForestCo idea. You will want to have this in mind for the seminar on 26 April.

Annex C is the Chief Scientific Adviser's paper on research.

Paragraph 29 suggests three programmes where more might be done. One of which, the ESR II satellite needs decision and

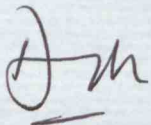


money now; the other two he suggests can be decision now,  
money later. You will want to consider whether that is a  
sensible way to proceed. No!

Annex D is Mr. Ridley's paper which is relatively short and  
thought-provoking. The ideas have clearly not been discussed  
with the Secretaries of State for Energy or Transport, but it  
would be useful to probe them, if time allows, on the domestic  
action heading which is otherwise quite thin. The other  
interesting question posed by Mr. Ridley's paper is whether it  
would be most cost-effective for the developing world to  
target action on non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases (which, although a  
smaller proportion of the total, are much more effective than  
CO<sub>2</sub> in trapping heat).

Annex E. The Secretary of State for Energy's paper's interest  
lies in paragraph 4 which shows that non-transport CO<sub>2</sub>  
emissions could be constant between 1979-2005. Could this be  
made a target?

Annex F from the Department of Transport and Annex G from  
Agriculture need only a quick glance. They add very little.



DOMINIC MORRIS

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