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THE U.K. CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

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The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

28th April 1989

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your hospitality on Wednesday and for the opportunity to spend six hours in a very fruitful dialogue with such a wide range of expertise.

As I mentioned in our brief discussion before lunch, I was particularly interested in your comments on the need to develop actions now to address long-term problems and in our discussion I wondered whether it was politically feasible to do this.

You will know that the investment implications of such strategies present conventional economics with some dilemmas due to the effect of discounting. This is a subject of great interest to this research centre on which we have been developing some projects.

I believe that some synthesis of economic and ethical principles is required to address this problem and I would very much like to take up your kind offer to discuss your views briefly with me. As I said on Wednesday, I believe you are the first politician in the past quarter century to pay other than lip service to this issue.

I anticipate taking up no more than fifteen minutes of your time and will contact your Private Secretary to find an occasion that is convenient to you.

Yours sincerely

David R Cope
Director