



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 August 1989

Dear Charles

*Crossed into
my letter. Await
further advice
CD 20/89.*

International Environmental Issues

Thank you for your letters of 28 July and 2 August about the Prime Minister's talks with Sir Crispin Tickell. This letter deals with the proposal that the Prime Minister should make a speech on environmental issues at the UN in November. The Private Secretaries at the Department of the Environment and the ODA are writing about the other issues which you raised.

The Foreign Secretary welcomes the suggestion that the Prime Minister should address the General Assembly. It would be an excellent opportunity to re-state the British Government's environmental policies. Most Foreign Ministers leave New York after the first couple of weeks so the Prime Minister would be likely to be addressing mainly Permanent Representatives and Delegates. But a speech by a Head of Government always attracts a great deal of attention, as was demonstrated when President Gorbachev addressed the General Assembly late last year.

The ideal timing would be for the Prime Minister's speech to come before the Second Committee Debate on the environment in the second half of October. If the diary does not permit this, we would hope that time might be found before the international Ministerial Conference on Climate Change which the Dutch are hosting on 6/7 November.

If the Prime Minister agrees, I should be grateful if you suggest dates that we might put to the United Nations, who are accustomed to accommodating Heads of Government at almost any stage in the General Assembly. We, the DOE and the ODA will then begin urgent work on a draft.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (DOE), Alex Allan (HM Treasury), Stephen Crowne (Department of Education and Science), Myles Wickstead (ODA) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

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