

PRIME MINISTER ^①

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

You agreed yesterday that Mr Patten could announce the publication of a White Paper at the Party conference; and noted that he was keen that there should be real drive in all departments to contribute to new thinking. A Ministerial group which you would chair was suggested. You commented that you thought that this was not necessary but said that you would set one up if Mr Patten wishes. I have relayed this message to Mr Patten, who confirms that he thinks it would be useful to have a Ministerial Group, particularly if you would chair it. As Sir Robin Butler mentioned in his minute to you, Mr Patten would also like Mr Wilson in the Cabinet Office to continue to chair an interdepartmental group of officials to support Ministers.

Sir Robin suggested membership of the Ministerial Group as attached. He proposed that other Ministers with an interest might be called on an ad hoc basis. He also thought you would want to consider whether the Lord President and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster should be included.

We have now received further letters of support for the idea of a White Paper from the Secretary of the Energy and Trade and Industry (attached).

Content:

- to chair a Ministerial group on the environment; Yes
- to the membership proposed by Sir Robin; or do you want to also involve the Lord President and Mr Baker? No
- to retaining the official inter-departmental group chaired by Richard Wilson? Yes

Caroline Slocock

4 October 1989