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Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

*Prime Minister*²

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PRIME MINISTER

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Chris Patten copied to me his minute to you of 27 September seeking your agreement to publishing a White Paper on the Environment in the early Autumn of next year and to announce this at the Party Conference.

There is a clear need for the Government to continue and indeed reinforce its publicity on the very real progress we have made in this area. I shall certainly be making this an important element of my own publicity campaign over the coming months. There is of course, a close inter-relationship between many of the policies which are of concern to DoE with those of my own Department. I therefore welcome Chris Patten's assurance that there will be close consultation should the decision be taken to proceed with the White Paper when we shall no doubt have some points to make. It would also be helpful for there to be similar consultation on any announcement that might be made at the Party Conference.

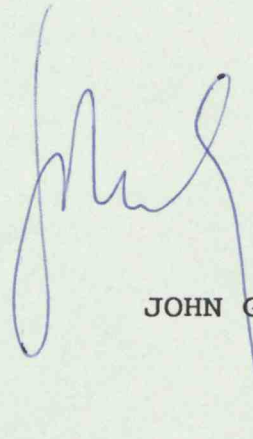
/I must say ...

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I must say that I do share Ken Baker's hesitations about a periodic "State of the Environment" report. I have no objections to issuing such reports as and when they may suit our purposes. But a firm commitment to issuing them on a regular basis could lead us into difficulties which it might be wise to avoid. Should any such report be issued, however it would be important that my Department should be fully involved in the preparation.

I am copying this letter to Cabinet colleagues and Sir Robin Butler.



JOHN GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture
Fisheries and Food
6 October 1989

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