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Prime Minister

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Prime Minister

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

I have now seen Chris Patten's minute to you of 27 September and the comments of Kenneth Baker and Nick Ridley.

I would also support his proposal for a White Paper and look forward to being involved in its preparation, particularly in respect of the programme for the future - which will inevitably be the focus for media interest.

I tend to share Kenneth Baker's reservations about the suggested "State of the Environment" report, especially if community-wide comparisons are to be made. In those circumstances there is always a danger of selective figures being taken out of context to the Government's disadvantage. I believe that this is a matter which deserves further consideration and I would suggest that no commitment be given in the statement to the Party Conference.

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

MR

M R

Scottish Office
9 October 1989

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