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The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
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Pennie Minister

This correspondence is a little long in the tooth (we have only just received Mr Patten's letter, which DOE forgot to copy to you). But you may care to read it as an indication of Treasury and DOE positions on the Pearce report.

Int. V. just.

PEARCE REPORT

mt *20/11*

You wrote to me on 6 October about the report by Professor Pearce.

I can assure you that I do not look upon the Pearce Report as a "philosopher's stone" which will enable us to answer all the questions raised by environmental issues. But Professor Pearce has done us a service in opening up the issues concealed in the concept of "sustainable development". He has raised a number of very important questions which we must address if we are to continue to develop a coherent and positive policy on the environment, the answers to which may lead to some useful general principles.

As you say, our officials must work very closely together on not only the matters raised in the Pearce Report, but also on the proposed White Paper on the Environment, and will obviously do so within the work programme which no doubt will be laid down by the new Ministerial Sub Committee on the Environment.

John

CHRIS PATTEN

ENCLOSED COPIES OF THE
Said LETTER TO:-

- 1 PS/Mr Tipper
 - 2 PS/Permanent Secretary
 - 3 Mr Burr
 - 4 R Fisk
 - 5 Mr Fletcher
 - 6 Mr Hobson (pps)
- TSF:ILB



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