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From the Private Secretary

26 October 1989

Dear Roger,

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Prime Minister feels that we need to be more inventive and positive in her speech to the UNGA on the Environment about the readiness of the Government to take domestic actions to support our international approach.

Examples of points which she would like considered urgently for possible inclusion in her speech are:

A. Energy Efficiency

- renewable resources. Our record on nuclear power is good. Can we say more on solar power?
- incentives and disincentives, including the action we have taken over lead-free petrol.
- research into new methods of car propulsion. Are we actually doing much in this field?
- the technology which Shell are reportedly developing for liquefying the carbon dioxide emitted when coal is converted into energy and putting it back into the ground. This would be an example of harm-free use of fossil fuel resources. Can we obtain details urgently (by this weekend) of what Shell are doing and see whether we can refer to it in the speech?
- other ideas for energy efficiency such as those in Ken Currie's speech at the Prime Minister's seminar on 21 April.

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B. Land Use

- examples of new agricultural practices (organic farming, less use of nitrogen fertiliser), new non-chemical methods of pest control, reafforestation in the right mix of conifer and deciduous trees.

C. Industry

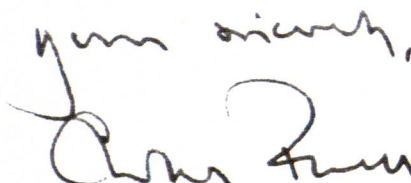
- could the Prime Minister announce the inclusion of an environmental dimension in our national statistics, so that environmental costs are clearly identified?
- should we establish central machinery to make sure that environmental considerations are co-ordinated when major issues come up for decision? An example would be the setting of new industrial norms and standards on emissions into the atmosphere. Is there something the Prime Minister can say on this?

D. Research Programme

- can we be specific and give examples of the new emphasis on the earth's science in our national research programmes?

I recognise that you will already have considered some of these points: and others are already covered in paragraph 21 of the draft, although not in a very eye-catching way. The Prime Minister is keen to include as many specific ideas and examples as possible in her speech and would be grateful if the above points could be looked at and, where appropriate, worked into the speech. You will want to co-ordinate this with other Departments.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Wall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Stephen Haddrill (Department of Energy), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry), John Gieve (HM Treasury), Andy Lebrecht (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), Stephen Crowne (Department of Education and Science) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).



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