

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Deso Charles, announce

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO THE UNGA

1. I promised on the telephone yesterday to let you have, on a personal basis, some additional ideas which might be incorporated into the Prime Minister's speech. Below are two, which involve working up ideas which are already in the present text. For obvious reasons I have not been able to discuss them with the ODA and so they are not as fully developed as I would like. But I hope they will be of some help.

(a) Green Technology Transfer

There is a reference in paragraph 17 of the draft speech to a joint proposal which HMG are developing with the Indian Government and ICI to produce alternatives to CFCs. This might be worked up into a British initiative to transfer green technology to developing countries. The passage in the speech might read somewhat as follows:

"Developing countries need new environmentally friendly technology in order to enable their industry to develop without damage to the environment. That technology is usually in the hands of private companies in the industrialised countries rather than Government. But Governments can help, in partnership with private firms. The British Government is launching a new initiative to foster the transfer of 'green' technology to developing countries. The first example of this is a proposal which we are developing with the Indian Government and with the British chemical firm ICI to enable alternatives to CFCs to be produced in India. We are ready to facilitate other projects of this nature and are earmarking £10 million in the first year for this."

(b) Forestry

There is a reference to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan in paragraph 24. This paragraph might be redrafted on the following lines:

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B) Much man

"Some time ago the FAO set up the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. This plan is to encourage proper managment, by which forests can be made productive without destroying them. Britain is assisting with the Forestry Action Plan in 20 countries. But we believe that the Plan should be expanded and revitalised. We are prepared to commit an additional £20 million for this purpose."

2. If you see merit in either of these ideas, you may wish to put them to the ODA.

Duncan Slater

