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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street SW1P 3AG

Charles Powell Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
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encl 42:

31 October 1989

Dear Charles,

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chief Secretary has seen Kate Bush's letter and draft speech of 20 October and your reply of 26 October. *will copy?*

2. The Treasury will be glad to collaborate with DOE in following up the Prime Minister's suggestions in your letter.
3. On the draft as circulated, the Chief Secretary has two main points.

First, the first sentence on page 10 might better read:

"On the basis of this information we shall need to agree global measures which may well include targets for emissions of greenhouse gases and the way in which individual countries should contribute to their achievement."

4. The point here is partly that the problem goes wider than CO₂ emissions and partly that targets based on national quotas will not necessarily turn out to be the best way of tackling the problem.

5. Second, in paragraph 21, the Chief Secretary sees some risk that the phrase 'our plans for further integration of environmental considerations into all aspects of Government policy' might create expectations which cannot be delivered, not least in the area of tax policy. It would seem preferable, and no less purposeful, to refer to 'our plans to develop a comprehensive range of policies on the environment'.

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6. The Chief Secretary has a few more minor suggestions as well:
- At the bottom of page 1, it might be preferable not to suggest that population increase is the most worrying of all environmental problems. That might appear to exonerate many countries from taking any action.
 - At the end of paragraph 7, it would be better to say 'our understanding of this problem' rather than 'this work'.
 - In paragraph 9, the last sentence would better read: '... provision to support visits by scientific and computing experts from other countries, and not least from developing countries ...'. This would be more in keeping with the scale of organisation which Ministers have had in mind.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Wall, (FCO), Stephen Haddrill (D/En), Neil Thornton (DTI), Andy Lebrecht (MAFF), Stephen Crowne (DES), Kate Bush (DOE) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Peter Wanless.

PETER WANLESS
Assistant Private Secretary

