



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH
01-270 8709/8667

From the Minister's Private Office

Charles Powell Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

1 November 1989

CD 421

Dear Charles

PRIME MINISTER'S UNGA SPEECH

My Minister has seen the draft speech for the Prime Minister submitted under cover of Roger Bright's letter of today's date. He has noted that the draft is cast in more general and wider terms than you had originally envisaged. On the basis that the Prime Minister would wish to speak more or less along the lines proposed, he would wish there to be an adjustment to the reference to agriculture which is found in the final paragraph on page 14 of the draft. The sentence beginning "We will be reviewing the impact of agriculture" is not entirely in line with agreed Government policy. We would suggest that it be replaced by the following:

"We have already taken the lead in the European Community in emphasising the environmental responsibilities of farming. We shall increasingly shape our agricultural policies so that we conserve and improve the beauty of the priceless heritage of our countryside."

If the Prime Minister were minded to say more in her speech about agriculture, Mr Gummer would be very happy to provide a text without delay.

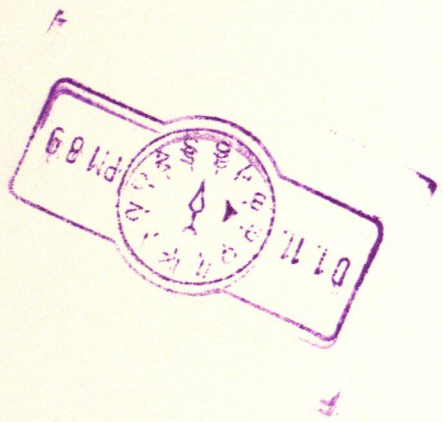
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I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (DoE), John Gieve (Chancellor of the Exchequer's Office), Stephen Wall (Foreign Office), Stephen Haddrill (Department of Energy), Roy Griffins (Department of Transport), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry) and Myles Wickstead (ODA).

Yours sincerely

Andy

A J Lebrecht
Principal Private Secretary





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From the Minister's Private Office

Charles Powell Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

2 November 1989

Dear Charles

PRIME MINISTER'S UNGA SPEECH

Further to my letter of yesterday's date, you asked me to offer an additional contribution on agriculture to this draft speech. I am accordingly attaching a short text, which my Minister has approved, highlighting a number of areas to which the Government can proudly draw attention regarding agriculture and the environment.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (DOE), John Gieve (Chancellor of the Exchequer's Office), Stephen Wall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Stephen Haddrill (Department of Energy), Roy Griffins (Department of Transport), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry) and Miles Wickstead (ODA).

Yours sincerely
Andy

A J Lebrecht
Principal Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO THE UNGA : AGRICULTURE

Farmers are food producers but they are also conservers of the countryside. We have long been the leaders in Europe in recognising this wider role. All our agricultural policies reflect the importance of conservation and large areas of Britain are now designated for special protection.

Conservation can not be carried out without costs, and we recognise this in paying farmers to enhance the environment by reducing the intensity of their methods and by creating new wildlife habitat. Forestry is playing an important part in this change. In the last 10 years there has been a 50% increase in tree planting in Britain. Recent measures have also increased our broadleaved trees which enhance the landscape and wildlife habitat.

To preserve our present environment the Government has devoted considerable research and advisory effort. This has been aimed at eliminating wasteful application of nitrogen fertilisers. We have proposed measures to deal with the complex problems of nitrates in water. Next year, we shall be setting up pilot Nitrate Sensitive Areas in which farmers would be encouraged to take measures to achieve significant reductions in nitrate leaching.

It must be the aim to reduce chemical inputs and to develop alternative non-chemical methods of controlling pests. We are in the forefront of research into genetically engineered pest resistance and work is underway on biological control techniques and integrated pest management.

We have also responded to the growing consumer interest in organically grown foods. We have encouraged and funded the formulation of national standards for the production of such foods coupled with an inspection and certification scheme.

Britain is determined to conserve our countryside, improve our environment and farm our landscape to continue to provide pleasure and recreation for our people.