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THE RT HON JOHN WAKEHAM MP

SECRETARY OF STATE
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See Charles

PRIME MINISTER'S UNGA SPEECH

My Secretary of State had read the revised draft speech enclosed with Roger Bright's letter of 1 November. He is content with the speech with the exception of the last sentence about dumping waste in the top paragraph of page 18.

A 'no dumping' regime would involve a major change of policy for the UK with high costs attached. The UK currently carries out radioactive discharging from nuclear facilities such as Sellafield into the sea. Although the UK at present subscribes to a moratorium on the dumping of radioactive waste at sea, the UK has kept its option open if scientific evidence shows that dumping is not harmful.

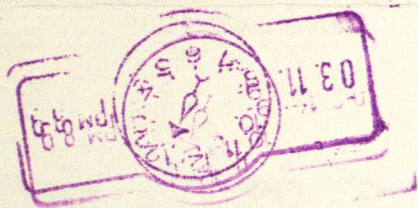
There are of course other substances we dispose of at sea because that is the least environmentally harmful method of disposal. My Secretary of State thinks that the consequences of a complete bar on sea dumping would need to be considered further by Departments, including MOD, before a categorical call was made to stop it.

Meanwhile he believes that the situation could be contained if the phrase were reworded "dump it heedlessly in the sea ...".

I am copy this to Roger Bright and the Private Secretaries to John Major, Douglas Hurd, Tom King, Cecil Parkinson, Nicholas Ridley, John Gummer and Lynda Chalker.

David
Murphy

DAVID MURPHY
Private Secretary



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