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gcp
Prime Minister²

abs
28/11

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon John Wakeham FCA MP
Secretary of State
Department of Energy
1 Palace Street
LONDON SW1E 5HE

mf

27 November 1989

See job

CONTROL MEASURES FOR ENERGY-RELATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

map
John Major has passed me your minute of 23 November to the Prime Minister.

I agree with the conclusions that you draw from the paper in your opening paragraphs; and your third point - that an abatement strategy is not costless - is one that must be kept in the forefront of our and other partners' minds. I understand that our officials have in fact agreed a redraft of the relevant section of the paper (Section 5.5) together with a few other changes. Subject to the incorporation of these and to the views of the Prime Minister and other colleagues, I would be content for you to submit your study to the IPCC sub-group as you propose.

I also agree that you should answer an arranged question when the study is published, which would give you an opportunity to put the paper in context. I should be grateful if the reply could be agreed in draft with my officials. One point that it might make, which I understand will be included in the summary of the final version, is that the estimated effects of the options in Section 5 cannot be cumulated. That might help to reduce the risk that unscrupulous users of the paper might compile a strategy for meeting objectives for curtailing greenhouse gas emissions that imposed substantially greater adjustment costs on the economy than was indicated by the analysis of the first-round effects of each.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to Douglas Hurd, Peter Walker, Nicholas Ridley, Malcolm Rifkind, Cecil Parkinson, Chris Patten, John Gummer and Sir Robin Butler.

Yan for
Malcolm

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ENV. AFFAIRS: Acid Rain pr 12

