

Subject "master
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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 January, 1985

PC
FCO
DOE
DT transport
DT energy

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T4A/85**

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 1984 enclosing a statement by the Nordic Prime Ministers' about air pollution and acidification.

We share the Nordic countries' concern to intensify efforts, both nationally and internationally, to solve air pollution problems. The United Kingdom has a proud record of achievement in tackling domestic air pollution. It has always been our practice to take firm and effective pollution control measures when circumstances warranted such action. By 1983, our total emissions of sulphur dioxide had fallen by 40 per cent from the peak level and by 20 per cent from 1980 level. Similarly, in the case of the long term international air pollution problems which now concern us all, I confirm that the United Kingdom Government will maintain its efforts both domestically and internationally to find cost-effective solutions.

Pending the development of these solutions, we share the view of the Nordic Prime Ministers that emissions of both sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen should be reduced. We believe that in present circumstances we would not be justified in committing the United Kingdom to a specific target date or percentage for these reductions. We therefore intend to reduce our total emissions of these gases from stationary and vehicular sources aiming for a reduction of 30 per cent from 1980 levels by the end of the century.

At the same time, we propose to maintain our attack on other emissions. For this reason, I welcome the recent decision by the European Community that unleaded petrol should be introduced throughout the Community no later than 1989; this is an excellent result of an initiative taken by the United Kingdom Government 18 months ago. I am also pleased to welcome the decision of the Nordic countries to make measures to market lead-free petrol as soon as possible.

Finally, I assure the Nordic Prime Ministers that the United Kingdom always stands ready to take action on pollution problems in the light of scientific evidence and will continue to co-operate closely and fully with their Governments and with other Governments in international study and discussion of air pollution and acidification.

Yours sincerely .

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Steingrimur Hermannsson



SPC

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

let
*Pre check that other
depts are content.*

My ref:

Your ref:

8 January 1985

*DWB
8/1*

Dear David

In his letter of 18 December, Colin Budd said that the FCO was considering the Nordic Prime Ministers' message on air pollution and acidification and would advise the Prime Minister about a reply.

After discussing the message with FCO we agreed to take on the drafting of a reply to the Prime Minister of Iceland and I now attach a draft which has been agreed at official level with FCO. My Secretary of State has also seen the draft and is content.

I understand that there are delays in the bag service to Reykjavik. You may therefore like to consider sending the Prime Minister's reply by telegram, to be followed by the signed original in due course.

Copies of this letter go to Colin Budd at FCO, John Nielson at Department of Energy and Henry Derwent at Department of Transport.

Yours ever,

Andrew

A C ALLBERRY
Private Secretary

1) Mr Powell: Other depts are content, subject to the amendments shown.

2) GR: Pre type for PM's sig.

*DWB
8/1*

DRAFT REPLY TO MR STEINGRIMUR HERMANNSSON, PRIME MINISTER
OF ICELAND

LAMAC

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ENV. AFFAIRS
Acid Rain
Pt 3.

-8 JAN 1985

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