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Dear Mr Powell

SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE

I am sorry that we have not met the suggested deadline of 15 October forwarding to you a draft speech for the Prime Minister to make at the Second World Climate Conference. Preparations are well advanced but have not yet had the "Patten touch" applied.

Nevertheless I thought you might welcome a sight of the latest draft. This has been prepared by Patrick Rock - the Secretary of State's special advisor - and covers the ground which Mr Patten wants to suggest to the Prime Minister should be covered. He would like, however, to work on the speech substantively over the weekend so that you can have a completed text on Monday.

I am out of the office today (Friday) but Richard Shaw here will handle this matter in my absence.

Yours sincerely

Richard Shaw

PP PHILLIP WARD
Private Secretary

DRAFT SPEECH FOR PRIME MINISTER

TO WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Over the last few months the United Nations has demonstrated its true worth. Member states have come together to champion the principles of self-determination and world order which underpin civilised society. There is fresh optimism that this model of international co-operation foreshadows a new era in world affairs.

Man's threat to his world takes many disguises. One, less disguised than others, is the tyranny we see on display today in the Gulf. In putting oppression to flight, both our duty and our interest as custodians of the planet is clear. Yet such obvious assaults on the stability of things should not obscure the more pervasive task of living in harmony with our surroundings. That work is never done. It lives on with us as our nations breathe. It lives on as the people of the world eat and sleep, work and rest, multiply and pass away. Our duty to nature will remain long after peace is restored in the Middle East. It will remain for as long as we aspire to be citizens of planet *earth*

The danger of global warming is unseen. But it is nonetheless real for that. Real enough that our response will involve some degree of present sacrifice for the benefit of future generations.

A great deal of statesmanship will be required from us all. If we did not know that, we would not be here today.

I want to pay tribute to the important work which the United Nations has done to advance our understanding of global warming. Dr Tolba and Dr Obin deserve our particular thanks for their far sighted initiative to form the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The IPCC report is a remarkable achievement. It is as difficult to get a large number of distinguished scientists to agree amongst each other as it is to get a large number of politicians - distinguished or otherwise - to do so. A scientist who became a politician is perhaps qualified to make this observation.

Of course much more research is needed. Britain has played and will continue to play, a leading role in advancing our state of knowledge of climate change. We have established the Hadley Centre for the Prediction of Climate Change for that very purpose. We need, among other things, to improve our understanding of the effect of the oceans on our weather and to improve our capability to model climate change.

Our understanding of climatology is imperfect. Yet there is a clear case for precautionary action now and at an international level. The IPCC tells us that we simply cannot repair the effects of past excesses on our atmosphere in the same way as we might cleanse a stream. It will take to the second half of the next

century, until the old age of my grandson, for the hole in the ozone layer above the Antarctic to disappear. Greenhouse gases will endure in the upper atmosphere for just as long.

The IPCC tells us that, on present trends, the earth will warm up faster than at any time since the last ice age. The consequences would be irreversible. Homes would be consumed by the sea. Species would disappear for ever. Deserts would advance as fields fell back.

The IPCC's forecast may be on the high side. But many of the actions which are needed would be sensible in any event. It is sensible to develop sustainable sources of fuel supply. It is sensible to preserve the world's store of energy.

Equally climate change may occur more quickly than the computer models suggest. Should this come to pass it would be doubly disastrous if we shirked the challenge now. Nor can we be entirely sure of how global warming could change our weather. Violent storms, droughts and floods could become ever increasing occurrences. We simply cannot afford to take that risk.

We are all aware of the immense challenge we face. But we cannot allow ourselves to be driven to despair by the enormity of the task. We have already established a model of international environmental diplomacy to deal with the serious problem of ozone depletion. For the first time ever, rich and poor nations alike

set out together to save our planet from serious danger. This process culminated in the historic agreement reached in London this year. That agreement is a real beacon of hope for the future.

The main focus in London was on protecting the ozone layer. We should not forget, however, that CFCs are 10,000 times more powerful, molecule for molecule, as agents of global warming than is carbon dioxide. We must focus on all greenhouse gases if we are to be successful in slowing down the rate of climate change to sustainable levels.

Of course, at the present time, carbon dioxide is by far the most important greenhouse gas.

That is why the United Kingdom is prepared as part of an international effort, to set itself the demanding target of stabilising carbon dioxide emissions at this year's levels by 2005. Taken together with action in other areas this would represent a 20% cut in present emission levels of all greenhouse gases by that date.

Targets on their own are not enough. They have to be achievable. We have set out a strategy for achieving our target in the comprehensive White Paper which we published only a month ago. We propose ambitious programmes both to save energy and to encourage our use of cleaner energy.

United Kingdom law now requires that a minimum (20%) contribution of our electricity supply comes from sources which do not generate carbon dioxide. We plan a tenfold increase in power from renewable sources. We also envisage a continuing important contribution from nuclear energy.

We have to face the fact that one quarter of global warming springs from the destruction of the world's forests. Trees are a resource we cannot afford to squander. They help undo the damage of carbon dioxide emissions. Existing forests must be preserved. New forests must be planted. That is the objective of our £30 million Tropical Forestry Action Plan. That too is the objective of our plans to start planting a virgin wood right in the heart of the United Kingdom.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our immediate task this week is to carry as many countries as possible forward on the road to a successful framework convention in 1992. We must also begin work on binding protocols to make the convention work. In this we need to move forward using the institutional framework of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organisation.

We will not succeed if we engage in competitive targetry. We will not succeed if we insist on inflexibility. We will only succeed if we recognise the widely different circumstances facing individual member states.

Some of us use energy more efficiently than others. Some of us are less dependent on fossil fuels. And all of us are at differing stages of economic development. These are realities which we must face if we are to move forward towards a successful conclusion in 1992.

Rich and poor, North and South, West and East - all of us have to play our part if we are to succeed, as succeed we must. The developed countries must help the poorer countries to do so, as we have already pledged to do at the ozone conference this year.

I give this conference this pledge. The United Kingdom Government will work with others to provide the leadership necessary to bring all the nations of the world together in an historic endeavour; the salvation of this our common home.

