



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
071-270 3000

24 October 1990

P D Ward Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
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CO2 24 R

Dear Phillip

SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE: SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER

You wrote to Charles Powell on 22 October enclosing a draft speech for the Prime Minister to make at next month's Conference.

The third paragraph on the fifth page of the draft speech says that the United Kingdom is prepared to set itself a target of returning carbon dioxide emissions to this year's level by 2005 "as part of an international effort". The policy which Ministers have agreed sets a tighter condition on the government's willingness to commit the United Kingdom to restraining CO2 emissions. The Environment White Paper says that the United Kingdom is prepared to adopt a 1990-2005 target for CO2 emissions "if other countries take similar action".

The Chancellor thinks that it would be prudent to stick to the letter of the White Paper (or to the Prime Minister's Hadley Centre speech) at the Second World Climate Conference and indeed in other public pronouncements on climate change. It is important to avoid any ambiguities about the government's position, not least because of electricity privatisation.

I am copying this letter to **Charles Powell** (No.10), Richard Gozney (FCO), Suma Chakrabarti (ODA) and John Neilson (DEN).

*Yours sincerely
Kate Gaseltine*

MISS K GASELTINE
Assistant Private Secretary



P.M. SPEECHES : Second World
Climate Conf Oct/90

CPM



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CPM 24/10

Dear Phillip

CLIMATE CHANGE: SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE: UNITED KINGDOM OBJECTIVES

at Flap

As foreshadowed in his letter of 22 October about next Monday's joint Environment and Energy Council, the Chancellor has asked me to pass on to you his comments on the draft objectives for the Conference enclosed with Mr Patten's letter of 17 October to Mr Hurd.

It seems unlikely that there will be any substantive progress on the issues raised by climate change at next month's Conference. Most participants will be seeking to keep their powder dry for future negotiations about a framework convention and protocols committing signatories to take action. In these circumstances it will be in the United Kingdom's interest to do the same and to maintain a rigorous set of objectives at this stage in the international negotiations. To that end the Chancellor would like to suggest the following changes in the draft objectives.

- (a) Paragraph 2, line 3. Delete "by their capacity to act": a form of words which might be used to justify inaction by a wide range of countries with greatly differing degrees of economic development.
- (b) Same paragraph, insert "in the context of appropriate global action" after "industrialised countries". We must continue to emphasise the need for a global response.



- (c) Paragraph 3. Revise the first sentence to read: "To secure the widest possible agreement that developing countries should adopt development policies which limit their emissions of greenhouse gases and reverse the destruction of forests which act as carbon sinks". We should not at this early stage in the negotiations on climate change set ourselves the weak objective of reducing merely the rate of increase of LDC CO2 emissions.

If and when international negotiations on the stabilisation of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not covered by the Montreal Protocol move into the phase of serious bargaining about targets there will be a good deal of argument about the basis on which different countries might set targets. The Chancellor thinks that it would be helpful if officials could take further some of the work that has already been done on objective bases for stabilising greenhouse gas emissions.

I am copying this letter to the private secretaries to the Prime Minister, other members of MISC 141 and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely

Kate Gaseltine

MISS K GASELTINE
Assistant Private Secretary



ENV AFFAIRS: Acid Rain Pt 18.