

THE RT HON JOHN WAKEHAM MP



Department of Energy
1 Palace Street
London SW1E 5HE
071 238 3149

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Phillip Ward Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

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Dear Phillip

SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Thank you for sending me a copy of the draft speech for the Prime Minister at this Conference. The Department of Energy's comments are set out in the attached Annex. The more important points are starred.

No doubt you will be considering further the form of words which should be used on "conditionality" following the Joint Environment/Energy Council on 29 October.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell (No 10), Richard Gozney (FCO), Kate Gaseltine (Treasury), and Suma Chakrabarti (ODA).

Yours
John

J S NEILSON
Principal Private Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SPEECH FOR THE
PRIME MINISTER TO THE SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Page 2, para 1: The tone of this paragraph is rather emotive; particularly (but not only) the last sentence which leaves us wide open to the criticism from the Greens etc. At the very least we should ensure that it speaks of "mankind" to make clear that it does not refer to the UK alone.

Page 2, para 3: The danger of global warming is as yet "unproven" rather than "unseen". It is the "threat" that is real.

Suggest delete "and sacrifices", as our current CO2 policies are based on a "no regrets" approach.

Page 3, para 2: Suggest "some major uncertainties and doubts remain".

Page 3, para 3: Replace "in the same way as we might cleanse a stream" with "as quickly and as easily as we might .. "

* Revise penultimate sentence to read ".. grandson, to repair the damage being done to the ozone layer." The hole actually disappears every year - it is only in existence for two months per annum.

* Last sentence should read "Some greenhouse gases will endure in the atmosphere for just as long." NB Some last for only 3 seconds; and some endure in the whole atmosphere.

Page 4, para 1: Replacing "would" in last three sentences with "could" will properly reflect the uncertainty, but still keep the message.

Page 4, para 2: It would be helpful to have some examples from the non-energy sector.

* Suggest "prudent to develop flood protection measures" and "prudent to protect forestry".

- Page 4, para 3: It is perhaps worth noting that the uncertainties include the possibilities that climate change may take place more slowly than current models suggest, or even not at all.
- Page 5, para 3: The second sentence must be deleted. We have argued long and loud, for example in the Community, that we cannot accept "stabilisation" before 2005! We are aware that different meanings can be attached to "stabilisation", but the international community now understands it as meaning "returning to a prescribed base level". It does us no credit to muddy the water in this way.
- Page 5, para 4: Replace "to save energy" with "to promote energy efficiency".
- Insert "particularly in relation to energy efficiency" after "the measures we propose".
- Page 6, para 1: Suggest " .. law, that a substantial proportion of our electricity comes from sources which emit little or no carbon dioxide". The NFFO, ie law, does not specify a figure; and it is not the case that all of the sources covered by it emit no CO2.
- Replace "tenfold" with "very substantial"; otherwise insert "leaving aside the long-standing hydro-electric schemes in Scotland".
- Page 6, para 2: Replace second sentence with "Trees have an important role to play in any strategy to control carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere."

