

Intro.

Manufacture - Out of Balance

The Importance of Research

The Need for Precautionary Action

The Need for Environmental Diplomacy

The Need for a Global Convention

"Man is all symmetry,
Full of proportions, one limb to another,
And all to all the world besides;
Each part may call the farthest, brother;
For head with foot hath private amity,
And both with moons and tides."

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Your
Majesty, President
Koller, Distinguished
Colleagues, Your
Excellencies, Ladies
and Gentlemen,

May I begin by
thanking Heads of
Agencies and
Organisations for
sponsoring this Second
World Climate
Conference, and indeed

END OF PAGE 1

all those connected
with it. It is a most
important event for
all our countries and
I wish you success in
your endeavours.

Mr. Chairman, since
the last World War,
our world has faced
many challenges, none
more vital than that
of defending our
liberty and keeping
the peace. Gradually
and painstakingly we

have built up the habit of international cooperation, above all through the United Nations. The extent of our success can be seen in the Gulf, where the nations of the world have shown unprecedented unity in condemning Iraq's invasion/and taking the measures necessary to reverse it.

But the threat to our world comes not only from tyrants and their tanks. It can be more insidious though less visible. The danger of global warming is as yet unseen, but real enough for us to make changes and sacrifices, so that we do not live at the expense of future generations.

Our ability to come together to stop or limit damage to the world's environment will be perhaps the greatest test of how far we can act as a world community. No-one should underestimate the imagination that will be required, nor the scientific effort, nor the unprecedented co-operation. We shall have to show

END OF PAGE 5

statesmanship of a
rare order. It's
because we know that,
we are here today.

[Man and Nature: out
of balance]

For two centuries,
since the Age of
Enlightenment, we
assumed that whatever
the advance of
science, whatever the
economic development,
whatever the increase
in human numbers, the

END OF PAGE 6

world would go on much
the same. It was
progress. And that
was what we wanted.

Now we know that this
is no longer true.

We have become more
and more aware of the
growing imbalance
between our species
and other species,
between population and
resources, between
humankind and the
natural order of

which we are part.

In recent years, we
have been playing with
the conditions of the
life we know on the
surface of our planet.
We have cared too
little for our seas,
our forests and our
land. We have
treated the air and
the oceans like a
dustbin. We have come
to realise that man's
activities and numbers

END OF PAGE 8

threaten to upset the
biological balance
which we have taken
for granted and on
which human life
depends.

We must remember our
duty to Nature before
it is too late. That
duty is constant. It
is never completed.
It lives on as we
breathe. It endures
as we eat and sleep,⁷
work and rest, as we

are born and as we
pass away. The duty
to Nature will remain
long after our own
endeavours have
brought peace to the
Middle East. It will
weigh on our shoulders
for as long as we wish
to dwell on a living
and thriving planet,
and hand it on to our
children and theirs.

[The importance of
research]

I want to pay tribute
to the important work
which the United
Nations has done to
advance our
understanding of
climate change, and in
particular the risks
of global warming.
Dr. Tolba and
Professor Obasi
deserve our
particular thanks for
their far-sighted

initiative in
establishing the
Intergovernmental
Panel on Climate
Change.

The IPCC report is a
remarkable
achievement. | It is
almost as difficult to
get a large number of
distinguished
scientists to agree, |
as it is to get
agreement from a group
of politicians. As a

scientist who became a
politician, I am
perhaps particularly
qualified to make that
observation!

Of course, much more
research is needed.

We do not yet know all
the answers. Some
major uncertainties
and doubts remain.

No-one can yet say
with certainty that it
is human activities
which have caused the

apparent increase in
global average
temperatures. The
IPCC report is very
careful on this point.
For instance, the
total amount of carbon
dioxide reaching the
atmosphere each year
from natural sources
is some 600 billion
tonnes, while the
figure resulting from
human activities is
only 26 billion
tonnes. In relative

terms that is not very significant. Equally we know that the increases of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere date from the start of the industrial revolution. ||

And we know that those concentrations will continue to rise if we fail to act. |

Nor do we know with any precision the extent of the likely

warming in the next
century, nor what the
regional effects will
be. We cannot be sure
of the role of clouds.

There is a continuing
mystery about how
atmospheric carbon,
including the small
extra contribution
from human sources, is
being absorbed: is
most of it going into
the ocean, as used to
be thought? Or is it

being increasingly
absorbed by trees or
plants, or soils,
especially in the
northern hemisphere?

These are questions
that need answers,
sooner rather than
later.

Global climate change
within limits need not
by itself pose serious
problems - our globe
has after all seen a
great deal of climate

change over the
centuries. It is
notable that the
blue-green algae which
dominated the
Precambrian period at
the dawn of life are
still major components
of the marine
phytoplankton today.
Despite the climate
changes of many
millions of years,
these microbes have
persisted on earth
virtually unchanged,

pumping out life-
giving oxygen into the
atmosphere and mopping
up carbon dioxide.

The real dangers arise
because climate change
is combined with other
problems of our age:
for instance the
population explosion;
- the deterioration
of soil fertility;
- increasing
pollution of the sea;
- intensive use of

fossil fuel;

- and destruction of
the world's forests,
particularly those in
the tropics.

Britain will continue
to play a leading role
in trying to answer
the remaining
questions, and to
advance our state of
knowledge of climate
change. This year, we
have established in
Britain the Hadley

Centre for Climate
Prediction and
Research for this
purpose. We need to
improve in particular
our understanding of
the effect of the
oceans on our weather,
improve too our
capability to model
climate change. I
have seen for myself
the outstanding work
being done on both
these subjects at the
National Center for

Atmospheric Research
in Boulder, Colorado.

We must also make sure/
that research is
carefully targeted.

Too many people can do
the same thing, and at
the same time vital
problems can be
neglected. The task
of global observation
is immense. It will
require a coordinated
effort more ambitious
than any attempted

before, as the meeting
of scientists and
experts last week
recognised.

[The need for
precautionary action]

But the need for more
research should not be
an excuse for delaying
much needed action.

There is already a
clear case for
precautionary action
at an international
level. The IPCC

END OF PAGE 23

tells us that we
cannot repair the
effects of past
behaviour on our
atmosphere as quickly
and as easily as we
might cleanse a
stream. / It will take,
for example, until the
second half of the
next century, until
the old age of my
grandson, to repair
the damage to the
ozone layer above the
Antarctic. And some

of the gases we are
adding to the global
heat trap will endure
in the Earth's
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. Weather
patterns could change
so that what is now
wet would become dry,

and what is now dry
would become wet.
Rising seas could
threaten the
livelihood of that
substantial part of
the world's population
which lives on or near
coasts. | The character
and behaviour of
plants would change,
some for the better,
some for worse. | Some
species of animals and
plants would migrate
to different zones or

disappear for ever.

Forests would die or
move. And deserts
would advance as green
fields retreated.

Many of the
precautionary actions
that we need to take
would be sensible in
any event. It is
sensible to improve
energy efficiency and
use energy prudently;
sensible to develop
alternative and

sustainable sources of
supply; sensible to
replant the forests
which we consume;
sensible to re-examine
industrial processes;
sensible to tackle the
problem of waste. I
understand that the
latest vogue is to
call them 'no regrets'
policies. Certainly
we should have none in
putting them into
effect.

And our uncertainties about climate change are not all in one direction. The IPCC report is very honest about the margins of error. Climate change may be less than predicted. But equally it may occur more quickly than the present computer models suggest. Should this happen it would be doubly disastrous were we to

shirk the challenge
now. I see the
adoption of these
policies as a sort of
premium on insurance
against fire, flood or
other disaster. It
may be cheaper or more
cost-effective to take
action now than to
wait and find we have
to pay much more
later.

[The need for
environmental
diplomacy]

We are all aware of
the immense challenge.
The enormity of the
task is not a matter
for pessimism. The
problems which science
has created | science
can solve, provided we
heed its lessons.
Moreover, we have
already established a
structure of
international co-

operation on the
environment to deal
with ozone depletion.
For the first time
ever, rich and poor
nations alike set out
together to save our
planet from a serious
danger. This
painstaking work
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. But the
agreement will have
other consequences. /
We should not forget
that CFCs are 10,000
times more powerful,
molecule for
molecule, than carbon
dioxide as agents of
global warming. But
of the other
greenhouse gases,

carbon dioxide is by
far the most
extensive and
contributes around
half the manmade
greenhouse warming.

All our countries
produce it. The
latest figures which I
have seen show that 26
per cent comes from
North America, 22 per
cent from the rest of
the OECD, 26 per cent
from the Soviet Union
and Eastern Europe and

26% USA
Canada

22% O.E.C.D.

26% USSR
East
Europe

26% 3rd world

26 per cent from the
less developed
countries.

These figures
underline why a joint
international effort
to curb greenhouse
gases in general / and
carbon dioxide in
particular is so
important. There is
little point in action
to reduce the amounts
being put into the
atmosphere in one part

of the world, if they
are promptly increased
in another. | Within
this framework the
United Kingdom is
prepared, | as part of
an international
effort including other
leading countries, | to
set itself the
demanding target of
bringing carbon
dioxide emissions back
to this year's level/
by the year 2005. //

That will mean

reversing a rising
trend before that
date.

The European Community
has also reached a
very good agreement to
stabilise emissions.

I hope that Europe's
example will help the
task of securing
world-wide agreement.

Targets on their own
are not enough. They
have to be achievable.

Promises are easy.

Action is more
difficult. For our
part, we have worked
out a strategy which
sets us on the road to
achieving the target.

We propose ambitious
programmes both to
promote energy
efficiency / and to
encourage the use of
cleaner fuels. /

We now require, by
law, that a
substantial

proportion of our
electricity comes from
sources which emit
little or no carbon
dioxide. That
includes a continuing
important
contribution from
nuclear energy.

Such measures as these
- which increasing
numbers of countries
are adopting - should
be seen as part of the
premium on that

insurance policy which
I mentioned. They buy
us protection against
the hazards of the
future: but they
also pay dividends
even though the
gloomier predictions
about global warming
are not fulfilled -
dividends such as less
air pollution, lowered
acid rain, reduced
energy costs.

Mr. Chairman, people
may disagree about the
effects of increased
man-made carbon
dioxide in the
atmosphere. But
everyone agrees that
we should keep in
healthy condition the
forests and seas which
absorb and utilise a
large part of it here
on earth. We would be
wise to do that for
other reasons too: for
the beauty of the

forests and the
infinite variety of
species which inhabit
them, and to preserve
the food chain and
balance of nature in
the sea.

That's why we want to
contribute to
conserving the world's
forests, and to
planting new ones.

Trees help to reduce
global warming. We
intend to plant more

at home: we have just announced our plans to replant one of the ancient forests of England - destroyed in an earlier phase of our history.

We shall offer our expertise and aid funds to help plant and manage forests elsewhere in the world, particularly in tropical countries. A year ago I told the

United Nations General
Assembly that the
United Kingdom would
aim to increase its
funds for tropical
forestry by ~~#~~100m. We
now have 150 projects
underway in more than
30 countries.

Our aim is to give the
people in those
countries a better
standard of living by
conserving and using
the forests than by

cutting them down.

[The need for a Global
Convention]

But our immediate task
this week is to carry
as many countries as
possible with us, so
that we can negotiate
a successful framework
convention on climate
change in 1992. We
must also begin work
on the binding
commitments that will
be necessary to make

the convention work.

To accomplish these
tasks, we must not
waste time and energy
disputing the IPCC's
report) or debating the
right machinery for
making progress. The
International Panel's
work should be taken
as our sign-post: and
the United Nations
Environment Programme
and the World
Meteorological

Organisation as the
principal vehicles
for reaching our
destination.

We will not succeed if
we are too inflexible.

We will not succeed if
we indulge in self-
righteous point-
scoring for the
benefit of audiences
and voters at home.

We have to work
sympathetically
together. We have to

recognise the
importance of economic
growth of a kind that
benefits future as
well as present
generations
everywhere. / We need
it not only to raise
living standards but
to generate the
wealth required to pay
for protection of the
environment.

It would be absurd to
adopt policies which
would bankrupt the
industrial nations, or
doom the poorer
countries to
increasing poverty.

We have to recognise
the widely different
circumstances facing
individual countries,
with the better-off
assisting the poorer
ones as we agreed to
do under the Montreal
Protocol.

The differences can't
be drafted away in
that famous phrase so
beloved of diplomats
"a form of words".
⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒
They need to be
resolved by tolerant
and sympathetic
understanding of our
various positions. |

Some of us use energy
more efficiently than
others. Some of us
are less dependent on
fossil fuels. And we

each have our own
economic
characteristics,
resources, plans and
hopes for the future.
These are the
realities that we must
face if we are to move
forward towards a
successful conclusion
to our negotiations in
1992.

Just as philosophies,
religions and ideals
know no boundaries, so

the protection of our planet itself involves rich and poor, North and South, East and West. All of us have to play our part if we are to succeed. And succeed we must for the sake of this and future generations.

One of our great poets, George Herbert, in his poem on "Man" wrote this:

"Man is all
symmetry,
Full of proportions,
one limb to another,
And all to all the
world besides;
Each part may call
the farthest,
brother; For head
with foot hath
private amity,
And both with moons
and tides."

We are, in symmetry
with nature. To keep
that precious balance,

we need to work
together for our
environment. The
United Kingdom will
work with all of you
and all the world besides
in this cause -to save
our common
inheritance for
generations yet to
come.