

MEETING RECORD
SUBJECT CCMaster

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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SIR CRISPIN TICKELL

The Prime Minister had a meeting this morning with Sir Crispin Tickell.

Sir Crispin said that he had been appointed a member of a group to advise the President of the United States on aspects of environmental policy, in particular global climate change. The group would meet in Washington next week. It had reached five tentative conclusions:

- (i) there would be a process of global warming over the next 30-40 years within the range $+1^{\circ}$ - $+4.5^{\circ}$. But the tolerances were wide. There are some risk of disaster: and a possibility that there would be no change at all.
- (ii) in this situation of uncertainty it was best to put forward policies which were demonstrably useful on other grounds, for instance reforestation. This approach was being called a "no regrets" policy.
- (iii) Government should also adopt the concept of paying an insurance premium against disasters. Sea defences were a good example of this.
- (iv) research on global climate change should be more carefully targeted than in the past. At present there was a great deal of overlap.

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- (v) by itself, global climate change need not pose serious problems. The latter arose only when it was combined with other problems such as the population explosion and deterioration of soil fertility.

The Prime Minister asked Sir Crispin to work these themes into the draft for her speech opening the World Climate Change Conference in Geneva.

The Prime Minister encouraged Sir Crispin to make early contact with the new Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Bill Stewart.

C.D.P.

CHARLES D POWELL

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