



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-276 3000

PPS att

My ref:

Your ref:

Mrs Tessa Gaisman
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

R23/a

22 November 1988

file

Dear Tessa / 24/11

I am writing to confirm that the Prime Minister will be able to address a Conference hosted by the Secretary of State for the Environment on the morning on Tuesday 7 March. You estimated that she would be able to arrive at the venue at 10.30am. We appreciate that her schedule that day is a tight one!

I will of course be in touch to confirm details of the programme as soon as it is finalised.

Thank you for your help in arranging this.

*Yours sincerely
Michelle*

MICHELLE CAMERON
Private Secretary



The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AL

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

21 November 1988

Prime Minister
Mr. Ridley will announce
his initiative on Wednesday

or Thursday. We ought to
tell the French in
advance, given that N. Locard

Dear Foreign Secretary, *confided in you.*

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS: PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

COP 21/xi

Following the Prime Minister's agreement to going ahead with the conference, I have drafted the main points of the announcement I propose to make on either 23 or 24 November. I should be grateful for any comments on the text by midday on Tuesday, 22 November.

Timing is important. The Environment Council meets in Brussels on 24 November and it is important that Malcolm Caithness should be able to announce our initiative there, particularly as FRG and the Netherlands are also making a play for EC leadership on CFCs. Indeed, the Council will discuss a German paper which supports our call for CFC emissions to be reduced by at least 85% by the turn of the century.

The text is at present in the form of a Written Answer, but ideally I would like to make the announcement during an environment debate on the Queen's Speech. Unfortunately, we will not know until after Monday's shadow Cabinet meeting whether there will be a debate, or whether it will take place on the 23rd or 24th. As a fallback, therefore, I would go for the Written Answer with accompanying press conference.

As I said in my minute of 7 November to the Prime Minister, we need to have UNEP's Executive Director, Dr Tolba, on board and I shall be putting him in the picture when he is in London on 23 November. This precludes the need to write to Tolba beforehand, but as the Finns are to host the first meeting of the Protocol Parties in April 1989, I will ask Malcolm to get in touch with the Finnish Environment Minister, whom he knows well.

You will wish to consider how we should announce the initiative to the United Nations in New York.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the Prime Minister, David Young and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,
Deborah Lamb

PP. NICHOLAS RIDLEY
(Approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence)

REVISED ARRANGED QUESTION

QUESTION: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what further action he intends to take internationally to protect the ozone layer and if he will make a statement?

DRAFT ANSWER

My Rt Hon Friend, the Prime Minister and I propose to call a major international conference on the protection of the ozone layer early next year. It will be in London in March. The Prime Minister will participate. It will be held in association with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under whose auspices the Montreal Protocol was successfully developed.

I shall be inviting Ministers from developed and developing countries, world industry and international organisations. I want the conference to demonstrate that industry has already developed, or soon will, new products and processes that will enable all countries quickly to reduce the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and move to a CFC free world.

The House is already aware that we are calling for world-wide emissions of CFCs to be reduced by at least 85%, and as soon as possible. I was convinced of this urgent need by the latest scientific evidence. My Noble Friend, the Minister for Housing, Environment and Countryside, will today/tomorrow, at the Environment Council, be urging our European colleagues to make these reductions by the turn of the century and to agree that the Montreal Protocol must be strengthened to this effect. This further action is essential not only to protect the ozone layer but also because CFCs are powerful greenhouse gases which contribute to the risk of global warming and consequent climate change. The Montreal Protocol will come into force on New Year's Day. Our conference in March will give a political boost to the important first meeting of the Parties in Finland the following month which will begin the formal process of reviewing the

protocol. I have told the Executive Director of UNEP that the United Kingdom would like to host the second meeting of the Parties when we hope the reductions we are demanding will be agreed. This will be in April 1990.

It is not enough for the United Kingdom or even the European Community to take action on its own. A clear commitment is needed from all world governments, including those who have not yet signed the Protocol, if we are to have any chance of preventing further damage to the ozone layer. It is not enough to set objectives. Our London Conference must show how they will be achieved in practice.

cc Tees



FILE KK

cc NLW
CP.

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 November 1988

This is just to confirm our telephone conversation this morning. The Prime Minister would be able to attend the Chlorofluorocarbons Conference on Tuesday 7 March next year at 10.30 am. As agreed she could spend one hour at the Conference Centre, but needs to be back at Downing Street as soon after 11.30 as possible as it is a Questions day.

(MRS. TESSA GAISMAN)

Ms. Michelle Cameron,
Department of the Environment.

cc Mr. Wicks
Mr. Powell

PRIME MINISTER

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS CONFERENCE

You have agreed to give the opening address to the above proposed Conference. I have been exploring possible dates with Mr. Ridley's office, and because March next year is very busy we have really only two possible dates to look at. These are:

1. Tuesday 7 March at 1100 am

and

2. Wednesday 22 March, late afternoon.

The first date is a Questions day and comes after the Local Government Conference and only two days before you are due to present awards to the North East Businessman of the Year, in the North East. However, it may be preferable to the 22nd, which is the day on which you are presenting the Gold Star Awards (1230 pm) and only three days after your speech to Central Council. 23 March is Maundy Thursday.

It really could not be a worse time of year and I will need to block out large chunks of the diary for speechwriting. Could you please let me know which of these two dates you would prefer me to offer for your attendance at the Chlorofluorocarbons Conference?

Tessa

I don't like either

date very much - but

X prefer the 22nd to the 7th. (? Budget?)

(TESSA GAISMAN)

17 November 1988

Spoke to P.P.

10.30 on 7th

MR WICKS

I have had a word with Nicholas Ridley's Diary Secretary about the attached. The dates in March really are impossible. The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, which is where they want to hold it, is at present only free on the weekends of 4/5 March, 10/12 March and 19/20 March. You will see from the Yearly Diary that these clash with:

- a) the Local Government Conference;
- b) a free weekend, but one after which the Prime Minister will have made a major speech (to the North East); and
- c) the Central Council.

I do not think she can take on another major speaking engagement in March. Mr Ridley's Diary Secretary is going to go back to explore other possibilities and times but I thought I should just notify you of how far we have got, -which is nowhere!

Tessa

TESSA GAISMAN

16 November 1988

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