



Cc Bkp

Ref. A088/3397

MR WICKS

Prime Minister's Meeting with the Secretary of State
for the Environment - 9 am on 24 November

The Secretary of State for the Environment is calling on the Prime Minister tomorrow and will raise the coordination of the Government's approach on environmental matters.

2. I understand from the Secretary of State's office that he is going to say that there is a need to pull together the Government's approach to environmental policy, which of course affects a large number of Departments. He has in mind in particular the policy implications of climatic change and especially what it involves for energy pricing and efficiency and for alternative forms of energy. He may also refer to the "Green Bill" for which he hopes to get a place in next year's legislative programme.

3. There is at present no Ministerial committee on environmental issues. It may be that we will in due course need one if a specific programme of work emerges, for example in preparing the "Green Bill".

4. However, I do not think that we are at that stage yet. Up to now, we have processed some of these issues through E(A) Committee, for example the problem of nitrates and acid rain. I would suggest that the Secretary of State's ideas on the approach to climatic change should be processed in the same way. If it would be helpful, I will ask Mr Wilson to call together the Departments with an interest in the responses to climatic change and to coordinate the preparation of a paper for E(A).



Since the Secretary of State's ideas particularly affect energy policy, you may feel that you should mention to Mr Parkinson that you would like this matter looked at.

4. If, at a later stage, a more extensive programme of work on environmental issues emerges, for example in preparing the Green Bill, we could then consider the formation of a Ministerial committee on environmental issues, which it would probably be best if you were to chair. But we can cross that bridge at a later stage.

R.R.B.

ROBIN BUTLER

23 November 1988



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