



CFC?

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The Rt Hon the Lord Young of Graffham
Department of Trade and Industry
Victoria Street
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My ref:

Your ref:

1 December 1988

Dear David

at 11.45

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Thank you for your letter of 16 November commenting on my minute of 7 November to the Prime Minister about the CFC conference. I am grateful for your support.

As you know, in the light of the outcome of OD(E) on 17 November, our announcement indicated, inter alia, that Malcolm Caithness would be urging EC Environment Ministers to make the reductions in CFC emissions of at least 85%, for which we are calling, by the turn of the century and to agree that the Montreal Protocol be strengthened to this effect. In the event, it did not prove possible to reach agreement at the Council on 24 November on a commitment to tougher action. Although most member states supported our line France and Spain expressed doubt about the need to go quite so far beyond the Montreal Protocol. It was left that the Commission would bring forward proposals for an EC line in good time for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol next April at which the process of reviewing the Protocol will be formally initiated.

As you say, there are a number of points which will need to be addressed in the context of the review. The truncated discussion of CFCs at the Council in the early hours of the morning prevented Malcolm Caithness from signalling the need for satisfactory arrangements for rationalising Community production. There is also the separate issue of urging the EC to reach a view on whether to include or exclude other chemicals containing chlorine, such as HCFC 22 and methyl chloroform. We need to press urgently for these points to be taken on board by the Commission to reduce any possible danger of a Community split at the time of our London Conference.

Our officials will continue to keep in touch on these issues in general and on preparations for the CFC conference in particular including how best to involve industry in the process.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe and Sir Robin Butler.

Nicholas Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

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1985