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LONDON SW1A 2AA

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From the Private Secretary

See Stepler.

## FRENCH PRIME MINISTER'S ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had a brief discussion this evening about the French Prime Minister's Environmental Initiative and what the Prime Minister should say to M. Rocard about it when they meet tomorrow.

The Foreign Secretary said that the initiative was clearly going to run and we would not be able to stop it. The question was whether we could modify it to remove some of the more objectionable elements, and steer M. Rocard towards a much more general and political declaration. He doubted whether all the Heads of Government who had been invited would actually turn up to the meeting in The Hague and did not suggest that the Prime Minister herself should go. But it might be appropriate for the United Kingdom to be represented.

The Prime Minister said that she had deep-rooted objections to several aspects of M. Rocard's initiative and there was no question of our signing up to the proposed declaration in its present form. Her particular objections were to the creation of a new institution with executive powers, the concepts of economic sanctions and of compensation and the absence of the US, the Soviet Union and China from the proposed conference in The Hague. She did not intend herself to go to the meeting in The Hague. We would after all be in good company by staying away, since three of the other four Permanent Members of the UN Security Council would not be there. She had some doubts whether it was worth sending a United Kingdom representative at all. There was no point in our going and then being the only ones unwilling to sign the declaration. But she would reach a final view on representation once she had talked to M. Rocard and established whether there was any flexibility in his position on the main points of the draft declaration. If we were represented, it should be by the Environment Secretary or by Lord Caithness.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (Department of the Environment).

Yours sincerely,

(C. D. POWELL)

J. S. Wall, Esq.,  
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office.