



Prime Minister

OZONE CONFERENCE: ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

At the Ozone Conference, a number of developing countries made calls for assistance from the developed world in order to enable them to move to CFC-free technologies. Countries such as India and China suggested the setting up of an "Ozone Development Fund". We need urgently to develop our thinking on how to respond to such ideas, before other countries (eg France) move in and try to take the initiative away from us.

You referred in your closing speech to these suggestions, and said that:--

"Speaking for this country, we shall put greater emphasis on environmental needs in allocating our aid programme. I hope others will do likewise. Such a course would naturally require the co-operation of all concerned."

The need now is to put flesh on the bones of what you then said, and to develop a policy approach to assistance which will be sufficiently positive to enable us to use it as an initiative in future discussions. I am aware that there are ramifications here that go wider than ozone, and into difficult questions concerning climate change. It may be that we should separate the two out, though we cannot ignore the linkages.


In the short term we must develop a line for the Helsinki meeting in early May at which the Montreal Protocol will be further discussed, and I am asking my officials to be in touch with other Departments as necessary. For the longer term we must think about how to get an agreed line within the developed world, as a precursor to gaining acceptability with the developing world. We may be able to use the Group of 7 Summit in this context, though the UN is presumably the best overall forum.

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ce P/c ①
Prime Minister
Agree to report
a paper on
this? C/P 17/3



I will try and take forward our policy on CFCs. It is for Geoffrey Howe and David Young and John Major to work up the best response on the specific issue of assistance to developing countries. I hope I may be involved; and that we can get a respectable position for Helsinki which prevents us from being upstaged.

I am copying this minute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for Industry, the Minister for Overseas Development and Sir Robin Butler.

and Chris Patten 

N R

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