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FCS/89/069

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

1. Thank you for copying to me your letter of 6 April to Nicholas Ridley about strengthening the Montreal Protocol.
2. As you know, we have decided on a high profile approach to the Ozone Layer and the success of the London conference last month means the international community will be looking to the UK to continue to take a firm lead in the process of strengthening the Montreal Protocol. This process will be finalised at the Second Meeting of Protocol Parties in London next April.
3. The EC Council conclusions of 2 March were quite clear and, as you note, we are committed to them. The Environmental Working Group met on 13 April and was to meet again on 20 April. I hope the latter will give us a better idea of how our Community partners intend to approach the review process, but I suspect we shall not have a very clear or complete picture before the Helsinki meeting begins. Therefore, I strongly support the arguments in Nicholas Ridley's letter to you of 12 April and feel it particularly important we should not allow other countries, especially EC Member States, to shelter behind us. We must not jeopardise the benefits of the London conference or of the other work that has been put in to establishing our international standing on this issue.



4. I am copying this minute to the recipients of yours,
and to Chris Patten.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

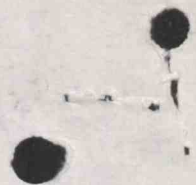
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
24 April 1989

ENV. AFFAIRS: Bidram

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World Meteorological
Organization

United Nations
Environment Programme



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Note on the **SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE** for the Prime Minister's Seminar, 26 April, 1989

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was formed by UNEP and WMO in November 1988, and has set up three Working Groups:

- * WG1 (Science Assessment) Chair: Dr John Houghton (Met Office)
- * WG2 (Impacts) Chair: Prof Yuri Izrael (USSR)
- * WG3 (Policy Response) Chair: Mr Fred Bernthal (USA).

The **Scientific Assessment of Climate Change** will:

- * be presented by WG1 to IPCC in mid-1990
- * involve about 200 scientists worldwide
- * be co-ordinated by a "core team" at the Met Office, Bracknell.

The main inputs to the **Assessment** will be in the form of:

- * new climate model predictions
- * new analyses of climate observations.

The **Assessment** will address areas not well covered in previous reports:

- * The **transient response of climate** as CO₂ gradually increases, particularly the role of the oceans in introducing a lag of 20 - 50 years.
- * The **response of climate on a regional scale**, where rainfall changes are as important as temperature changes.
- * Estimation of the **uncertainties in these predictions**, and how this uncertainty can be conveyed to non-specialists.
- * What **rate of progress** can be expected towards resolution of these uncertainties.
- * What **new resources** will be required to support
 - acceleration of progress in **climate prediction modelling**
 - continuation and extension of **satellite observation programmes**
 - studies of **atmospheric and oceanic processes**.