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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 May 1989

Dear Roger,

ENVIRONMENT: GLOBAL CLIMATE CONVENTION

Your Secretary of State had a brief word with the Prime Minister this morning on follow-up to the Hague Conference and on the proposal that the United Kingdom should take the initiative in proposing a Global Climate Convention.

Mr Ridley said that a number of EC participants in the Ozone-Layer Conference in Helsinki had privately urged the United Kingdom to attend the follow-up meeting to the Hague Conference which would be held in Paris on 9 May. They argued that the purpose of the Conference was to draw the French away from the proposals originally put forward by M. Rocard and agree a common view on the desirability of working through existing institutions and strengthening them where necessary. Mr Ridley was sceptical: it seemed probable that we would still be required to accept the Declaration of The Hague Conference as a condition for attendance: and there was no guarantee that the French would not use the meeting to continue to promote their own ideas. His feeling was that we should not attend. The Prime Minister said that she had already reached a similar conclusion.

Your Secretary of State said there was a risk that some other government might take the initiative in proposing a Global Climate Convention unless we moved quickly to do so ourselves. The Prime Minister said that she had already agreed that we should take this action (see my letter of 3 May to Bob Peirce). We should if possible announce the initiative in the next few days and preferably before the follow-up meeting to the Hague Conference on 9 May.

I am copying this letter to Bob Peirce (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,
C. D. Powell

C. D. POWELL

Roger Bright, Esq.
Department of the Environment

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