



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Patrick Wright GCMG  
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

27 July 1989

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO  
Cabinet Office

*CM*

*My dear Robin,*

**WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE**

*into COP? / will request if request*

1. In my letter of 1 June, I said I would let you have the views of Rodric Braithwaite and Bryan Cartledge on Geoffrey Tucker's World Environmental Conference.
2. Rodric does not in fact have a first-hand view; because Geoffrey Tucker has not contacted him and the Conference has not come up in the Embassy's discussions with Soviet officials. However, it is clear to Rodric that the Russians are giving the Conference their support, and that it is now unstoppable. He agrees with our neutral approach, and will take the same line in Moscow.
3. Bryan Cartledge became involved (minimally, he hopes) with some reluctance, after urging from others and in the hope of keeping the Soviet dimension on the rails. He does not think the Soviet committee is yet the "good and powerful team" Geoffrey Tucker describes. Bryan has urged him to increase the involvement of scientists and other experts, and to scale down the heavy weighting towards writers and media personalities. He has advised Geoffrey Tucker to bring in the Soviet Academy of Sciences and New State Committee on the Environment.
4. Provided the Conference can be given a more serious and business-like content, Bryan sees no objection to official support. But he feels that at present there is too much emphasis on media 'hype'; and the timescale is much too ambitious.
5. It seems to me Rodric's and Bryan's comments support our belief that we should take a cautious line - and keep a watchful eye on developments. On this, I have just seen Terry Heiser's letter of 26 July. Certainly our own researches appear to have produced no evidence to suggest that we should be any more encouraging (as far as official support is concerned) than Terry recommends.

*Yours*

*Patrick Wright*  
Patrick Wright

RW2AAS



cc: Sir Terence Heiser KCB  
DOE

Charles Powell Esq  
No 10



RW2AAS