

Mr Powell.
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From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

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31 July 1989

My dear Patrick,

World Environmental Conference

Many thanks for your letter of 27 July, which I received shortly after seeing Terry Heiser's letter of 26 July.

I have always thought that this Conference was a curious project and I am not surprised by the reactions which you and Terry report. I have suggested to Geoffrey Tucker names of people whom he might approach for the post of Director General of the British Committee (copy enclosed) and I hope that we would continue to give Geoffrey Tucker any friendly advice. But this is not a Government initiative and - to be fair to Geoffrey Tucker - he has never, to my knowledge, suggested that it should become one. I think that it might be useful if we were to look for an opportunity to make clear to the Russians that, while our attitude to any project which draws attention to the need for international co-operation on environmental matters is benevolent, the project is a private sector one at this end.

I am copying this letter to Terry Heiser and Charles Powell.

Yours ever,

Robin

Sir Patrick Wright GCMG
Foreign and Commonwealth Office