

PRIME MINISTER

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

In his minute to you of 27 September Chris Patten proposes publication of a White Paper on the Environment in the early autumn of next year and, to coincide with this, publication of the first of periodic "State of the Environment" reports.

I support the proposal and the suggestion of an announcement at the Party Conference. As Chris says we need to ensure that our good record on the environment is better understood and appreciated nationally and internationally. We need to demonstrate our commitment to the environment and how, for example, as a Government, we are acting on the need for the environment to be integrated in economic and industrial policies consistent with Brundtland.

A White Paper next year would help, building on the recent efforts to which Chris refers and the presentation of our policies and record during the passage of the Environment Protection Bill. It would also help my department in its efforts to encourage increased business awareness and action on the environment, in particular in setting environmental



the department for Enterprise

policy in a forward-looking framework. This will help businesses plan their own responses to the increasing pressures for higher standards.

I am copying this letter to Cabinet colleagues and Sir Robin Butler.

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4 October 1989

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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