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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

6 October 1989

From the Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Roger,

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 27 September. She has also seen the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's minute of 3 October, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry's minute of 4 October and the Secretary of State for Energy's minute of 5 October.

The Prime Minister welcomes the proposal to publish a White Paper on the environment, which she notes he would like to publish in the autumn of next year; and she agrees that the Secretary of State should announce this at the Conservative Party Conference. The Prime Minister considers it important that the White Paper should be eminently readable and should have a strong scientific base. She thinks that it should be accompanied by updated version of the environmental leaflets issued by your Department, which she notes have been well received.

To coordinate the work of Departments in developing future policy towards the environment, the Prime Minister plans to set up and chair a Ministerial Group, details of which are attached. She suggests that Mr Patten should now circulate a more detailed policy paper to colleagues in advance of further work.

Your Secretary of State also suggested that a periodic "State of the Environment" report should be launched next year with the White Paper. The Prime Minister would not want any public commitment to do so to be given before we have a clearer idea of what such a report would look like. She would not therefore wish this to be announced at the Conservative Party Conference, as your Secretary of State proposes.

I am copying this letter to the private secretaries of members of Cabinet and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,
Caroline

CAROLINE SLOCOCK

Roger Bright Esq.
Department of Environment

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MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT COMPOSITION

Prime Minister
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Secretary of State for Health
Secretary of State for Education and Science
Secretary of State for Transport
Secretary of State for Energy
Secretary of State for the Environment
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Terms of Reference:

"To develop future policy towards the environment."