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From the Private Secretary

28 July 1989

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Prime Minister had a talk this morning with Sir Crispin Tickell from which a number of points emerged:

- we should make more of the excellent work done on the economic aspects of the environment. For instance, we should consider publishing the paper on the Global Environment: Economic Aspects, produced before the Economic Summit. The Treasury might start some practical work on environmental costing.
- in the context of this year's survey, we should have a fresh look at whether sufficient funds within the overall research allocation are going to environmental research.
- environmental issues are likely to play a major part in the work of the United Nations over the next year. It might be a good idea for the Prime Minister to make a speech at the UN in November on general environmental issues and particularly global climate change.
- much more work is needed on the environmental implications of population growth, bearing in mind the potentially disastrous consequences for some particularly densely populated areas of global warming. We needed to think, in particular, how such work should be organised at the international level.

In all four cases, these are no more than suggestions on which the Prime Minister would welcome views and advice from Departments concerned.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (Department of the Environment), Alex Allan (H.M. Treasury), Stephen Crowne (Department of Education and Science) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

C. D. Powell

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office.