

PRIME MINISTER

## FRENCH PRIME MINISTER'S CALL FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

Monsieur Rocard is now making the next move to promote his ideas on environmental issues. He has got together with the Norwegian and Dutch Prime Ministers to write a letter inviting a number of heads of government to a meeting in the Hague on 11 March. They include Jordan, Sweden, India, Australia, Canada, Spain, Japan, Germany, and a number of third world countries. The purpose of the meeting in the Hague will be to adopt a declaration, the text of which is already fairly fully agreed among the potential participants. This proposes the creation of a new international authority, to be called "GLOBE", to deal with major environmental issues. The intention is that the declaration would be sent to the United Nations for discussion and perhaps adoption at the next General Assembly.

M. Rocard says that, because of the reservations you expressed, he has not subsequently involved you in the discussions. He has, however, tried to take account of some of your points, in particular the need for United Nations involvement. If you wanted to be associated with the exercise, he would be happy to invite you to the meeting in the Hague on 11 March, although only if you promised not to muck around with the terms of his declaration (he does not put it quite like this but that is what he means).

FCO and the Department of the Environment will be letting you have some advice on how to respond. What follows are some first thoughts.

If you do not go:

*The Declaration is pathetic.  
If you don't know what to do - make a Declaration!*

- it will be said that Britain is being left on the

sidelines (but so, by the look of things, are the United States, the Soviet Union and China);

- that your commitment to dealing effectively with global environmental problems is not wholehearted;

*We do things  
We don't  
make  
declarations*

- ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> we shall keep our hands free to criticise the supranational aspects of M. Rocard's ideas.

If you do go:

- you would be able to talk some sense. This might sway some of the other participants (although others are beyond it). But it is unlikely that you could change the essential drift of the declaration.

- you could expound our views and demonstrate our commitment to dealing with global environmental problems but decline to sign the Declaration.

There are arguments both ways; and you will need to reach a view by the time you see M. Rocard on 8 February. Is there a preliminary steer which you wish to give at this stage?

*C.D.P.*

*No - the place is*

C. D. POWELL

26 January 1989

*The United Nations - and we*

*don't need an opportunistic body.*

*We are doing things now.*

KAYAPG

*They aren't - the declaration is political.*