



Home Affairs

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref: H/PSO/15181/79

Your ref:

17 September 1979

Nbpm

cc Press Office

Dear Tim

Mike Pattison wrote to David Edmonds on 10 September, enclosing a letter to the Prime Minister from the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution telling her about the contents of their forthcoming Seventh Report on Agriculture and Pollution.

Copies of the Report have been sent to DOE and MAFF ahead of publication and both Departments are well apprised of its contents; Mr Heseltine and Mr Walker have both met Sir Hans Kornberg informally to discuss the report. Arrangements for publication on 18 September are being made by the Royal Commission who will hold a Press Conference that day and issue a Press Notice summarising the Report. Our Secretary of State will write to the Chairman thanking the Commission for their work and welcoming the Report, and this will form the basis of a Departmental Press Notice.

If previous practice is followed, a formal response from the Government will be required. DOE and MAFF are discussing how best to prepare a response taking account of the effects on the industry and the likely costs in manpower and money of implementing the recommendations.

I am copying this to John Chilcot (Home Office) and Garth Waters (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food).

Yours sincerely
Paul Bristol

P N BRISTOW
Private Secretary

Tim Lankester Esq

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCE CENTER
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20315

TO: SAC, [illegible]
FROM: [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible]

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a memorandum or report.]

17 SEP 1970

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**Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution**

Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BL

Your reference

Our reference **RC/90/22**

Direct line 01-212 5600
Switchboard 01-212 3434

17 September 1979

Dear Pattison,

*At back of
file.*

... I enclose, in advance of publication at 11.30 tomorrow, Tuesday, 18 September, a copy of the "Confidential - Final Revise" of the Commission's Seventh Report, as laid before Parliament today and issued under "embargo" to lobby correspondents.

Copies of the "Confidential - Final Revise" are also being sent today to those on the attached list.

Yours sincerely

L. Rutterford

L F Rutterford
Secretary



1979

Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution

Chairman
Sir John Gifford

Secretary
Mrs J. G. Gifford

COMMISSIONING UNIT

19 SEP 1979

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Re B
Home Affairs

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 September 1979

Dear David

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to the Prime Minister from the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. Professor Kornberg forewarns her of the publication of the Seventh Report of the Royal Commission.

I would be grateful if you would let me know if you are already aware of the substance of the report, and whether a formal response from the Government will be required. It would be helpful if you could let Tim Lankester have a response to these points as early as possible this week.

I am sending a copy of this letter and the enclosure to John Chilcot (Home Office).

Yours ever
Mike Patterson

D.A. Edmonds, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 September 1979

In the absence of the Prime Minister in Scotland, I am writing to acknowledge your letter to her of 4 September about the publication of the Seventh Report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

I will bring this to her attention as soon as she returns, and I know that she will be grateful for this advance notice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. A. P.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, F.R.S.

From the Chairman, Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, FRS



**Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution**

Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BL

Your reference

Direct line 01-212 8710

Our reference

Switchboard 01-212 3434

4 September 1979

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to let you know that the Seventh Report of the Royal Commission is to be published on 18 September. The Home Secretary is making arrangements to present the Report to Her Majesty and to lay it before Parliament.

The Report is the outcome of a study that the Commission decided to undertake in accordance with its broad remit to advise on matters of environmental pollution. The Commission considered that it would be timely and useful to investigate the pollution problems associated with agricultural practices, having in mind the intensification that has taken place in these practices over the period since the Second World War and the fact that this trend seems likely to continue.

The main areas covered by our Report are as follows:

- (1) The greatly increased use of pesticides. We make a number of recommendations designed to bring about more careful and efficient use of these chemicals and thus minimise the environmental risks they pose while preserving the benefits of their use for agriculture.
- (2) The greatly increased use of nitrogen fertilizers and the contribution from this source to nitrate in water supplies. We consider the health risks posed by nitrate and conclude that anxieties that have been expressed about these risks are not justified on present evidence and that current standards for nitrate levels in water supplies should be maintained.
- (3) Intensive livestock husbandry. We consider the environmental problems (chiefly those of smell nuisance and water pollution) that may be caused by the disposal of animal excreta from intensive livestock units. We regard these units as industrial rather than agricultural in character: we recommend additional controls on their development and operation and a greater emphasis on the development and use of waste treatment facilities.
- (4) We also consider the effects on agriculture of pollution from industrial and urban sources: in particular, the risks posed by the disposal of sewage sludge on land and the effect on crops of common air pollutants.

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The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

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In broad terms, our main conclusion is that greater attention needs to be paid to pollution considerations in policies for agricultural development. We believe that the various measures we propose will help to advance the cause of both agriculture and the environment.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Komberg