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SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

15 June 1988

Dear Nicholas,

ACID RAIN - DRAFT EC LARGE COMBUSTION PLANTS DIRECTIVE

The proposals in your letter to the Prime Minister of 8 June are realistic, and I am happy to endorse your recommended negotiating line for the 16 June Council. ^{IN G(A) folder?}

The German Presidency position offers us a rare opportunity to reach agreement on terms which are reasonably advantageous to the UK. Agreement would buy considerable international goodwill; failure to agree would only intensify our isolation. As a net importer of acidification, and one of the areas of the UK most vulnerable to continuing acid inputs, Scotland stands to benefit in the long term from an agreement. It is my understanding moreover that the Scottish power stations have relatively low emission levels and would not require retrofits. I welcome therefore the change of stance which you are recommending and hope that Malcolm Caithness will be able to bring the subject to a satisfactory conclusion on 16 June.

Copies of this letter go to the recipients of your minute.

Yours truly,
Malcolm Rifkind

MALCOLM RIFKIND