

Geneva, 18 July 1996

Dear Ben,

I write to you because of the many allegations claiming that you have violated the IPCC rules of procedure.

As Chairman of the IPCC, I attended the session of the IPCC Working Group I in Madrid, 27-29 November 1995. I wish to state very clearly that the allegations are completely unjustified.

Country delegates to the Working Group session had made a number of written comments to the chapters of the report that had been submitted for consideration, as well as to the draft Summary for Policymakers, and there was an extensive discussion at the session. Governments approved unanimously a revised Summary for Policymakers, the revisions having also been agreed to by the lead authors. The underlying chapters were accepted by the Working Group on the condition that they would be modified in order to secure full internal consistency with the approved Summary for Policymakers.

You undertook the task of modifying Chapter 8. Both the co-chairmen of the Working Group and myself are completely satisfied with the revisions made as reflecting the comments made in writing and orally at the session. There are many ways such a revision can be made, but your way of pursuing this task has retained the overall balance of the chapter that is so important in assessments of the kind that IPCC is pursuing.

It is not the task for outside bodies to make final judgements of whether the IPCC tasks have been pursued properly or not; the responsibility rests with country delegates to the plenary sessions of the IPCC. It should be stressed that the procedure described briefly above has been followed on a number of occasions in preceding years and have, without exception, never been challenged by any Government, nor have I had any criticism from country delegates on the work of the Working Group in November last year.

Finally, I wish to note that Mr J. Shlaes of the Global Climate Coalition and Mr D. Pearlman of the Climate Council, who have initiated these attacks on the IPCC write: "... we have not raised questions about the scientific or personal integrity of those involved in this affair. We assume that Dr Santer and others believed, albeit mistakenly, that they had the authority to make the changes and that the changes ultimately reflected Dr Santer's judgement about the state of the science". Thus, there is no blame whatsoever attaching to you in the way you completed revisions to Chapter 8.



Bert Bolin
Chairman of the IPCC