



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the  
Minister of State

W Rickett Esq  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

15 December 1982

Dear Mr. Rickett,

15/12

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS: 13-14 DECEMBER 1982

I attach a copy of the statement which Mr Buchanan-Smith hopes to make in the House today. I would be grateful for immediate clearance.

I am copying this letter to Bernard Ingham; David Heyhoe (Leader of the House's Office); Murdo Maclean (Whip's Office, Commons); Michael Pownall (Whip's Office, Lords); David Wright (Cabinet Office); Keith Long (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and to Private Secretaries of the other Agriculture Ministers and members of the OD(E).

Yours sincerely

DW Harbourne

DAVID HARBOURNE  
Private Secretary



COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING ON 13 AND 14 DECEMBER  
DRAFT STATEMENT

With permission Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement on the meeting of the Agriculture Council on 13 and 14 December in Brussels, at which I represented the United Kingdom.

The Council agreed to extend to the end of 1983 the arrangements for controlling imports of live cattle and pigs into Great Britain to protect our livestock against foot and mouth disease and swine vesicular disease. The special arrangements which apply to imports of live animals and meat into Northern Ireland have also been extended for a further year. During next year, the Council will discuss the introduction of Community rules for intra-Community trade in live animals and fresh meat. We shall, of course, ensure that, when such rules are adopted, the special status of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is fully protected.

The Council also discussed new provisions which would bring up to date the public health requirements for trade within the Community and with third countries in fresh meat. No decision was reached and the Council will consider this further at its meetings early next year.

Agreement was reached on the 1983 arrangements for the importation of beef for processing. Next year's arrangements, including the quantity of 60,000 tonnes at reduced rate of levy, are the same as those for this year. These supplies are important to our processing industry and this means that imports can take place from the beginning of January.



As the House knows, the Council decided in October the arrangements for imports of New Zealand butter in 1983. However the French and Irish Governments indicated again that they are not prepared to adopt the necessary implementing regulation until the Commission have authorised exports to Russia. I made clear that there is no possible justification for the objections of these two Delegations which are an abuse of the Council procedures. There will be further discussion at the Management Committee before Christmas.