

Envo B.



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

PRIME MINISTER

Handwritten initials

Prime Minister

to. 26/11

28/11

Handwritten signature

SHEEPMEAT

It seems likely that at Dublin Giscard may press you to accept voluntary restraint on our exports of sheepmeat to France.

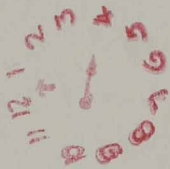
I see great difficulty in this. Any formal restraint on exports would of course be as illegal as the French import controls. In these circumstances I see no basis for persuading our producers and exporters that they should limit shipments and no way of ensuring that, if the main ones did, others would not enter the trade, as they have a clear right to do. But quite apart from the practical difficulties it seems to me wrong in principle to be required to offer inducements to member governments to respect fundamental EEC obligations. And by weakening our stance on this we would in my view undermine the credibility of our firm line on the nature of a sheepmeat regime - and indeed on other matters, like fisheries. Finally, I wonder how we would persuade the industry, or our supporters, that it would be right to accept voluntary restraint on our exports of lamb to France when there is no such restraint on their exports of apples to us. I very much hope therefore that you will feel able to reject any deal of this sort.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Peter Carrington.

Handwritten signature

PETER WALKER
23 November 1979

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RECEIVED

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