

CONFIDENTIAL

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ZZ UKREP BRUSSELS
GRS 290
CONFIDENTIAL [FRAME AGRICULTURE]

FM FCO 031636Z JUNE 81
TO FLASH UKREP BRUSSELS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 486 OF 3 JUNE
INFO PRIORITY PARIS
YOUR TELNOS 1967 AND 1972: SHEEPMEAT

*Mr Walker will report
to Cabinet.*

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1. PLEASE INFORM THORN BEFORE THE COMMISSION MEETS TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION TOMORROW THAT I HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH MR WALKER. I AM NOW QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE A BREACH OF FAITH ON THE PART OF THE COMMISSION IF THEY DID NOT NOW SPEEDILY IMPLEMENT THE UNDERTAKING AT THE COUNCIL ON 30 MARCH/1 APRIL TO ABATE CLAWBACK, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE EXPORT QUALITY OF THE LAMB INVOLVED. MR O'KENNEDY CONFIRMED TO ME YESTERDAY THAT THE FACT THAT SUCH AN UNDERTAKING WAS GIVEN IS NOT IN DOUBT.

2. I WELCOME THE INDICATIONS WHICH THORN SENT ME THROUGH YOU THIS MORNING, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO AGREE THAT ANY SOLUTION COULD TAKE THE FORM OF BOTH A TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT PHASE. BUT THE FORMER IS NEEDED NOW WITHOUT DELAY, AND THERE NEED BE NO IMMEDIATE DECISION ON THE PRECISE NATURE OF THE LETTER.

3. AS A RESULT OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH MR WALKER, I MUST MAINTAIN MY RESERVE ON THE OUTSTANDING POINTS UNTIL A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM, AT LEAST ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, IS FOUND.

4. I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE COMMISSION LAWYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LOOK AT ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF FULFILLING THE COMMISSION'S COMMITMENT WHICH WOULD NOT POSE THE SAME LEGAL DIFFICULTIES AS THEY NOW SEE IN THE ORIGINAL ABATEMENT PROPOSAL. ANY SUCH SOLUTION WILL, HOWEVER, NEED TO MEET THE CASE AS EFFECTIVELY AS A SIMPLE ABATEMENT COULD DO. SHOULD THE COMMISSION WANT US TO LIFT OUR RESERVE AT THE AGRICULTURE COUNCIL ON 15/16 JUNE, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE A FIRM AND DETAILED UNDERTAKING FROM THE COMMISSION ABOUT THE NATURE OF ANY TEMPORARY PROPOSAL AND ITS TIMING.

CARRINGTON

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