



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

From the Minister's  
Private Office

Mike Pattison Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

23 December 1981

Dear Mike,

Your letter of 17 December to John Halliday asked Departments to prepare brief notes on their main achievements during 1981, and prospects for 1982.

--- I attach a set of notes covering agriculture, fisheries and food, which the Minister has seen and approved.

Yours sincerely  
Kate

KATE TIMMS  
Private Secretary

## AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

### I MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1981

#### AGRICULTURE

1. CAP PRICE FIXING - The price fixing again struck a fair balance between farmers' needs and the interest of consumers. The CAP now accounts for a smaller proportion of the Community budget than at any time since British accession, and the annual average increase in common prices and in the cost of the CAP have both been far lower under this Government than under its predecessor (prices: 5% compared with 7½%; cost: 10% compared with 20%).
2. UK PRESIDENCY - The Minister has persuaded the Council and the Commission to consider longer-term production targets for Community agriculture and to confront the need for stricter control of national aids.
3. SHEEP - The Community sheepmeat regime has given guaranteed prices to sheep producers 26% higher than under the previous national scheme, together with new annual premiums for ewes, all 100% financed by the Community.
4. POULTRY HEALTH - New arrangements to eliminate Newcastle disease of poultry have been introduced, including a ban on imports from countries with lower poultry health standards.
5. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE - The first foot-and-mouth outbreak for 14 years was rapidly and efficiently eliminated.
6. BRUCELLOSIS - The eradication of brucellosis has been completed, increasing cattle productivity and eliminating a risk to human health.
7. HORTICULTURE - Launching aid was given to the "Kingdom" apple scheme and an oil-fuel aid to glasshouse growers facing competition from Dutch growers with cheap fuel.
8. NEW ZEALAND BUTTER - The Government secured an extension for three years of the special import arrangements for New Zealand butter.
9. POLAND - The UK sent nearly half a million tonnes of barley, 10,000 tonnes of butter and 3,000 tonnes of beef to Poland as part of a Community scheme for concessionary sales.
10. CONSERVATION - The Wildlife and Countryside Act furthers conservation of natural beauty, flora and fauna in a way that is compatible with efficient agriculture and based on voluntary partnership, not dictation.



11. PRICES - Food prices continued to rise more slowly than the general rate of inflation (9.8% November 1980-1981 compared with a 12% rise in the RPI).

## FISHERIES

12. COMMON FISHERIES POLICY - Improvements in the marketing arrangements were agreed and progress made towards a Common Fisheries Policy.
13. FISHERIES ACT - A Fisheries Act was passed to help the industry improve its marketing arrangements, promote conservation of stocks and assist fish farming.
14. AID - In addition to the normal financial assistance of about £14m., a special subsidy of nearly £25m. was provided to help the industry over its difficulties.

## II OUTLOOK FOR 1982

### AGRICULTURE

1. MILK - Of the 1½p per pint increase in the retail price on 10 January, 1.1p will go to producers to help them meet their rising costs and 0.4p to distributors. A new system for controlling distributive margins is being introduced to protect the continuation of doorstep milk delivery in the interests of the housewife.
2. HILL FARMS - The hill farm subsidies payable from January are at their highest ever level, with total aid to hill livestock farmers running at over £100m.
3. GLASSHOUSE INDUSTRY - Further aid is being given to help glasshouse growers with their fuel bills.
4. MARKETING - The Minister hopes to complete plans for helping the food and agriculture industries to improve their marketing.
5. CAP - The Government will continue to fight for improvements in the CAP, so as to reduce surplus production and the cost of the policy.

### FLOOD PREVENTION

6. THAMES BARRIER - The Thames Barrier, to protect London from major flooding, is on

target for completion by end-1982.

#### FISHERIES

7. CFP - The Government will continue to fight for a common fisheries policy that is fair to the British fishing industry and offers a sound basis for its future prosperity.