



CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

Qz.03675

To note outcome of discussion of agriculture ministers - equality of misery but Northern Ireland is allowed to keep more of its recent increase.

MR TURNBULL

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12/4

MILK: QUOTA/SUPERLEVY SCHEME

Following the meeting of Cabinet this morning, there was a meeting attended by the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office and the Chief Whip in order to discuss the allocation of quotas under the milk quota/superlevy scheme to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Agreement has been reached - subject to legal confirmation that this result would be consistent with the Community regulations - that the percentage reduction in the quotas for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland should be the same. Northern Ireland would have an advantage from the special extra quota (65,000 tonnes of milk) because, despite the very considerable growth in milk production in Northern Ireland since 1981, it would only be cutting back by the same percentage as England, Wales and Scotland, which had increased much less.

2. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has confirmed that he can accept this agreement.

3. I am sending copies to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

D F WILLIAMSON

12 April 1984

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