



FROM: CHIEF SECRETARY
DATE: 1 October 1984

PRIME MINISTER

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY

NBPM
- written by
PMS [unclear]

attached
I have seen a copy of Michael Jopling's letter to you of 28 September proposing that he announce this week that the Government intends to publish in the New Year a Green or White Paper on agricultural policy.

2 It must be for Michael to judge whether it is politically desirable for us to produce a statement of the kind he envisages over the next few months. My concern is that any statement should set agricultural policy firmly in the context of our policy towards other parts of the economy and avoid commitments to continue the arrangements for supporting agriculture which we have inherited from previous Administrations.

3 I hope therefore that officials will be able to begin work at an early date on considering a first draft of the proposed Paper, and in doing so to take full and proper account of the work which has been done in recent months in analysing United Kingdom agricultural policy. It might also be helpful if officials could have a look at the full draft text of the speech which Michael Jopling intends to make to the Farmers' Club on Wednesday. I understand that an interdepartmental discussion of policy towards the CAP is already planned for later this month.

4 I am copying this minute to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Trade and Industry, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Environment, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

PR

PP PETER REES

[Approved by the Chief Secretary]



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COMMUNIST

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