



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 July 1982

From The Minister of State

Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP

NBPM

MUS 28/7

Dear Arthur,

Thank you for copying to Francis Pym your minute of 22 July to the Prime Minister on Standards, Quality and International Trade. I have no substantive comment on the principles guiding the White Paper, with which we agree. *with mus*

I also agree with you that there should be no mention of port controls in the White Paper. There is no point in needlessly antagonising the Commission of the European Community, particularly while a draft directive on frontier facilitation is under discussion. One of its articles calls for inspection to take place whenever possible at a centralised point rather than at a point of entry. This could pose a problem for us as a maritime state, but the directive as a whole is in the interests of our road hauliers. It would save waiting time at EC land borders.

As the White Paper stands, there seems no reason for the Commission to take against it, particularly as I am assured that foreign companies have adequate access to the British Standards Institution's Kite-mark. If so, there is no likelihood of complaint that the purchasing policy of the Department of the Environment (paragraph 5.9 of the paper) could constitute a non-tariff barrier to trade. I gather that your Department will send a copy of the White Paper to the Commission.

*Yours,
Douglas*

The Rt Hon The Lord Cockfield
Secretary of State for Trade
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1H 0ET

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