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9/10
24

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Your officials received a large volume of correspondence in recent weeks exhorting you to "Save our Swans" by legislating to ban the use of lead by anglers. These have been forwarded to this Department.

To date around 1700 letters and 30,000 postcards have been received, many from the USA and Europe. The campaign has been organised by the Fund for Animal Welfare who have mounted similar projects on seals and kangaroos in recent years.

Since the publication of a report by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1981, which showed that significant numbers of swans die of lead poisoning due to the ingestion of discarded anglers' shot, it has been our objective to phase out the use of lead in angling by the end of 1986, if possible by voluntary means. However, we have said that we will legislate if necessary.

The Nature Conservancy Council, together with officials from this Department, have been encouraging the use of the non-toxic alternatives to lead which are now available and continue to monitor the position closely. NCC will be advising early in the new year whether a voluntary ban is likely to be



successful. We have nothing to apologise for in our response to this problem, and William Waldegrave has written to IFAW to say so.

JH Galley

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P J

9 October 1984

Agreed by the Secretary of State and
signed in his absence