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From the Private Secretary

4 March 1985

REVIEW OF THE CAP

The Prime Minister has noted your Minister's minute of 1 March about the steps he proposes to take to influence the Commission's Review of the Common Agricultural Policy.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of OD(E), the Secretaries of State for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

(CHARLES POWELL)

Ivor Llewelyn, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



From the Minister

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

CEPC
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Prime Minister
CDP
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PRIME MINISTER

REVIEW OF THE CAP

1. I wrote to Nigel Lawson on 6 February explaining that the idea of a review of the CAP undertaken under the aegis of the Council of Ministers which I had earlier advocated had been overtaken, as I feared, by a Commission statement that they proposed to undertake a review. We have no means to prevent the Commission going ahead but we can seek to influence the Commission's handling of this matter.

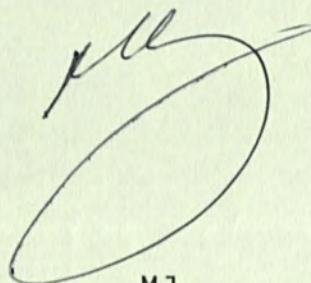
2. As agreed, this has now been considered inter-departmentally by officials who concluded that our first objective should be to ensure that the basic figures such as supply and demand prospects for agricultural products, both within the Community and externally, are produced early on in the review process. We would expect the figures to be linked to estimates of the potential budgetary and other economic implications and to some assessment of the likely effects on international trade relations. I am sure that this is right.

The facts, if we can get them on the table are likely to show clearly the need for radical measures and hence give support to our basic position on the CAP. That will be the stage we may want to put forward specific policy suggestions. Naturally we shall want to insist throughout that the review takes full account of the limitations on the resources available under the Financial Guideline for Agriculture.

3. I propose to tackle the Agricultural Commissioner Frans Andriessen, in this sense when there is a suitable opportunity. When we are clearer on the Commission's detailed thinking I will report further. I am still considering how best to associate the Council and Member States with this review.

/4. I am copying ...

4. I am copying this minute to the other members of OD(E) and to the Secretaries of State for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop with a smaller loop above it.

MJ
1 March 1985

