

CCBG



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Mr Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 24 April, together with the Prime Minister's Private Secretary's letter of 19 March setting out the remit to you to prepare a paper consolidating proposals on alternative uses for some agricultural land, as well as the encouragement of alternative employment in the Countryside.

I am happy for my officials to contribute to the discussions of the Working Party which you propose to ask one of your Deputy Secretaries to chair. It will, of course, be important to ensure that terms of reference are sufficiently comprehensive, and that my officials have an adequate opportunity to ventilate the various relevant DOE concerns. However, I am sure all that can be settled at official level.

For the moment, I can only say that I am delighted that arrangements are being made for a proper overview of what is a sensitive and highly important area for us all.

I think your letter somewhat overtakes the points raised in David Young's letter to me of 4 April about the same topic, and I assume that he will be replying direct to you about your latest proposals.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, David Young, Malcolm Rifkind, Nicholas Edwards, John MacGregor and Sir Robert Armstrong. You may also, in the circumstances, wish to send a copy of the correspondence to Paul Channon.

KENNETH BAKER

EURO POL CAP PT14.

