

GRS 280

Restricted

RESTRICTED

FM PARIS

TO DESKBY 281800Z F C O

TELNO 1091

OF 281617Z OCTOBER 86

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO ROUTINE OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

*This refers  
to meticulous  
customs checking of  
all lamb imports.*

*CDP  
MG*

FRAME AGRICULTURE

YOUR TELNOS 687 AND 688: LAMB IMPORTS: MESSAGE FROM MR GUMMER

1. LETTER FROM MR GUMMER TO GILLAUME ABOUT INCREASED LEVEL OF CUSTOMS CHECKING ON UK LAMB IMPORTS DELIVERED AS INSTRUCTED TODAY.

COUNSELLOR (AGRICULTURE) SPOKE TO GAUTIER-SAUVAGNAC ABOUT THIS DEMARCHE AND URGED A RAPID AND HELPFUL RESPONSE. GAUTIER-SAVAGNAC SAID THAT THE EXTRA CONTROLS WERE BEING CARRIED OUT STRICTLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EC RULES: IN HIS VIEW NO BREACH OF THE TREATY COULD BE DEMONSTRATED IN THIS INSTANCE. HE ADDED THAT THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AT THE PORTS AND WHOLESALE MARKETS SHOULD HELP TO DEFUSE THE PRESSURE OF PRODUCER PROTEST. THIS AT LEAST HAD THE MERIT OF PUTTING THE DISPUTE ON THE NORMAL GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT BASIS RATHER THAN IN THE FORM OF UNPREDICTABLE INCIDENTS ON THE ROADS OF FRANCE. GAUTIER-SAUVAGNAC PROMISED A SPEEDY REPLY TO MR GUMMER'S LETTER. THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT GUILLAUME WILL REPLY EMPHASIZING THE LEGALITY OF THE FRENCH ACTION AND NO DOUBT PRESENTING IT AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE ONLY.

3. CONTACTS WITH IMPORTERS TODAY SUGGEST THAT THE SITUATION IS MUCH THE SAME AS YESTERDAY WITH EXTENSIVE CHECKING OF LAMB CONSIGNMENTS BY CUSTOMS AND CONSEQUENT DELAYS. AS YET THEY HAVE FOUND NO CASE OF INFRINGEMENT OF EC RULES WHICH WOULD GIVE A PRETEXT FOR SENDING A LOAD BACK. IT IS WIDELY UNDERSTOOD, THOUGH NO DOUBT NOT STATED IN TERMS, THAT THE TARGETS ARE BRITISH LAMB LORRIES AND NOT THOSE FROM THE IRISH REPUBLIC.

4. FCO PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO PS MR GUMMER AND BURNE (MAFF)

FRETWELL

YYYY

PCLNAN 5870

FRAME AGRICULTURE

ECD (1)

ADVANCED AS REQUESTED

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