

RMAFF

Encl.

26 May 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 12 May about the delay in fixing farm prices. There have, of course, been important developments since you wrote, which the Minister of Agriculture described in his statement to the House of Commons on 19 May. In the light of this, you will not now be expecting a substantive reply to your letter. But the Prime Minister has asked me to say that she is grateful for the Union's backing and your own efforts on the budget, and also for your support over the Falklands crisis.

AJC

The Hon. Sir Richard Butler, D.L.

So



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

GR
PPS ?
c/f

From the Minister's
Private Office

John Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

24 May 1982

Type letter pl.

Dear John.

APL 26/5

EC AGRICULTURAL PRICES/MANDATE

I refer to your letter of 12 May enclosing a copy of a manuscript letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Richard Butler.

... A draft reply for your signature is enclosed.

Yours sincerely
Robert Lawson

ROBERT LOWSON
Private Secretary

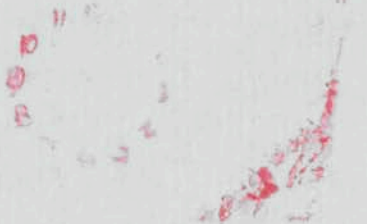
DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY THE
PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY

The Hon Sir Richard Butler DL
President
The National Farmers' Union
Agriculture House
Knightsbridge
London SW1X 7NJ

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 12 May about the delay in fixing farm prices. There have, of course, been important developments since you wrote, which the Minister of Agriculture described in his statement to the House of Commons on 19 May. In the light of this, ~~I imagine~~ you will not now be expecting a substantive reply to your letter. ^{but} The Prime Minister has, ~~however,~~ asked me to say that she is grateful for the Union's backing and your own efforts on the budget, and also for your support over the Falklands crisis.

ARL ^{26.}/₅

25 MAY 1982



HL

Sir Richard BUTLER
26/5

12 May 1982

EC Agricultural Prices/Mandate

I enclose a copy of a manuscript letter which the Prime Minister has received from Sir Richard Butler. This in turn encloses a copy of a letter sent by the President of COPA to the Belgian Prime Minister.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for my signature on behalf of the Prime Minister.

JOHN COLES

Robert Lowson, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

DSJ

MR COLLS

AGRICULTURE HOUSE · KNIGHTSBRIDGE · LONDON SW1X 7NJ

01-235 5077



THE
NATIONAL FARMERS'
UNION

FROM THE PRESIDENT
SIR RICHARD BUTLER

May 12th

Dear Prime Minister,

I enclose a copy of
a letter which has been sent
to M^r Martens of Belgium in his
capacity as Chairman of the EEC
Council. As members of COPA
- the Farm Organisations of the
EEC - we support this letter
and would like to see decisions
made on farm prices for 1982/83
without further delay.

We do however fully understand

and support the need to obtain
a satisfactory outcome of your
negotiations for an equitable and
longstanding agreement on the UK
contribution to the EEC Budget.
We have asked all the farm
organisations in COPA to put
pressure on their Governments to
resolve this matter. I shall
again make this clear when
I am in Brussels later this week.

Last and by no means least
we appreciate some of the problems
of the Falklands crisis and strongly
support the stand which you
are taking.

Yours sincerely

Richard Butler

TO THE PRESIDENT

DEAR SIR

THE DELAY IN THE SETTLEMENT OF FARM PRICES OF THE 1982/83 CAMPAIGN, WHICH FOR MILK, BEEF AND SHEEPMEAT SHOULD HAVE COME INTO EFFECT ON 1 APRIL LAST, IS CAUSING A CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF RETURNS FOR ALL THE COMMUNITY'S FARMERS AND PARTICULARLY LIVESTOCK FARMERS.

THIS IS WHY WE ARE MAKING A VERY URGENT APPEAL TO THE EEC COUNCIL TO ADOPT OFFICIALLY, THE COMPROMISE REACHED AT THE LAST COUNCIL MTG IN LUXEMBOURG AFTER HAVING IMPROVED IT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FULLY JUSTIFIED DEMANDS OF COPA AND COGECA, SO THAT THE FARM PRICES OF THE NEW CAMPAIGN CAN COME INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.

FURTHERMORE, WE ARE DEMANDING THAT THE COUNCIL SHLD DECIDE EITHER TO ABOLISH THE CORESPONSIBILITY LEVY IN THE DAIRY SECTOR AS FROM 1 APRIL LAST, OR TO REDUCE ITS LEVEL DURING THE 1982/83 CAMPAIGN FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO COMPENSATE PRODUCERS FULLY FOR THE LOSS INCURRED BY THE DELAY IN THE SETTLEMENT OF PRICES OF THE NEW CAMPAIGN.

IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL INFORM MEMBERS OF THE EEC COUNCIL OF OUR DEMANDS, WE REMAIN,

YOURS FAITHEUYLLY

J ARBUCKLE CBE
PRESIDENT OF COGECA

U EMO CAPODILISTA
PRESIDENT OF COPA

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