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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

11 June 1985

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HH

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2 Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 22 May about the embargo on imports from Argentina.

I agree entirely that, in the light of the Argentines' unwillingness to discuss normalisation of trade between our two countries at the recent Paris Club meeting, we should meet soon to consider what steps we might take in relation to the future operation of the embargo. To this end my officials are preparing a paper to serve as a basis for discussion.

However, as you know, there has been increasing concern about the legal vulnerability of the embargo and the opinion of the Law Officers on this question. I suggest it would be better for us to meet when we have the benefit of their advice, which may help us to determine the options which are open to us. I believe it should be available to us shortly.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe and to Barney Hayhoe, who wished to join us.

NORMAN TEBBIT

ARGENTINA; Relations; Pt 40

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